

Tulare County Office of Education

Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools

April 26, 2006

MEDIA ALERT

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Tulare County Office of Education Announces: April is Reading Month at Child Care Educational Program Reading Events Planned Throughout Tulare County

Because pre-literacy skills are so important for preschoolers, the Tulare County Child Care Educational Program is hosting Reading Month at its centers during April. While reading and literacy are a daily part of educational activities at the centers, teachers are putting more emphasis on encouraging children to choose their favorite books to be read, create their own books and acting out stories.

Within the Tulare County Office of Education, the Child Care Program operates numerous centers throughout the county. The centers are providers of federal Head Start services, which help low-income families with preschoolers prepare for kindergarten.

“Children gain the skills which lead to the ability to read and write during the earliest years,” says Lorena Davis, acting education coordinator. “Positive early experiences with books and stories are linked to learning to read. One of the best ways to promote a positive literacy experience is to provide an atmosphere that is fun, verbal and stimulating.”

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“The preschool preparation children receive at our Child Care Centers is priceless,” says Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. “I encourage parents who have young children to inquire with our Child Care Program to determine if they meet the enrollment eligibility requirements.”

Photo opportunities are listed below.

Strathmore

Children will be using props to act out the “Very Hungry Caterpillar” book, which depicts a caterpillar turning into a butterfly.

Friday, April 21, 9:30 a.m.

Strathmore Child Development Center (next to Strathmore Middle School)

22898 Avenue 198, Strathmore

Dinuba

Preschoolers at the Dinuba #1 Center have become interested in “The Three Little Pigs” story and will be acting it out in their classroom.

Monday, April 24, 9:30 a.m.

Dinuba #1 Child Development Center, 355 E. Saginaw, Dinuba

Porterville

Children will be acting out the “Rainbow Fish” story about a colorful fish that doesn’t want to share.

Tuesday, April 25, 10:00 a.m.

Porterville Child Development Center, 254 W. Orange, Porterville

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Tulare

At the Tulare Center, children have been drawing pictures to make their own books. They will be putting their latest book together.

Friday, April 28, 9:15 a.m.

Tulare Child Development Center, 830 S. Blackstone, Tulare

(in the Claude Meitzeheimer Community Center)

Visalia

At the Fairview Center, children will be making masks for “Goldilocks and the Three Bears” and acting out the story.

Friday, April 28, 2:00 p.m.

Fairview Child Development Center, 2645 N. Conyer, Visalia

(located just east of Fairview School)

For more information, contact Robert Herman, Public Information Officer, at (559) 733-6606. For more information on services provided by the Tulare County Office of Education’s Child Care Program, call (559) 651-3022.

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