

June 2015

Dear Families,

I hope you and your child had a fun and enriching year in pre-K. Reading with your child throughout the summer is a great way to keep your child engaged and prepared for kindergarten.

On behalf of the Department of Education's Division of Early Childhood Education, it is my pleasure to provide you with a package of five children's books: ***ABC I Like Me!***, ***How Do Dinosaurs Go to School?***, ***The Shape of Things, Count***, and ***White Rabbit's Color Book***. In addition, you will find a Pre-K to Kindergarten Summer Reading Journal and activities to support the development of early literacy skills.

Each book was selected to reinforce skills that your child has learned this year in Pre-K for All. Your child's kindergarten teacher will continue to build on this foundation.

There are many ways you can support your child in getting the most out of the reading experience. For example, after reading *Count* and *White Rabbit's Color Book*, I encourage you to point out numbers and colors during daily routines with your child, such as walking to and from neighborhood stores. After reading *The Shape of Things*, encourage your child's curiosity by walking through your neighborhood looking for objects of all shapes and sizes.

Most importantly, these books are an opportunity for you to engage with your child—reading and exploring together creates a special bond and memories that last a lifetime. As your child's reading partner, you can foster their love of reading by encouraging excitement about the story, and ultimately, motivate your child to read more. In addition to reading with your child, share your own stories and encourage your child to do the same. Your child will not only make connections with your family and background, but will also begin to create their own stories and see themselves as both readers and writers. Even though I grew up with not many books around, some of my fondest memories of my own literacy are not only reading with my father whenever possible, but also listening to the stories he would tell.

I urge you to expand your child's summer reading collection by taking him or her to the local public library, a great partner of the New York City Department of Education, and encouraging your child to *choose* books that he or she is interested in. For additional resources on the transition to kindergarten, please review our online Transition to Kindergarten Guide for Families: schools.nyc.gov/Academics/EarlyChildhood/parentfamilies/readpreK. If you do not have access to a computer, please visit your local public library or call 311.

I wish your family a summer of joyful reading and interactive learning.

Sincerely,



Chancellor Carmen Fariña