

## Family Literacy Program Off to a Successful Start

The Family Literacy Program at Rankin Elementary is currently underway. We are excited to be serving the 20 parents and over 30 children enrolled in the program, and we look forward to the fun and educational experiences families and instructors will share together.

Faces beaming, children excitedly returned to the cafeteria for Parent and Child Together (PACT) Time Thursday night, eager to tell their parents about all the fun activities they completed in their classes. One parent, Andrea, explained to me that her four-year-old daughter Aubree refers to the Family Literacy Program as “the party” and asks her mother *every* day after school if they are going to “the party.” Needless to say, Aubree is ecstatic when Tuesdays and Thursdays come around and is sad when it’s time to leave at the end of each evening.

This week, parents and children were introduced to *Peter’s Chair* by Ezra Jack Keats, a story that addresses the changes a family experiences when a new child is born. Peter, the main character, feels like his sister is replacing him, until he comes to the realization that he has grown out of his baby things—including his chair—and is ready to pass them on to his new baby sister. Child classes and adult classes alike engaged in discussions of the book’s themes and made connections to their own lives. Younger children created origami chairs, and older children made chairs out of popsicle sticks to share with their younger siblings.

The purpose of the Family Literacy program is to encourage positive reading habits and promote education within families, emphasizing parents’ roles as their children’s first teachers. By facilitating parents’ improved literacy and teaching parents effective strategies for reading with their children, we can empower parents to become more actively involved in their children’s education. It is our hope that through the work of our Family Literacy program, we will see thriving families, and in turn, a thriving Greensboro/High Point community.

We are happy to be supporting families at Rankin Elementary, and we look forward to our upcoming programs at Hunter Elementary and Oak Hill Elementary later this school year.