

ROY CLARK ELEMENTARY PTA AWARDED GRANT TO ENGAGE FAMILIES IN MATH EDUCATION

National PTA and Mathnasium have awarded Roy Clark Elementary PTA with a \$1,000 grant to engage families in math education. Roy Clark Elementary PTA is one of only 35 PTAs nationwide selected to receive a grant through the STEM + Families initiative.

"Math Night is a two-hour event hosted jointly by Mathnasium and local parent groups in elementary schools nationwide," said Vane Lucas, president, Mathnasium of Tulsa.

The purpose of Math Night is to engage families in an enjoyable, shared math experience, to encourage STEM education and love of math and to allow children to explore math at their own levels through games and activities.

"Math Nights are turn-key events," Lucas said. "Mathnasium supplies all the games and materials."

While Roy Clark Elementary was one of 35 PTAs to be chosen for the STEM + Families grant, Lucas said that Mathnasium held a Math Night at Cedar Ridge Elementary in the Union District and also will be doing one at Union's Anderson Elementary. Lucas said he is open to holding Math Nights at other schools in the Tulsa area.

"We know—and decades of research proves—that families play a critical role in children's success and achievement. We also know that parents and guardians have the biggest influence on a child's educational and career decisions," said Jim Accomando, president of National PTA. "Family engagement is essential to strengthen STEM education, bridge the STEM gap and help all children realize their fullest potential."

STEM + Families is a national effort to engage entire families in STEM experiences at school, at home, in the community and with digital learning environments to support their students' success in STEM. The goal of the initiative is to fill a critical gap in STEM education, increase access to STEM experiences for all students and inspire the next generation of STEM professionals. National PTA launched STEM + Families with the support of Mathnasium. Through the effort, 100,000 STEM experiences will be delivered to families nationwide by 2018.

For more information about the STEM + Families initiative, visit PTA.org/STEM.

For more information about Mathnasium and Math Nights, contact Vane Lucas at vane.lucas@mathnasium.com.

JOIN TULSA PARENTS TULSAKIDS MAGAZINE'S NEW FACEBOOK GROUP!

Facebook recently announced a change to its algorithms that means users will see fewer posts from business pages like @TulsaKidsMagazine in their newsfeeds. To make sure you stay up-to-date on the latest from TulsaKids, consider joining our new Facebook group, TulsaParents.

We also see this group as a good way to build a stronger sense of community with our readership and hope that group members will share their parenting questions and concerns so that we can get an even better idea of what topics parents want to see addressed in TulsaKids Magazine.

To join, go to www.facebook.com/tulsakids magazine and click on "groups" in the left-hand menu.

tulsa
parents
A FACEBOOK GROUP



check this out

AT TULSA CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY

Homework Help Now!

POWERED BY BRAINFUSE

Featuring Live Tutors
(2-11 p.m., daily CST) Get EXPERT one-to-one subject-specific help for students in grades K-12 ... plus college! Spanish-speaking tutors available too!

FREE Brainfuse App
Available in App Store or Google Play

Visit www.TulsaLibrary.org/homeworkhelp and use your Tulsa City-County Library card to access Homework Help Now!

DON'T HAVE A LIBRARY CARD?
Apply online at www.TulsaLibrary.org/application and get instant access to this service and more!

Tulsa City-County LIBRARY **tulsakids**
www.tulsakids.com



"I realize you're used to communicating by text message, but do you have to move your fingers like you're typing every time you say something?"

BY JULIA CANTRELL, MLIS, CHILDREN'S LIBRARY ASSOCIATE, HARDESTY LIBRARY

don't stop the music!

WHAT DOES MUSIC HAVE TO DO WITH READING? EVERYTHING!

It may surprise you to learn that music and singing are pretty big supporters of your child's early literacy development.

That's why "Singing" is one of the library's five activities (Talking, Singing, Reading, Writing, and Playing) to be found in every Build A Reader Storytime offered at a Tulsa City-County Library location.

Developing language for a little brain works like this: Before you can say a word, you have to know how to make a sound. Language is made up of all kinds of sounds that we put together to build a word. Ergo, words are sounds arranged with purpose. To make a sound (with purpose), you have to first hear that sound. Sounds come from all over, sometimes too fast to comprehend for little brains.

However, there are some sounds that little brains latch on to, such as the sounds of a care-



JULIA CANTRELL, STANDING AND WEARING A TCCL LOGO SHIRT, ENCOURAGES FAMILIES TO SING AND DANCE DURING A STORYTIME AT HARDESTY REGIONAL LIBRARY.

giver's or parent's voice and musical sounds. Words set to music, a.k.a. singing, will slow them down into delicious, bite-size pieces, and the developing brain will simply feast on them. These digestible phonemic bits will make it easier for the little brain to hear what makes up language, and will help children eventually use words to express themselves.

Music and singing can make otherwise uneventful, everyday tasks fun activities to do. This lesson is taught, again and again, in such childhood classics as "Mary Poppins," "The King and I," "The Sound of Music," "Snow White

and the Seven Dwarves" and countless others. More recently, Daniel Tiger is making bank on putting rules, life advice, and lessons in short snappy songs that are catchy and repetitive. Daniel and crew know the most effective way to learn is through both song and repetition. Your kids will never be able to say that they didn't know a rule if you SING that rule so often that they find themselves singing it, too. Music and singing can reinforce learning and be fun at the same time.

What makes music such a good early literacy activity is that you can combine it with almost

all of the other activities to get a super-charged learning activity with very little effort. Let's come up with some combinations:

Singing plus talking:

Singing is another way to bring in those 30,000 words that science tells us babies need to hear daily. It is also a fun way to help build their vocabulary.

Singing plus writing: Many children's songs have finger or arm actions to accompany them. These actions help us build our writing skills by working those little finger muscles! (Hint: this helps us hold writing implements later on!)

Singing plus reading: Like talking, reading is a great way to get words into your children's life. Try this: Does your child have a favorite book you read over and over? Try singing the words next time to bring something new to something familiar. Did it change anything about the book?

Singing plus playing: These two might go together the best of all. Encouraging your child to sing a favorite song is a fun play-time activity. In addition, having music on during a play session can encourage natural movement. We respond naturally to music by moving our bodies to the rhythm. If you have music on during a play session, children might make their own decision on how their body will respond to the music. They might just spontaneously

continued next page



burst into action just by their own imaginative force. (Grownups call this dancing.)

Look at all those early literacy combinations! Isn't singing awesome?

All of the five Build A Reader activities (Talking, Singing, Reading, Writing, and Playing) are important. They are TRUE SCIENCE that has been proven to help children develop the skills necessary to process language and be future successful readers. That's the best kind of science, if you ask me!

Children's Day/Book Day Celebration

Amy Shrodes, co-author of *Lost and Found Cat*, will talk about the dramatic and uplifting story of how one family reunited with their cat after an international journey.

**Friday, April 6
7 p.m.
Hardesty Regional Library
- Connor's Cove
Book signing to follow.**



CHRIST-CENTERED
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

That's Rejoice.

ENROLL NOW



Rejoice Christian Schools

rejoiceschool.com | 918.516.0050

Now is the time to secure your child's spot at Rejoice Christian Schools for the 2018 - 2019 academic year.

We anticipate increased enrollment, so don't delay - make plans to reserve your spot at RCS now! Scholarships are available.

Call today for a personal tour at:

918-272-7235
(Preschool / Elementary)

918-516-0050
(Middle / High School)

Rejoice Christian Schools admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school administered programs.

- Nurturing, responsive teachers
- Academic curriculum: math, science, phonics, art, and Spanish
- Age-appropriate learning centers in each classroom

**TRAINING TOMORROW'S
LEADERS TODAY!**

**RHEMA Child
Development Center**

Call to enroll your child today!
(918) 258-0594

1025 W. Kanosh, Broken Arrow, OK 74002

RhemaChildCare.com

Discover the Difference

Riding Lessons
Showing
Boarding
Parties

Now Enrolling
Summer Camps



Hunters • Jumpers • Equitation
River Run Farm
www.riverrunfarmok.com
9300 S. 51st West Ave.
918-855-5032

CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
AR Y ARNING C NT R



8 MONTHS - TRANSITIONA KIND REART N

DEVELOPMENTAL PRESCHOOL

M-W-F 9:30 - 2:30

Music, Gymnastics,
and Bible Buddies

1515 SOUTH HARVARD AV. NLI - 741-7673