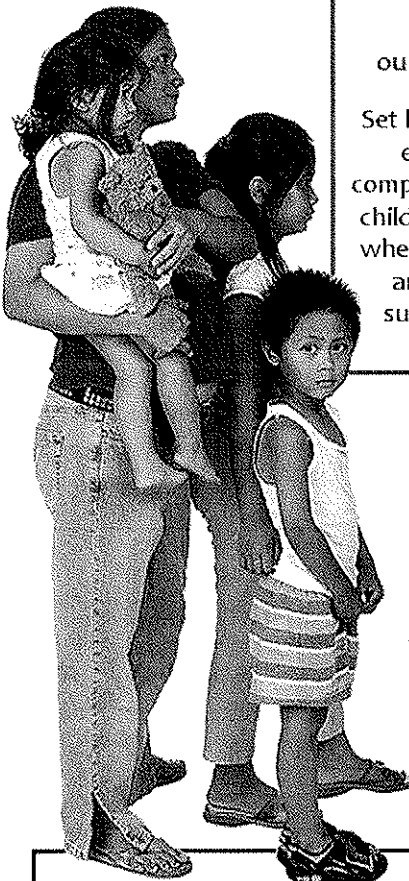


READY Families Support Learning at Home

What else can families do today to help young children be ready for school? This chart shows some of the habits and attitudes of families with academically successful school-age children. Adopt as many of these practices as possible and stay actively involved at every school your child attends.

<p>Be excited to learn new things together and use the knowledge at home.</p> <p>For example, read books together and talk about them, write lists together and talk about it, and count everyday things and talk about it; listen to children “read” to you and talk about the story; ask questions that you do not know the answers to and find out; discuss each day’s events together and identify at least one new thing each person learned.</p>		
	<p>Keep an eye on out-of-school activities.</p> <p>Set limits on screen time (TV, electronic games, and computer time); ask what your children do on play dates and when others supervise them; arrange play dates, and supervised care for after-school activities.</p>	<p>Show children you value education and watch progress in school.</p> <p>Be warm and friendly when you talk about your child’s school and teacher; show teachers you are interested in your child’s progress and keep in touch; help your child get supplies and complete any homework—in the early years this means reading together or helping them remember to bring things; talk about family members and important public figures who have a good education, and talk about different careers.</p>
	<p>Have high but sensible everyday expectations for success.</p> <p>Take joy in your child’s successes and share them with friends and family; use good manners and the behavior you want your child to learn and ask your Head Start Program if you aren’t sure what is reasonable to expect for a child’s age and maturity; notice any special interests or talents your child has and encourage them.</p>	<p>Show children that learning, self-discipline, and hard work are important.</p> <p>Talk with your child about the challenges you worked to overcome, explain that you have learned from mistakes; think “out loud” as you solve a problem; show you value honest effort; make comments as you do chores and important tasks to show your children that working hard accomplishes things. (For example: “I’m going to work all the way to the end of this task until it is done!” or “This looks hard, but I’m going to do my best.”)</p>
<p>Set up a daily family routine.</p> <p>For instance, provide time for active play and a quiet place to look at books and talk—later this can become the “homework” place; give simple chores to young children, and help them complete them successfully so they feel proud and “responsible”; set a regular bedtime and routine; and eat dinner together as many nights as possible each week.</p>		

Adapted from: *A New Generation of Evidence: The Family is Critical to Student Achievement*, edited by Anne T. Henderson and Nancy Berla, Center for Law and Education, Washington, D.C., 1994 (third printing, 1996).

Created By **PreschoolFirst**

Summer is here, the kids are out of school...

Are you looking for something to do?

Visit your local library for their Summer Reading Program events:

Movies, Magic, Stories, Parties and MORE!

FREE programs at your local library!!!!

The Public Libraries of Birmingham / Jefferson County

the **READER**

Vol. 22, No. 2 May, June, July 2012

CALLING ALL DREAMERS FOR SUMMER READING 2012

By Katie Jane Morris, Hoover Public Library



Calling all dreamers! And stargazers! And night owls! Really, we need every child in Jefferson County who has ever wished upon a star or imagined an amazing future, kids who shine all day and light up the night. That's because this year's Summer Reading theme is ***Dream Big – READ!*** The 40 libraries of the Jefferson County Library Cooperative (JCLC) have packed the summer with a wide array of performers, parties, crafts and oh-so-many wonderful books. Do you dream of being a star – a musician, an artist, a pilot, or maybe a race car driver? The library can help you get started. Do you need to learn more about the moon,

constellations, or nocturnal animals? The library can introduce you to a world of knowledge. Do you want to be inspired by stories about other people who reached for the stars? The library is overflowing with biographies, storybooks, and chapter books on every dream imaginable. So what are you waiting for? An even more official invitation to experience a summer of dreams pursued and wishes fulfilled? As you wish.

AN INVITATION (from *Where the Sidewalk Ends* by Shel Silverstein)

If you are a dreamer, come in.
If you are a dreamer, a wisher, a liar,
A hope-er, a pray-er, a magic bean buyer . . .
If you're a pretender, come sit by my fire,
For we have some flaxen-gold tales to spin.
Come in!
Come in!

Find out more by visiting JCLC's [Calendar of Events](#).



2012 Summer Reading Kick-off Dates

Adamsville: June 7

Bessemer: June 4

Birmingham Public June 1

Clay: June 4

Fairfield: June 6

Fultondale: June 6

Gardendale: May 21

Graysville: June 4

Homewood: May 31

Hoover: May 21

Hueytown: May 24

Irondale: May 21

Leeds: June 2

Midfield: May 21

Mt. Brook: May 20

Pinson: May 21

Pleasant Grove: June 6

Tarrant: June 4

Trussville: June 6

Vestavia Hills: May 20

Warrior: June 5

ICE CREAM CONE CAKES

Surprise the kids with cake made in ice-cream cones. Everything is edible, and there are no forks and plates to clean up!

Yield: Serves 10.

Recipe from Gooseberry Patch

Ingredients

2/3 cup all-purpose flour

1 teaspoon baking powder

1/8 teaspoon salt

1/3 cup baking cocoa

2 tablespoons butter, softened

1/2 cup sugar

2/3 cup buttermilk

1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract

1 egg white

10 flat-bottomed ice-cream cones

Frosting

Optional: colored sprinkles, 10 maraschino cherries with stems

Preparation

Combine first 4 ingredients in a small bowl; set aside.

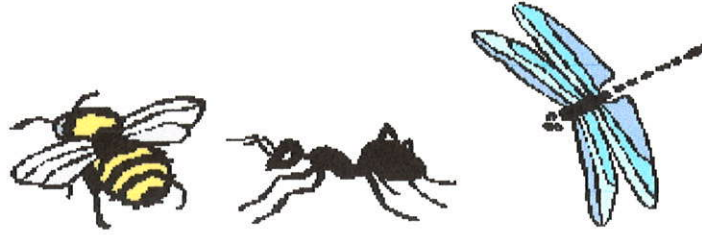
Beat butter and sugar in a large mixing bowl at medium speed with an electric mixer until creamy. Add flour mixture and buttermilk alternately to butter mixture, beginning and ending with flour mixture; beat at low speed



after each addition just until blended. Stir in vanilla. Add egg white, mixing well.

Fill cones to within 1/2 inch of the top; carefully place on an ungreased baking sheet. Bake at 375 degrees for 35 minutes; cool completely on wire racks. Spread evenly with Frosting. Top with colored sprinkles and a cherry, if desired.

Insect Safety



Now that summer is nearly here, outdoor activities are on everybody's to-do list. When taking the family on a backpacking or camping trip, or even the local park, always be alert for insects. Insects such as ticks and mosquitoes are known to carry diseases. To protect yourself and others, follow these tips.

- Wear a light-colored long-sleeved shirt, long pants, and a hat.
- Secure your clothes with rubber bands or tape to prevent insects from getting underneath them.
- Avoid underbrush and tall grass when hiking.
- Use an insect repellent and follow the directions for use. Be sure to read cautionary statements on label.
- After being outdoors for a long period, inspect yourself for ticks or have someone else do it. Shower immediately after coming indoors.
- If you have pets that go outdoors, use a repellent made for that type of pet and apply according to the label. Be sure to check your pet for ticks often.

Beware of Insect Stings:

- If you have known allergies to insect stings, be sure to carry your insect sting kit. If you are stung, use a credit card to sweep away the stinger. Avoid wearing clothing with floral patterns that may attract insects. And if you have no known allergies to insect repellent, it can be used to help avoid insect stings.

Ticks:

- If you find a tick, remove it by pulling steadily and firmly. Grasp the tick with a fine-tipped tweezers, as close to the skin as possible, and pull slowly. Wash area and apply antiseptic or antibiotic ointment. Watch area for infection. See a physician if you see signs of a rash in that area.



AVOIDING BEES, WASPS, HORNETS AND YELLOW JACKETS

- Don't wear perfume or scented lotions.
- Control odors when camping, picnicking, and around your garbage cans at home, especially in the fall when foraging yellow jackets are most numerous.
- Avoid brightly colored clothing, which may look like the color of flowers to an insect, and shiny objects, that may look like water reflections. Wear tan, khaki, and dark-colored clothes.
- Relocate or destroy any nests near your home.
- Don't leave sugary drinks outside unattended, and use covered containers to limit their odor. It doesn't take a yellow jacket very long at all to find a warm cola can sitting in the sun. Don't throw watery drinks in the grass when the ice melts. Take them into the house to pour it out.
- Don't picnic, sit, or stand near trash cans, fallen fruit, or other wasp/yellow jacket feeding sites.
- Don't swat or move rapidly when a wasp visits you or your food; move slowly! (Easier said than done.)
- Don't approach a nest; if you do disturb a nest, RUN AWAY from attacking wasps. (Was it really necessary for us to tell you that?)
- Do clean up food and drink refuse, clean trash cans, and fit them with a tight lid to reduce wasp visits. Let them go be a hazard around someone else's trash can!
- When in recreation areas, check your food and drinks before consumption! Stings inside the mouth and throat are particularly dangerous because of the potential of swelling and closing off the windpipe.
- Because a yellow jacket may have been rooting around in your garbage can before stinging you, properly treat the sting, even if it doesn't hurt, as a secondary infection may develop.

New Bugs of Summer



