# Press Release

## Health District Receives Donation of Children's Books from Local 4-H Club

**XENIA, OH**—Over the summer, a group of young ladies from Fair Play 4-H club gathered gently used children's books to donate to the clinics at the Greene County Combined Health District, located at 360 Wilson Drive in Xenia.

When families visit the various clinics at the Health District anytime Monday-Friday from 8am – 4pm, they are invited to take and read – and take home – a book from the collection.  This is a great way to pass the time while waiting for an appointment or simply taking the child's mind off of the appointment if they are apprehensive.  Below are some benefits of reading to your child between the ages of two and five.

1. **A stronger relationship with you.**  Snuggling up with a book lets the two of you slow down and recaptures that sweet, cuddly time you enjoyed when he was a baby. Instead of being seen as a chore or a task, reading will become a nurturing activity that will bring the two of you closer together.
2. **Academic excellence.**  Numerous studies have shown that students who are exposed to reading before preschool are more likely to do well in all facets of formal education.
3. **Basic speech skills.**  By listening to you read a book, your child is reinforcing the basic sounds that form language.
4. **The basics of how to read a book.** Children aren't born with an innate knowledge that text is read from left to right, or that the words on a page are separate from the images. Essential pre-reading skills like these are among the major benefits of early reading.
5. **Better communication skills.** When you spend time reading to toddlers, they'll be much more likely to express themselves and relate to others in a healthy way.
6. **Mastery of language.** Early reading for toddlers has been linked to a better grasp of the fundamentals of language as they approach school age.
7. **More logical thinking skills.**  As your toddler or preschooler begins to relate the scenarios in books to what's happening in his own world, he'll become more excited about the stories you share.

8.  **Acclamation to new experiences.** As your child approaches a major developmental milestone or a potentially stressful experience, sharing a relevant story is a great way to help ease the transition.
9.  **Enhanced concentration and discipline.** Toddlers may initially squirm and become distracted during story time, but eventually they'll learn to stay put for the duration of the book. Along with reading comprehension comes a stronger self-discipline, longer attention span, and better memory retention.
10. **The knowledge that reading is fun!** Early reading for toddlers helps them view books as an indulgence, not a chore. Kids who are exposed to reading are much more likely to choose books over video games, television, and other forms of entertainment as they grow older.

Books have the power to benefit toddlers and preschoolers in a myriad of ways. As a parent, reading to your child is one of the most important things you can do to prepare him with a foundation for academic excellence.

The Health District would like to publicly thank these young ladies for their time, effort, generosity and care in providing this donation for the clinics. Featured in the photo, L-R: Natalie Galarza, Lydia Sholiton, Samantha Snyder, Myrah Burton, Carina Basora and Sarah Gansz (not pictured: Lida Boutis).

For more information on donating gently used or new books to the Health District, please contact 937-374-5600.

**Greene County Combined Health District – Your center for public health service and information in Greene County for over 90 years.**

*Healthy People…Healthy Communities*

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