



## Volume 3, Number 1, Spring, 2010

Dear Friends:

Historically, libraries have always stood at the crossroads for new immigrants to our country, providing opportunities for learning English, learning about American culture and citizenship classes. Today many libraries in the Bergen County Cooperative Library System offer English as a Second Language (ESL) tutoring.

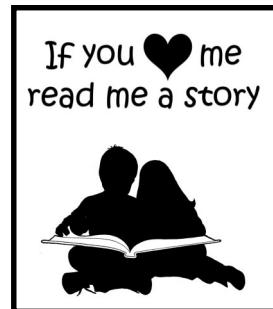
Bergenfield's ESL program, established by former director Mary Joyce Doyle over 30 years ago, enjoys the distinction of being one of the first in the county. However, without tutors the program cannot exist. If you are looking for a meaningful way to give back to your community and you enjoy working with people, please consider volunteering for the library's ESL program. You do not have to have teaching experience. Training is offered by the library. The usual commitment is one hour a week for a year, though some students and tutors do agree to meet more frequently.

The satisfactions of working with the ESL program are enormous. Students are highly motivated and you are helping to improve their ability to contribute fully to the community in which they live.

If you would like to make a difference, contact Don Hansen, our ESL Coordinator at (201) 387-4040, extension 837, to learn more about the program. Consider becoming a Bergenfield Library ESL tutor!  
— Cordially, *Mary Riskind*, Library Director



**PRICELESS!**  
Preschoolers in Pajamas, learning about Penguins, on the entertainment center purchased by YOU!



*If you love me...*

When you help your children or grandchildren learn to read, they develop a love of stories and poems, they want to read on their own, they practice reading, and finally, they read for their own information or pleasure. When children become readers, their world is forever wider and richer. Studies have shown that children that are read to on a consistent basis begin to develop both communication and thinking skills at a much younger age than children that aren't read to on a consistent basis.

Here are some things you can do to make sure you get your daily readings with your children or grandchildren:

Read aloud to them: books, newspaper and magazine articles, the back of the cereal box, labels on cans, or directions – anything with appropriate printed material on it.

Read poems aloud together to learn about rhythm and repeated sounds in language. Point to the words on the page when you read. Move your finger from left to right.

Go to the library together and check out books.

Have books, magazines, and papers around the house, and let them see that you like to read, too.

Remember, giving children a head start in life requires spending time with them – and part of that time should be spent with a good book!

— Condensed from an article on *Buzzle.com* by *Nicole Niemiec*



## National Library Week

National Library Week is April 11-17, 2010 with the theme, “Communities Thrive @ Your Library.”

First sponsored in 1958, National Library Week is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries across the country each April. It is a time to celebrate the contributions of our nation’s libraries and librarians and to promote library use and support. All types of libraries – school, public, academic and special – participate.

National Library Workers Day, celebrated the Tuesday of National Library Week (April 13, 2010), is a day for library staff, users, administrators and Friends groups to recognize the valuable contributions made by all library workers.

### History

In the mid-1950s, research showed that Americans were spending less on books and more on radios, televisions and musical instruments. Concerned that Americans were reading less, the ALA and the American Book Publishers formed a nonprofit citizens organization called the National Book Committee in 1954. The committee’s goals were ambitious. They ranged from “encouraging people to read in their increasing leisure time” to “improving incomes and health” and “developing a strong and happy family life.”

In 1957, the committee developed a plan for National Library Week based on the idea that once people were motivated to read, they would support and use libraries. With the cooperation of ALA and with help from the Advertising Council, the first National Library Week was observed in 1958 with the theme “Wake Up and Read!”

— *The American Library Association*

