

ECR and the United Way of Rock River Valley are “United for Literacy”

May 11, 2024



Through a special grant from the United Way of Rock River Valley, our Teen Family Support participants will be provided with 1,080 Tiny Turner children's books and special access to the Discovery Center museum.

Easterseals Serving Chicagoland and Greater Rockford (ECR) and United Way of Rock River Valley are committed to increasing the child literacy rate in Winnebago County. We are excited to partner in

a community-wide effort to deliver efficient and effective interventions that will increase access to reading opportunities and supports for reading efficiencies.

"We are joining forces with the United Way to improve literacy rates in our community. We are grateful for the opportunity to receive support and to collaborate with the United Way," says Kathleen Kurtz, Program Manager of Teen Family Support at ECR.

United Way Provides Free Books and Discovery Center Access for Teen Family Support

Through our partnership with the United Way of Rock River Valley, the Teen Family Support program will be provided with 1,080 Tiny Turner children's books to be given to the children enrolled in our program. Our families can also enroll in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to receive additional free books every month. Also, through this special United Way literacy grant, Teen Family Support is partnering with the Discovery Center Museum to focus on supporting young parents and their children.

The Discovery Center Museum is a nationally recognized children's museum whose mission is to create opportunities for playful learning and discovery through hands-on experiences in the sciences and arts. This grant will create opportunities for our staff and families to utilize and explore all the museum has to offer the needs of the developing child.

1. Our Doula and Parent Educator staff and families can use the Discovery Center museum as a meeting space for our home visits. This option offers the home visitor and their families playful parent-child interaction opportunities that foster child development and familiarize our young mothers with fun community resources.
2. The Discovery Center Museum child development staff will offer a mid-day/afterschool 0-4 year old parent-child interaction group once per month.
3. The Discovery Center Museum child development staff will provide "hands on" activity kits specifically developed for the 0-3 year old children focusing on STEM, art and music. Instructions will be included for families to replicate the activities to do at home with their children.

Winnebago County Families Have Access to FREE Books through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Winnebago County families, did you know that the United Way of Rock River Valley offers free books for kids 0-5 years old through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library?

The United Way of RRV is encouraging Winnebago County residents who have children 5 years of age and younger to enroll in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. It is free of charge and books arrive in the mail each month until the child's fifth birthday. Once a family registers, the child will receive their first book in the mail 8-12 weeks later. Contact info@unitedwayrrv.org for more information about Dolly Parton's imagination Library.