



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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More than 250 children attend Early Childhood Fair and Summer Reading Program Kick Off

PAGE, Ariz. – The library children’s area and outdoor yard was filled with the sound of children and families playing and interacting in fun activities.

On May 22nd the summer reading program, themed *Every Hero has a Story*, kicked off with the Growing Great Kids Early Childhood Fair. For the 3rd year in a row the Page Public Library partnered with Association for Supportive Child Care, Coconino Coalition for Children and Youth and First Things First to host this community resource fair for families with young children.

“We read to them year round. We always have a story time before bed and during the day. The summertime program and events give my girls something to do and gives children interaction with other kids. I want her to grow up normal and not just sit in front of the TV,” shared Brian happily as he and his daughter Violet make super-hero puppets out of craft sticks and image cut outs.

Over 15 organizations were on site to provide resources to families with young children. Several organizations provided early learning, health and family support resources including free children’s dental screenings by the Coconino County Smart Smiles Program, preschool enrollment by Head Start, nutrition information and enrollment by WIC and youth camps and leadership opportunities with Girl Scouts. Even the Page Fire Department came out to support the event and volunteer their time to grill hotdogs and hamburgers.

First Things First was on hand to distribute a book to every child and remind families that 90 percent of a child’s critical brain development occurs before age 5. That means the early years represent an ideal time to build the foundation for children to grow up healthy and ready to learn.

“Giving all kids the tools to be successful in school and beyond, starts with getting families connected to resources and getting organizations together to support our children and youth,” shared Debbie Winlock, Page Library Director. “We want to thank all who came out to support our kids and we look forward to an even bigger turnout next year.”

For more information about the Page Library’s Summer Reading Program: *Every Hero Has a Story*, and other great programs, call 928-645-4270.