

HELP ME GROW NORTH TEXAS NEWS

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Help Me Grow in the Community!



This month, LaVonda Howell and LaQuitha Hasley presented to a group of families, child care providers, and library staff about the value of interactive storytime at the [Frisco Public Library](#)! Interactive storytime includes reading interactively with children to encourage participation and/or motivating children to get involved in asking and answering questions about the contents. This could assist children in making bigger gains in early literacy! LaVonda walked the group through the benefits of interactive storytime, and even engaged the group in doing so by facilitating an interactive reading of *My Many Colored Days* by Dr. Suess! During this amazingly informative and fun-filled presentation, LaVonda and LaQuitha also highlighted Help Me Grow North Texas and United Way Metropolitan Dallas' [One Upon a Month](#) literacy initiative. Register [here](#). Amazing work LaVonda and LaQuitha!



Look for these characteristics in a book:

- Clear storylines
- Predictable stories for young children
- Rhythmic Language
- Interesting vocabulary
- Sensitive to diversity, offering characters, situations, topics, and stories that reflect and expand their world



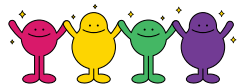
In July, Community Development Directors, Amanda Cobb and Jennifer Cox attended the Region 11 Special Programs Super Conference along with School Navigators, Kacper and Aspy! During this event, Help Me Grow and Help Me Thrive staff were able to connect with local teachers and inform them about supports for themselves, their students, and their families. Navigation is an integral part of Help Me Grow and Help Me Thrive with Help Me Thrive school navigators serving 37 schools within FWISD and the establishment of child care navigators, in addition to our phone based navigators. Thank you to all of our navigators for the vital role that you play in assisting families and providers!



Help Me Grow National Forum

A reminder that the registration for the Help Me Grow National Forum is open! There are two options, in-person and virtual, which are both sure to offer a wealth of information and valuable collaboration! Register [here](#).

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Community Partner Spotlight



The Health Equity Alliance (HEAL) is focused on ending health, socio-economic and racial disparities to address disproportionate death rates for mothers and infants in Tarrant County. The Heal Equity Alliance also spearheads the Annual HEAL Summit where cutting edge research on maternal and child health equity and the role of quality care and community will be presented. This is a wonderful opportunity for learning and collaboration! This year's conference will be on September 12 at the Hurst Conference Center from 10a-4p. Register [here](#)!



Rainbow Baby Day



National Rainbow Baby Day is August 22. The American Pregnancy Association defines the term rainbow baby as a "baby born after losing a baby due to miscarriage, infant loss, stillbirth, or neonatal death." The rainbow seeks to symbolize hope, healing, and something beautiful after a turbulent time. Honoring rainbow babies and the little ones that we have lost on this day can be a personalized experience that aids in healing the hearts of loved ones and/or celebrates the soul of the ones no longer with us. Some ideas include: planting flowers/trees, performing a balloon release, sharing your story, or writing letters and/or poems. Visit [here](#) for more ideas, information, and support.

"Rainbows remind us that even after the darkest clouds, and the fiercest winds, there is still beauty." ~ Katrina Mayer~



National Back to School Prep Day



August 15 is National Back to School Prep Day! This a time for discussions surrounding routines, gathering school supplies, meeting with teachers, etc. The Department of Family & Protective Services has created a Back to School toolkit to help navigate a few different topics such as: school day routines, communication with teachers and students, driving safety for teens, and pedestrian/bike safety. Visit [here](#) to view the full toolkit. For families that have older youth, Help Me Thrive navigators may provide some support when navigating stress and other emotions and factors that arise during this time. Help Me Thrive navigators assist families that have children ages 6-17, and can be reached by calling 1-844-NTX-TEEN (844-689-8336). Visit their website [here](#).



Important Dates in August:

[Aug 16: National Tell a Joke Day](#)

[Aug 22: Be An Angel Day](#)

[Aug 30: National Grief Awareness Day](#)



Employment Opportunities

[Child Care Group Careers](#)

[My Health My Resources Careers](#)

[United Way of Metropolitan Dallas Careers](#)

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