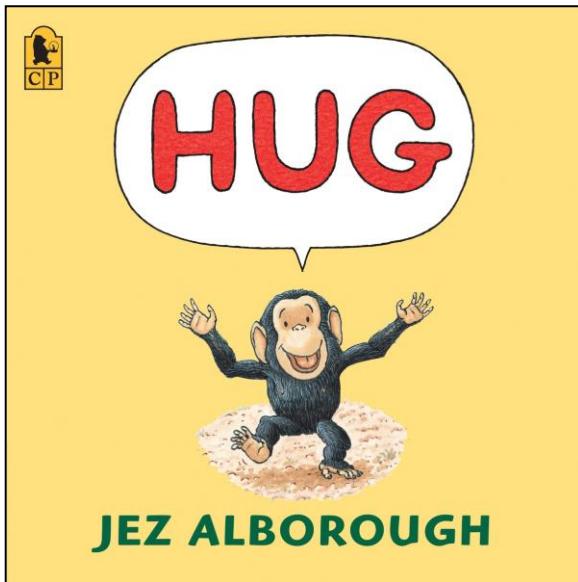


The Little Read



A Book Report
Week of the Young Child
April 2015

To celebrate the 2015 Week of the Young Child, the New Haven Early Childhood Council partnered with 28 community organizations to host an array of literacy-based events throughout the City. Over 1,800 children’s picture books were added to children’s home libraries through this series of events featuring books about the importance of hugging and loving children. At each event, families were invited to sign on to a HUG campaign, promising to hug their children even more than the zillions of hugs they already give every day.

The week began at City Hall, where children were greeted by the Community Services Administrator, Martha Okafor, and the Superintendent of Schools, Garth Harries. The Superintendent explained to the children that they, too, had “super” powers (in their brains) just like he does as school “super”intendent.



Dr. Okafor then provided a lively read of the Todd Parr story, The I Love You Book, asking the children to act out each page, especially the hugging page.

The Council also organized its sixth annual literacy event -- The Little Read -- where the award-winning book, HUG, was distributed to over 4,360 children in early childhood classrooms, family childcare homes and family-centered sites throughout the City.

We thank the City of New Haven Community Services Administration, the New Haven Board of Education and the Board of Alders for supporting The Little Read and our citywide literacy initiative.



It Takes a Whole City



The **nhccc** & the City of New Haven
New Haven Early Childhood Council

Invite you and your children to celebrate the National Association for the Education of Young Children's

Week of the Young Child

Free Events Calendar

Free books at all events!

Free books at all events!

<p>Saturday • April 11</p> <p>Friends Center for Children</p> <p><i>More the Orchestra</i></p> <p>225 East Grand Ave @10:00 Instrument petting zoo @10:45 Carnival of Animals concert <small>(RSVP to 203.668.1966 --space limited)</small></p>	<p>Monday • April 13</p> <p>Join the kick-off celebration for Week of the Young Child</p> <p><i>The 1st Day, 100th Day</i></p> <p>City Hall 165 Church Street @10:00 am</p>	<p>Monday • April 13</p> <p>Christian Community Action</p> <p>660 Winchester Ave @10:00 am</p> <p><i>The Mitten Book</i></p> <p>nhfpl Stetson Branch 200 Dixwell Ave @4:00 pm</p>	<p>Tuesday • April 14</p> <p><i>Good and Beautiful</i></p> <p>nhfpl Fair Haven Branch 182 Grand Avenue @10:15 am</p> <p><i>The 1st Day, 100th Day</i></p> <p>nhfpl Wilson Branch 303 Washington Ave @4:30 pm</p>
<p>Wednesday • April 15</p> <p><i>The HUG Book</i></p> <p>nhfpl Ives Main Branch 133 Elm Street @10:30 am</p>	<p>Thursday • April 16</p> <p><i>My Family Book</i></p> <p>nhfpl Mitchell Branch 37 Harrison Street @10:00 am</p> <p><i>Yale Art Gallery</i></p> <p>1111 Chapel Street @2:00 pm <small>Art event!</small></p>	<p>Saturday • April 18</p> <p><i>Common Ground</i></p> <p>Common Ground 358 Springside Ave @10:00 am Meet the farm animals</p> <p><i>Carrot Seed</i></p> <p>CitySeed Farmers' Market 115 Water Street @11:30 am <small>"Planting Project"</small></p>	<p><i>Eli Whitney Museum</i></p> <p>Eli Whitney Museum 915 Whitney Ave @1 to 3 pm Book building project!</p> <p><i>Connecticut Children's Museum</i></p> <p>Connecticut Children's Museum Albany Theatre 22 Wall Street @2:00 pm <small>Today is FREE for kids!</small></p>

NH Early Childhood Council Organizations - NHCC Early Childhood Department - All Day Day - Board of Education - 19th Century for Adaptive Learning - 19th of New Haven Community Health Administration - 19th Street Child - Connecticut Public for Children - Connecticut Children's Museum - CT Department of Social Services - Family Community Services of CT - Fair Haven Community Health Center - Gateway Community College - Grand Institute - Grand Lane NH Health Center - Health and Family School - NHCC for Progressive Action - US&A Food Bank - NHCC Partnership - New Haven Free Public Library - New Haven Hospital - NH Health Center - NH Free Public Library - NH Health Department - NH NHCC - NH Public Health Board - Office of Early Childhood - NHCC Inc. - Student Parenting Family Services - The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven - The Diaper Bank - United Way of Greater New Haven

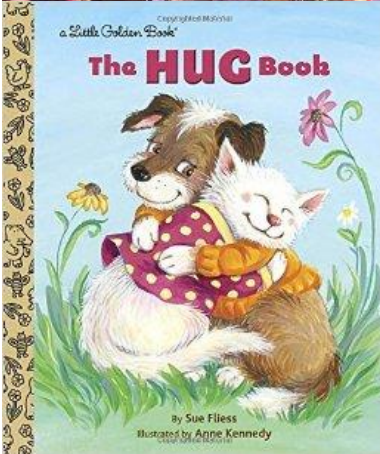
It takes a whole city to raise every child to be a reader!

At each of these community-based sites, children -- and their families -- participated in exciting book reading events and were given a new children's picture book to extend the learning and support emerging readers. Interactive events happened in all these places -- based on books by children's authors who celebrate, in so many different ways, the love we have for children.

Christian Community Action
 City Seed Farmers' Market
 Clifford Beers Child Guidance Clinic
 Common Ground
 Connecticut Children's Museum
 The Diaper Bank
 Eli Whitney Museum
 Elm City Communities
 Fair Haven Community Health Center
 (FHCC)
 FHCC Nurturing Families Network
 FHCC Fatherhood Project
 Family Resource Centers

Friends Center for Children
 Hill Health Center
 New Haven Free Public Libraries
 New Reach
 New Haven Reads!
 NH Health Department's Nurturing Families Network
 Nurturing Families Network -- Family Centered Services of CT
 Yale Art Gallery
 Yale New Haven Hospital Nurturing Families

At **City Hall**, families, family childcare providers and early childhood programs joined together to kick off the 2015 Week of the Young Child. Over 175 excited children joyfully acted out The I Love You Book, making sure to give each other big hugs to celebrate a week named just for them!

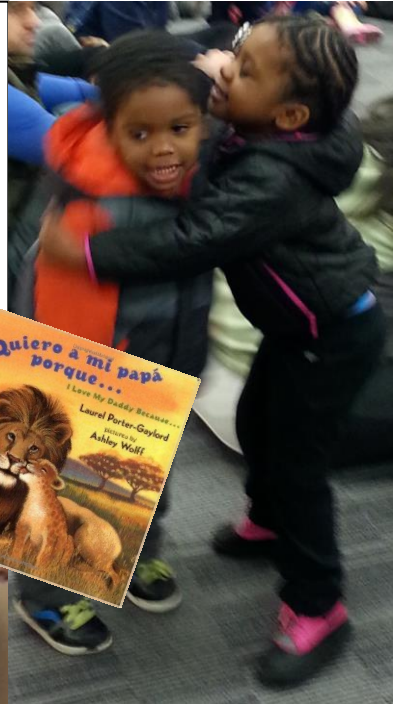


At the **Downtown Branch** of the New Haven Free Public Library, children were treated to a reading of a Little Golden Book, The Hug Book, where many different hugs were described and explained. The children could dance, sing and listen to wonderful stories by the librarian. All were united as one, from all walks of life, to celebrate young children!



Children at the **Stetson Branch** of the New Haven Free Public Library listened attentively to The Mommy Book, a story read by our children's librarian, about how special mommies are.

Children joined the librarian at the **Fair Haven Branch** of the New Haven Free Public Library for a bi-lingual storytelling where they shared some love and practiced hugging friends and family, inspired by the book, I Love My Daddy Because ...

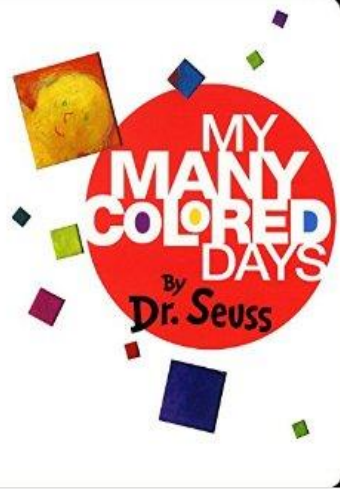


At the **Wilson Branch** of the New Haven Free Public Library, children heard The I Love You Book. The book reminds them that we love them when they “hide our keys” and we love them “just the way they are” and will hug them no matter what ...!

Illustrated by
A New York Times Bestseller
The I LOVE YOU Book



Yale Art Gallery hosted of an exhibit tour and a colored shapes activity. We were inspired by My Many Colored Days, a book all about how feelings feel in color.



At **Elm City Communities**, children gathered with their copy of *The Family Book*, reading together about the many different families in the world ... and all of them loving children.



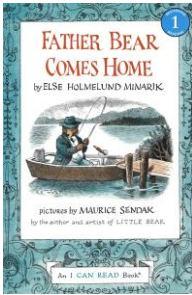
The Daddy Book



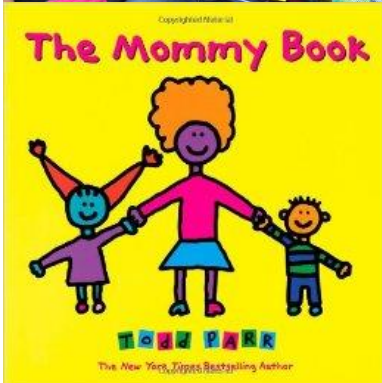
Todd PARR

At the **Mitchell Branch** of the New Haven Free Public Library, children heard stories about daddies. “Some daddies bake cookies. Some daddies stop for doughnuts. All daddies love you!”





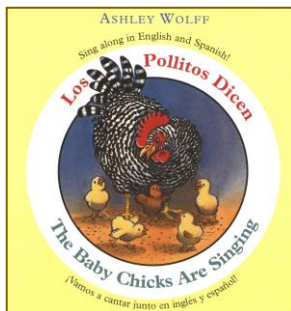
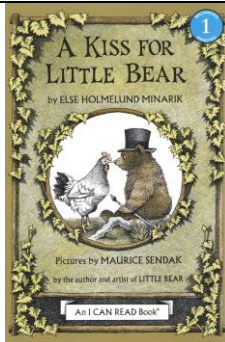
At the **Eli Whitney Museum**, children heard all about a little bear waiting for his father to return from a long fishing trip – hoping he would bring him a magical mermaid. While children awaited the grand finale of the book (hint: no mermaid but lots of father hugs), each child got to make a little fishing boat, just like the one in the story.



Christian Community Action was the site of an animated reading of a Todd Parr book about all the different and amazing things mommies do in the world.

Families celebrated the wonderful role of ‘moms’ while reading The Mommy Book that reminds us that “All mommies love to kiss and hug you!”

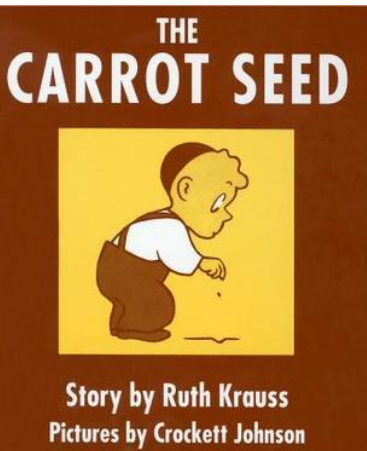
At the **Connecticut Children's Museum**, the Alliance Children's Theatre acted out the story, A Kiss for Little Bear. Families watched grandma's kiss as it traveled to finally land where it lovingly belonged: on little bear.



At **Common Ground**, children spent the morning outdoors, and were introduced to the farm animals in residence, including a mother hen and her little chicks. Another example of how much parents care for their children!



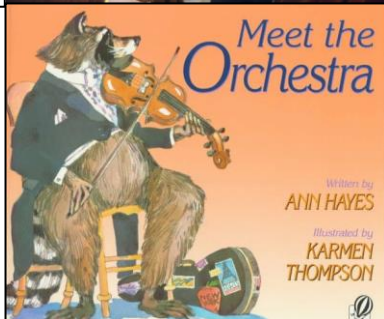
At the **CitySeed Farmers' Market**, children planted carrot seeds, learning about how families love whatever we do.



At the **Friends Center for Children** families spent the morning meeting the different instruments of the orchestra and then gathering for a concert, kids on laps as the music played on.



Catalyst Photography



At the **Fair Haven Community Health Center**, volunteer reader, Eunice, read HUG to many, many children. Other staff distributed books and Kids Kits to families through the Nurturing Families Network and in the waiting room.



The Little Read

The Council partnered with early childhood classrooms, family childcare homes, and social service agencies to implement The Little Read. Each site organized exciting and fun family reading events to celebrate Week of the Young Child and to highlight the importance of literacy for our youngest children.

We congratulate the directors and early childhood educators in classrooms and in family childcare homes throughout the City who organized inviting events for Week of the Young Child and provided reading opportunities for thousands of families. The innovative activities early childhood settings designed for our book, HUG, are testimony to the creative spirit and boundless energy of our teachers.

We applaud the many community organizations that hosted events where families could learn together, hear stories and build their home libraries.

The mission of the New Haven Early Childhood Council is to ensure that all New Haven children, birth through 8, are healthy, safe, thriving in nurturing families, and prepared to be successful lifelong learners. The Week of the Young Child engages families in literacy-based activities and provides families across the City with new children's picture books to encourage reading at home.

The New Haven Early Childhood Council is proud to share some of The Little Read tales from around the City.



JezeAlborough.com

March 31, 2015

I'm honoured that the New Haven Early Childhood Council chose my book, HUG, for their Week of the Young Child celebrations!

HUG began with a simple line drawing of an elephant being hugged round the trunk by a baby chimpanzee. I liked the idea that the smallest hug has the power to fill up even the largest animal. This image got me thinking about hugs; how they can express the deepest feelings without the need for words. Everybody needs a hug sometime – wherever you are born or whether you are young or old. Hugs are a universal phenomenon.

In HUG, I wanted different species of animals to represent various nationalities who were united in their understanding of the language of hugging. This is partly why there are so many animals in there, and so many different types of animals. To see the amazing patchwork coat of the giraffe next to the shiny gray and pink hide of the hippos or the multicoloured snakes was an important symbol to me (as well as being an important contributor to the colour and brightness of the book).

Thank you for selecting HUG and best of luck with the celebrations!

Kind regards,

Jeze Alborough



Bethesda Nursery School

305 St. Ronan Street
New Haven, CT 06511
203 787-5439



The children at Bethesda Nursery School celebrated the Week of the Young Child with hugs all around! We began the festivities during story time with a teacher reading HUG to the class. The children participated by shouting "Hug!" every time the teacher pointed to the word. They were so proud to be able to read the book by themselves. Afterward, they discussed the different types of animals in the illustrations and how Bobo felt as the story progressed.

At the art table, materials were available for the children to make animal masks inspired by the characters in the book. Giraffes, hippos and cheetahs were soon roaming the classroom and many hugs were exchanged. The kids were thrilled to be able to take home a bookmark and their very own copy of HUG.

Calvin Hill Daycare Center

150 Highland Street
New Haven, CT 06511
203 764-9350

Calvin Hill Day Care Center and its Kitty Lustman-Findling Kindergarten gave out the HUG book to every child in conjunction with our annual Spring Pot Luck Supper and as part of our celebration of the Week of the Young Child. The event was attended by nearly all our families and teachers, and we had a wonderful evening with delicious international food reflecting the diversity of the families who are a part of our Calvin Hill community.

One highlight of our Week of the Young Child celebration is always the giving out of a book (so generously provided by the New Haven Early Childhood Council) for each child and for each classroom. This year, the Kindergarten children were so inspired that they decided to create their own HUG books. Here are some of the Calvin Hill Kindergarten children writing and illustrating their books, modeled on HUG, but embellished with their own creativity and flair. This is truly literacy and play in action!



Centro San Jose School Readiness Program Catholic Charities

290 Grand Avenue
790 Grand Avenue
New Haven, CT 06513
203 777-5068 or 203 772-1131

During the Week of the Young Child the children had a lot fun working on the different projects for the art show, having a wacky day, show and tell, and visiting the City Hall for the Kick Off program.



We read the HUG book and talked about how it feels to be hugged. Parents hugged their children and talked about how wonderful it is. Children hugged each other. Parents and children also had a lot of fun writing the pages for the Centro San Jose Center HUG Book.



Creating Kids Childcare Center

at the Connecticut Children's Museum
22 Wall Street
New Haven, CT 06511
203 789-1622



Inspired by the children's picture book, HUG, Creating Kids celebrated Week of the Young Child with our annual family breakfast featuring little Monkey Muffins (for each of our little monkeys) and tiny kid-sized bananas.



Our favorite musician, George Melillo, treated everyone to an early morning sing-a-long of love songs including *A ... You're Adorable* and *I Love You a Bushel and a Peck* and, of course, Barney's old standard, *I Love You, You Love Me*.

The children spent the week leaving "heart prints" for each other as they did good deeds for friends, writing love notes to their families, making and measuring their hugs and distributing ample numbers of hugs all around.



Edith B. Jackson Childcare

405 Canner Street #1
New Haven, CT 06511
203 764-9416

At EBJ Child Care, we celebrated HUG by identifying and exploring feelings and discussed how a HUG can make us feel better.

Other important events of the week included guest readers, digging in the garden together, and “acting” out the story.



We delved into caring for each other and for other living things. “HOW YOU GROW” discussions led to talking about how other things grow and we concluded that all things need “careful care”. Hugs in our classroom streamed into our families’ homes and gardens!

Every Child Ahead – LuShanna Thompson

335 Mill Rock Road
Hamden, CT 06517
203 784-7404

Week of the Young Child 2015 and the HUG theme could not have come at a better time. I've been trying to find new ways to deal with the challenging behaviors that can often interrupt our day.



Finally, a light went off in my head! It was the simplest idea, yet it was so powerful because it really worked. The idea was a “HUG” -- who would have known? Every time a child has a hard time dealing with whatever s/he is feeling, I can turn a screaming rant into a warm HUG. When a child is crying, ready to hit, ready to throw something, or even when s/he is happy, I offer a HUG so much that they will now come up to me and say, “Mrs. Shanna, I need a hug.”



When we received our HUG box, I think I was more excited than the children. They saw a box with new things to play with; I saw a whole lot of opportunities that could help me explain, and show, how giving a HUG can make you feel so much better. The puppets, HUG songs CD, books, and the HUG Reader, it was wonderful. We dance to our new music, we hide BOBO, do our monkey dance, and count how many times a hug was given in a day. The power of a HUG is truly amazing!

Friends Center for Children

225 E. Grand Avenue
New Haven, CT 06513
203 468-1966

Everyone received a copy of HUG, by Jez Alborough, in honor of Week of the Young Child. We celebrated the story of Bobo searching for hugs from Mommy, then sharing hugs with all of his friends, by doing just that: sharing hugs with as many people in our community as we could. We visited a different pod each day, and as the days progressed, children became more familiar and confident in approaching each other.



We also practiced “Pass the Squeeze” at the end of each meeting, hugging the person next to you until each person in the circle had received, and given, a hug. We talked about how great hugs make us feel!

During the Week of the Young Child, friends fell in love with the book Hug by Jez Alborough. Some of our friends give very large hugs with lots of strength while others would rather receive a hug than give one. This idea began a discussion of how everyone hugs differently. We traced our “hugs” on large butcher paper.



From there they wanted to see what their baby doll’s hugs looked like and they practiced tracing the doll hugs on smaller paper.



Gateway Community College Early Learning Center

20 Church Street
New Haven, CT 06510
203 285-2132

Each classroom planned a different experience for The Little Read. Marge taught the children animal yoga poses, parents and children constructed hugging hands after sharing the story.



Another group celebrated hugs by wearing yellow which represents *happiness* on the mood meter (a tool in the RULER program).



Our word of the month posted on our big, white board was “HUG”, and parents wrote the word in 14 different languages -- including American Sign Language!

Grandpa's Family Daycare – Melissa Rivera

282 Exchange Street
New Haven, CT 06513
203 260-5928

During the Week of the Young Child, we were busy with many activities based on the children's picture book, HUG. On one wall, we drew pictures of the animals from the book. We also wrote the word HUG in different languages.



To add some numbers to our week, we measured everyone's arms to see just how big his or her hug might be!

When parents came to pick up or drop off their child, there were so many hugs given so we took some amazing pictures of them hugging their children. During the week, we read and looked at the book, HUG, and made sure to give every one of our friends a hug!



Harris and Tucker School

412 Newhall Street
Hamden, CT 06518
203 787-5087

When I heard about the Week of the Young Child that the New Haven Early Childhood Council was sponsoring, I was very excited. This would be a great opportunity to include our school-age children in a process that would impact their lives.

This year Harris and Tucker's Kids TV Leadership Academy (KTVLA) decided to host a Nickelodeon Kids Choice Awards Pizza Party. The donations would be donated to a charity of their choice during WOYC. The event was a huge success for all who participated.

Here are the results:

- The event was held at the Harris & Tucker School
- Twenty five students participated (ages 4-11)
- The students raised \$50.00 for Yale New Haven Children's Hospital
- The students presented the funds, the Council's featured book, HUG, and dozens of high-quality children's books (courtesy of the Connecticut Children's Museum and Harris & Tucker School) to the Children's Hospital
- This event helped our kids develop a new appreciation for helping others
- Our school-age kids found a new joy in reading to our preschool children

We are so proud of the students of KTVLA for wanting to experience and celebrate the joy of reading during WOYC 2015.

As we always say at KTVLA ... Readers are Leaders!



Juanito's Family Home Daycare – Juan Aguilar
Felicitas' Family Home Daycare – Felicitas
Castellano

1094 Townsend Avenue
New Haven, CT 06513
203 466-2988

We can read the book, HUG, 3 or 4 times and in every single reading something amazing comes to mind. Children love this book so much, maybe because of the characters, the feelings shown by the characters, and the story of the baby gorilla searching for a HUG, and mommy.



On a Saturday, we asked parents to dress up as one of the characters and share a snack made with bananas. The classroom became a jungle! The children and their parents learned a Spanish song about hugs called 'Abrazo'. Animal masks were colored and created. Families came dressed up as elephants, lions, and gorillas. We were very impressed with the creative family costumes and the amount of time families put into making their costumes, for both their child and themselves, all using materials found at home!

We read HUG in both English and Spanish, and whenever the word 'HUG' appeared, everyone said it aloud. We read some facts about why hugs are important in our everyday life.

And what is a day of reading HUG without hugs? We gave hugs throughout the morning and we sang 'Abrazo' after reading the book and when everyone said goodbye. We could see the happiness in our families, sharing and getting to know each other a little more. We couldn't tell who was more excited: children or parents? We can't wait for next year!

Leila Day Nursery

100 Cold Spring Street
New Haven, CT 06511
203 624-1374

The North class children were excited to know we had a copy of **HUG** for each of them "to keep?" ("Yes, to keep!")



We focused on how feelings and emotions can be expressed non-verbally, or with one simple word like "hug". The first reading was by the teacher, with help from our own Bobo puppet, who offered each child a hug. Then we did a read-along, signing the emotion, and practicing expressive language to voice "hug" as happy, sad, lonely, and joyous. This was an excellent reading and language activity for a class which includes five English language learners!



On subsequent days, we changed the word "HUG", telling the story with the word "LOVE", "Mommy", and to the children's delight, "banana"! (Which turned it into a very silly story!)



Lil' Cupcakes Childcare – Josie Queen

125 Westerleigh Road
New Haven, CT 06515
203 814-6953

Each child took home their copy of the book, HUG, and, when we read it together, they all knew the story already! They had fun imitating and naming each animal in the



book and even one of the youngest ones, who has only a few words, knew the name “Bobo!”

We played a matching game with photos of the baby animals and their parents, the children drew pictures of animals and we put the photos on the walls of the daycare. I introduced animal figures (babies and parents) to dramatic play, (the baby giraffe seemed to be the favorite). The children played with them in each area and even took them outside to play in the sand and in our gardens.

We talked about hugging the people we care about and how being hugged by someone we love makes us feel. I introduced other books about caring and doing things to make people feel happy.

We learned the signs for ‘Hug’ and ‘I love you.’ We made ‘Monkey Stew’ with yogurt, bananas and strawberries. We made collages with photos of all kinds of animals. We’ve read HUG every day and now each child has fun pointing to the animal parents in the book and claiming one or another as his or her own mommy or daddy. It is now one of the favorite books for circle time each morning and whenever we sit together to read or when the children choose to look at a book by themselves.

LULAC Head Start

Fay Miller Center
250 Cedar Street
New Haven 06519
203 777-4006

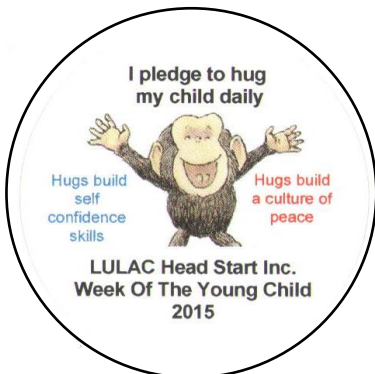
Mill River Center
375 James Street
New Haven 06513
203 777-7501

Cross Roads Center
54 East Ramsdell St
New Haven 06515
203 387-0094

LULAC staff greeted Week of the Young Child by decorating the walls of the center with gigantic pictures of the characters from the book, HUG. Each classroom chose one of the animals from the story and got creative by doing art activities with the children based on their character.



For Week of the Young Child, LULAC Head Start Inc. hosted a “Pledge to Hug” event at each of our sites. We asked that all parents, guardians, staff and visitors take a pledge to hug their child -- or any child -- daily.



Staff provided each pledger with a small fact sheet that included the positive impact a hug can have on a person's social and emotional development and school readiness, a sticker to wear and asked that they sign our pledge boards. Parents were very excited and eager to take the pledge with their child to support this great event.



Our staff worked together to ensure that everyone who entered our doors was aware of this great event and took advantage of the opportunity. Beautiful displays were created around the centers. Proud parents and children still enter into our doors looking for their HUG pictures.



During both weeks teaching staff worked hard and planned a lot of wonderful things for the children and parents. Each child received a copy of the book, HUG, and a bucket filled with items to support their reading and writing skills at home.



Montessori School on Edgewood

230 Edgewood Avenue
New Haven, CT 06511
203 772-3210

During Week of the Young Child, we distributed the HUG books with our parents and families during Coffee and Donuts morning with parents and children.



Parents were invited to read books in the classroom. They were very excited to



participate and signed up for a time to come to read to all the children. We had a great turn out of our parent readers. Parents also joined us for the reading inside the classroom of the HUG book.



Morning Glory Early Learning Center

1859 Chapel Street
New Haven, CT 06515
203 389-4148

Morning Glory Infant Toddler Center

49 Parmelee Avenue
New Haven, CT 06511
203 789-9902

Morning Glory parents were eager and happy to participate in our Week of the Young Child event. We had a Pizza Party and the reading of our featured book, HUG. The families and children were informed that we would be having a special fun activity at our school and all were invited to come including grandparents.



The book HUG was read and, of course, the parents hugged their children at the end, which was a very special moment.

As always the Pizza Party was a hit and all the children received a copy of the book. It was a fun time and all enjoyed it.

NHPS – Bishop Woods Pre-K

1481 Quinnipiac Avenue

New Haven, CT 06513

203 946-8623

To celebrate Week of the Young Child, children and their families had an ice cream social to promote kindness, helping and lots of hugs! Some of our classroom activities connected to the book, HUG. We learned yoga poses of the animals in the book. We had a wonderful hugging day ... everyone dressed in the warm color yellow! To measure how big our HUGS are, we did body tracing with arms outstretched.



During Week of the Young Child, we also took a field trip to the Eli Whitney Museum. Many parents participated in the trip and we had a great time building together.

NHPS – Conte West Hills Pre-K

511 Chapel Street
New Haven, CT 06512
203 946-8613



The Pre K students at Conte West Hills hosted a Mother's Day HUG Read-In and Brunch for Week of the Young Child. Our event began with songs about love and hugs!

We introduced the sweet characters from the story, HUG, the elephant parent, the baby elephant and little Bobo, and passed them around for hugs! Then the teacher read the book to all the mommies and kids. After each child received his/her own book, children sat on their mom's laps and read the book together. We talked about how wonderful hugs were and how happy hugs make us feel!!

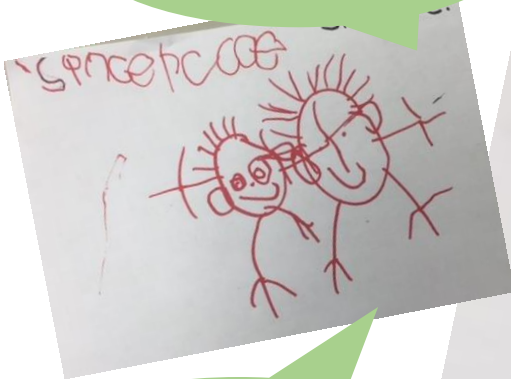


The children were so excited to take the book home! We ended our event with a brunch to celebrate how much we love our moms!

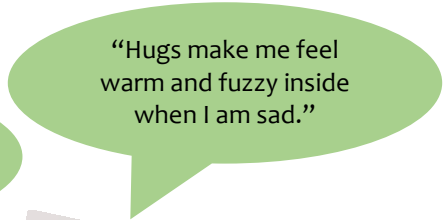
NHPS – Early Childhood Learning Center

495 Blake Street
New Haven, CT 06515
203 946-5300

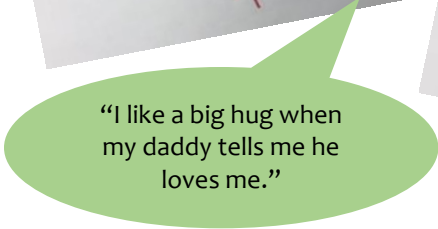
“I like a big hug from
Mommy and Daddy
every day.”



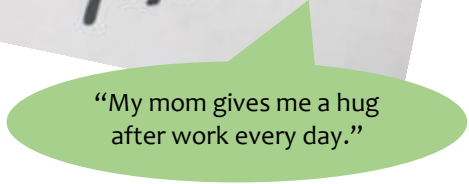
“Hugs make me feel
warm and fuzzy inside
when I am sad.”



“I like a big hug when
my daddy tells me he
loves me.”



“My mom gives me a hug
after work every day.”



Week of the Young Child was wonderful! Families gladly hugged their children and we made a bulletin board of happy kids and happy parents ... hugging! Children illustrated hugs and shared their special hug stories.



NHPS -- East Rock Pre-K

133 Nash Street
New Haven, CT 06511
203 503-5900

How big is your hug? In keeping with our week's theme, children traced each other's "hugs" and then measured how much hugging power they had in those hugs!



The whole class went on a search for the little chimpanzee from our featured book, HUG, using Animal Yoga! The children used animal poses such as "elephant" (pictured below) and "lion". We explored stretching, positions and calm breathing to gain control over our bodies and feelings.



NHPS -- Helene Grant Head Start

540 Ella Grasso Boulevard

New Haven, CT 06519

203 946-8666



The children at Helene Grant enjoyed the book, HUG, immensely and our families learned not only the value of a hug, but also the importance and intimacy of sharing a book with a young child wrapped in your arms!

We will continue the Week of the Young Child theme with our school wide literacy evening where parents can enjoy dinner

with their children and receive another book for their personal library!



NHPS – Hill Central Pre-K

140 Dewitt Street
New Haven, CT 06519
203 499-6100

At Hill Central School, our preschool children learned to read the book, HUG, quickly. The children chose to read the book themselves, and with friends, and acted it out for the whole group!

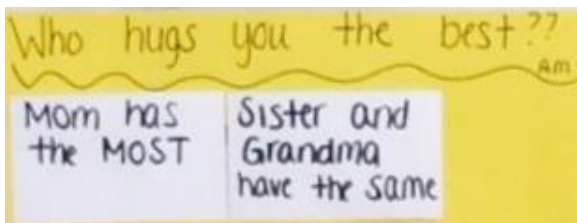


Inspired by the book, our conversations have been about hugging and friendship! Our class is demonstrating more positive pro-social behavior. They are more sensitive to each other's feelings and they are attentive to their friends who may be upset. Thank you for HUG!

NHPS -- Nathan Hale Pre-K

480 Townsend Avenue
New Haven, CT 06512
203 946-5185

During the Week of the Young Child, the children in the Nathan Hale Pre-K classes, and their families, engaged in activities on the theme of Help Us Grow by talking about the importance of HUGS, friendship, kindness and eating healthy foods.



Since the book featured this year, HUG, is an acronym for HELP US GROW, we focused on activities that would help foster that commitment to our children. Parents were invited to come in and read various books about family, relationships and feelings, and to make monkey puppets and hats. The students engaged in many theme-related math, literacy, block play, puppetry and art activities and were treated to chocolate covered bananas and a Curious George movie. We had a great Week of the Young Child!!



Pili's Day Care – Maria Carrillo

34 Edgehill Terrace
New Haven, CT 06515
203 387-8289

At our family childcare, the children took the animals featured in our book, HUG, out into the yard. As they sat quietly, with the animals are happily watching them, the children were inspired to begin sharing and showing their emotions to each other with a GREAT BIG HUG!



St. Aedan's-St. Brendan PreSchool

351 McKinley Avenue
New Haven, CT 06515
203 387-5693

Week of the Young Child generated so many wonderful classroom activities, all based on the children's picture book, **HUG!** Using **HUG**, children put their own words to describe what was happening on each page of the story.



We made a list of when to give hugs and who we can hug. We talked about always remembering to ask a friend if it is okay to hug him or her before giving them a hug.

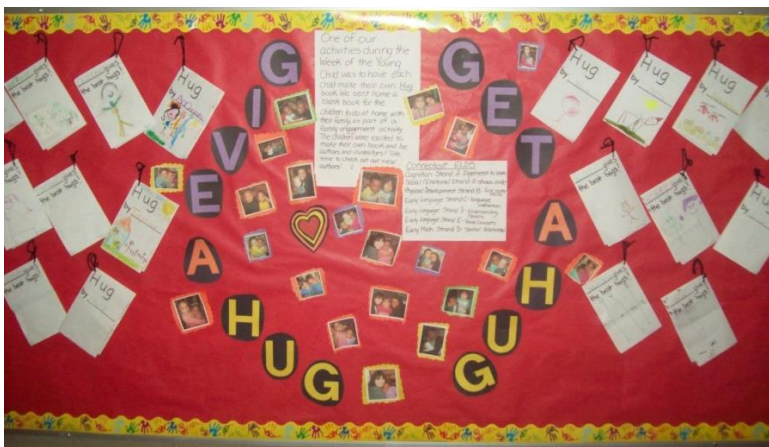
Children also learned how to say the word “hug” in different languages. We made an outline of each child's body with their hands held out and talked about how to give big hugs.

Each class had their own food celebration for families to come and join in the festivities. Breakfasts included pancakes, bananas, orange juice, and banana milkshakes – inspired by the little chimpanzee in the featured book, HUG.

Channeling Bobo, the chimpanzee, one of our classes asked family members to come in and help the children make stick monkeys using all sorts of collage items. The family members enjoyed making these with the children.



Each child took home their own HUG book, a blank book where he or she could draw a picture of someone they love to hug and an animal they would like to hug. When they brought them back, these booklets were posted on the bulletin board and they looked great!!



St. Andrews Child Care Center

1230 Townsend Avenue
New Haven, CT 06513
203 469-9000



We have a tradition at St. Andrew's during the Week of the Young Child where each class invites their families to share breakfast with their child. At the breakfast, we always talk about the reason for the week as well as the book that is the focus for The Little Read.



This year, the focus was through the book, HUG, and the importance of hugs for everyone. Posters were made in the classrooms thanking families and friends for their hugs and for coming to read. Classrooms made personalized hug thank you cards for readers and others that have made their life special.

In several classrooms, parents came and read stories in their native language and then told the story again in English. In one classroom the mother of child from Russia came with a favorite Russian storybook which she first read in English and then in Russian. It was a wonderful way for children to hear a book in a language that was different from his or her home language and helped them understand how English books sound to their friends. We made sure to thank her with a big hug!



St. Francis & St. Rose of Lima School

423 Ferry Street
New Haven, CT 06513
203 777-5352

We celebrated Week of the Young Child at St. Francis & St. Rose of Lima School with many different activities planned such as a pajama day, a day to dress in yellow, and an art day.

Seeing the participation from the parent's during the week was very exciting. They came to read different stories to the children and we had a breakfast day with the parents. The children compared the animals in the story, HUG, with animals we have in the class.

After reading the book, HUG, we gave a hug to one another. We also talked about the importance of hugs in our lives. All the children received the book HUG and the calendar of events to celebrate the Week of the Young Child. Some parents were so happy with this information that they took the day off from work to bring their child to the events.

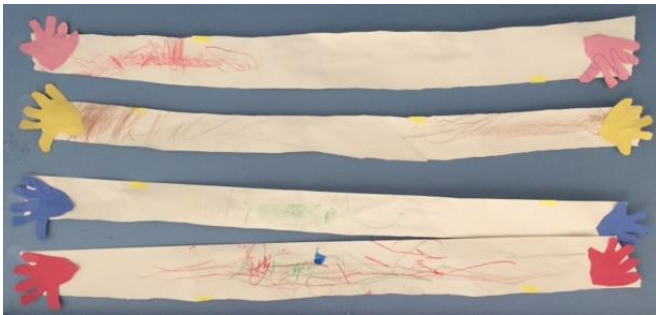
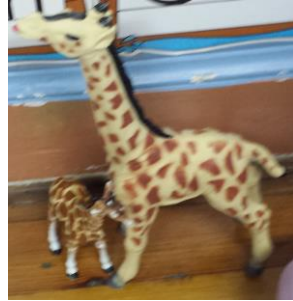
The children had the opportunity to make their own ice cream and, using sprinkles, bananas, chocolate syrup and whipped cream, made banana splits, inspired by the little chimpanzee in HUG!



Tane Trimble – Tane’s Lil World Family Daycare

1579 A State Street (rear)
New Haven, CT
203 389-5854

During Week of the Young Child, we read HUG and decided to make long paper arms with hands by tracing ourselves. We cut out our hugging arms and gave out big hugs to our families and friends.



We pinned animal tails on to match the animals in the book, HUG, and then the children had to find the matching baby animals and give it a hug.



The Little School House

1440 Whalley Avenue
New Haven, CT 06515
203 389-6372

The Little Schoolhouse celebrated The Week of the Young Child by reading a wonderful story that touches the hearts and emotions of all human beings. The book, HUG, by Jez Alborough, is simply written using one word



throughout the text. You have to be very careful how the story is read. If the story is read correctly then the true message is delivered to readers. Then the story itself can actually touch your heart as it did our parents.

After hearing the story, some wanted to cry. Others said it reminded them of the importance of giving hugs. One said a hug is a beautiful expression. Another said a hug is such a gentle touch. Another said that a hug helps one give a sigh of relief. One said it gives you a warm and fuzzy feeling. Others said it is heartfelt. Whatever our parents said, Jez Alborough's character, the chimpanzee, confirmed that we all need hugs. This book reminded our parents of the importance of giving their child not one, but many hugs each day. So parents took a pledge to hug their child at least eight times a day.



United Community Nursery School

323 Temple Street
New Haven, CT 06511
203 782-0141

“I like to give squeezey hugs. I love to give my mommy hugs because I love her so much.”

We launched our Week of the Young Child activities with a family/school walk to the kick-off event at City Hall. Then families worked together to write about “what hugs mean to us.” Their thoughtful words are displayed with photos of the children hugging their parents/guardians.

“Hugging means love and hugs are beautiful.”

Children also learned the animal names in sign language and played the “find Bobo” game, both inspired by our featured book, HUG. Several parents read stories in the classrooms, and some children who have gone on to kindergarten visited and also read to the kids. Our children continue to enjoy reading all the new books about hugs and snuggling with the elephant puppets and the little chimpanzee, Bobo.

Hugging and kindness are a big part of our culture here at United Community!



Yale New Haven Hospital Daycare Center York Street Campus

110-112 Davenport Avenue
New Haven, CT 06504
203 688-5247

During Week of the Young Child, the preschool class at YNH St. Raphael's Campus invited their parents to join us for our Special Storyteller as she read "Can Unna Find a HUG?" and to join their child for our Pancake Breakfast and to read the book, HUG, by Jez Alborough. Throughout the week we had a variety of special activities for the children.



Parents were invited to The Little Read book distribution of HUG. They were encouraged to read the book to their child and share in a morning snack. Children took the book home when they left.



YMCA School Readiness Preschool

52 Howe Street
New Haven, CT 06511
203 776-9622

During the week of the Young Child, the YMCA participated in local library events as well as had a parent event on Friday. Families came and brought their favorite banana treat to share, inspired by our book, HUG.



Families came and read the HUG book and the books that they were given to take home from the library events. We also had some parents read to the classes. It was a fantastic afternoon!



New Haven Early Childhood Council

203 946-7875

www.nhecc.org

The Early Childhood Council brings together community members who share a desire to improve the lives of young children and their families in New Haven. Our mission is to ensure that all children arrive at kindergarten with the skills, knowledge and support they need to succeed.

Convened by Mayor Toni Harp and the Superintendent of Schools, Garth Harries, the Council is implementing an ambitious community plan, one that draws on the resources of our community, to nurture a lifelong love of learning in our children.

Knowing that high-quality experiences in formal learning settings, in the community and at home, can make all the difference in setting the stage for a life of success, the New Haven Early Childhood Council supports innovative programs and projects to provide high-quality early care and education, family engagement opportunities and reliable child health services.

The Little Read is one of those initiatives -- a community-based early literacy project -- engaging our whole City in an effort to promote reading for our young children.

