

[sun-sentinel.com/news/broward/pompano-beach/fl-pbf-crystal-0325-20100325,0,7980261.story](http://sun-sentinel.com/news/broward/pompano-beach/fl-pbf-crystal-0325-20100325,0,7980261.story)

## South Florida Sun-Sentinel.com

### Young readers spread the word at family literacy event

REBECCA DELLAGLORIA Forum Publishing Group

11:25 AM EDT, March 25, 2010

The Broward Community Schools organization is hoping to make learning fun. Dozens of families gathered at Crystal Lake Middle School in Pompano Beach recently for a free family literacy event — Family and Books: Building a Foundation for Today and Tomorrow.

During the 90-minute event, students listened to Markham Elementary Principal Ted Toomer read from "The Big Bad Wolf," played with Play-Doh and made fraction tables from construction paper.

At the Reading is Fundamental table, each child was able to select a free, age-appropriate book to take home. Choices included "Viking Ships at Sunrise," "And the Winner Is," by LL Cool J, and the childhood classic "Do Your Ears Hang Low."

"My kids love books. They are very good readers," said Diana Hurtado, whose three children attend schools in Coconut Creek, Margate and Pompano.

Eight-year-old Torri, a student at Cresthaven Elementary, picked up the book "Puppy Palace."

She likes reading," said Torri's mom, Julie Podmokly. "We try to get to all these events. I think they're excellent. They learn crafts, get books that they need that they probably don't get from school, and get to meet people."

Over at the Make and Take table, volunteers helped younger kids work with Play-Doh and older children make fraction tables from strips of construction paper and crayons.

"Each time we do an event like this, we choose a different activity," said Stephen Kaplan, family literacy educator for Community Schools North.

New mom Astride Joseph took the opportunity to get her 1-year-old, Michaela, fingerprinted at the Broward Sheriff's Office table. Though her child is too young to read yet, Joseph said she wanted to get a head start on instilling the fundamentals in her child.

"I just want to get into the mode of PTA meetings and school events," said Joseph, an accounting major at Florida Atlantic University.

Copyright © 2010, [South Florida Sun-Sentinel](http://www.sun-sentinel.com)



FRED HUNTER'S  
Your *NEW* Community Funeral Home

*Fred Hunter's is proud to announce*  
**THE GRAND RE-OPENING OF**  
The University Drive Funeral Home & Community Center  
Now Open Serving Our Community

**Please Join Us for An Open House**  
Sunday, April 11, 2010 from 2pm-4pm FRED HUNTER'S  
[CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS](#)