

## Poplarville Excel By 5 Open House Thursday Promises Free Family Fun

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Toddler plays at Poplarville Excel by 5 Resource Center (Photo Source: Poplarville Excel by 5) POPLARVILLE, MS (WLOX) -

Dr. Seuss sums it up best: "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." Reading to children unlocks the door to their future. This week, as children across America celebrate the great writer, parents are reminded just how important it is to read to their kids. The earlier the better, according to experts - even when they're infants.

Researchers agree reading aloud is the single most important activity we can do to promote early brain development. The first three years of a child's life are critical for developing language skills. So pick up a book, have some fun, and spend 15 minutes a day reading to your little one.

There are also community events which encourage reading. Thursday, Poplarville's Excel by 5 Coalition is hosting a Dr. Seuss birthday bash and open house at its resource center. The free event will feature story time with children birth to age five, as well as all sorts of fun activities from 10:30 to noon today, and again from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Poplarville's Excel by 5 Resource and Referral Center is located on the Pearl River Community College Campus at 101 highway 11 North (North football stadium entrance).

The center opened last September, but coalition leaders hope today's open house will encourage parents to come see what it has to offer. Perhaps the biggest perk, is the wide variety of educational materials available to check out free of charge. The center also features a workroom where parents and educators can use a laminator, die-cuts, and other useful tools.

The Resource and Referral Center is open Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., as well as Tuesday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Poplarville became Excel by 5 Certified in June of 2015 after completing the certification process in one year - a record, considering it usually takes communities two to four years! If you'd like to learn more about the coalition you can call (601) 403-1492.

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