

March 16, 2026



AP-OD Family Connections

Message from AP-OD

March is National Reading Month, and we want to celebrate it with you.

Books are more than stories. They are bridges between generations. When a parent or caregiver opens a book and reads aloud, something powerful happens: a child hears a familiar voice telling them about where they come from, what their family has overcome, and what is possible for their future.

Every family carries stories of resilience; of crossing borders, of rebuilding after loss, of creating something beautiful with limited resources. These are the stories that shape who our children become. And the good news is, you do not need a perfectly written book to share them. Your voice, your memory, and your love are enough.

In this issue, we celebrate the ways reading and storytelling strengthen family bonds, pass down culture, and help children build confidence and hope. We invite you to reflect on the stories in your own family and to share them page by page, conversation by conversation, with the children you love.

AP-OD Parent Spotlight



Learning Side by Side

When their youngest daughter was struggling with speech and socializing, Cristina Flores learned about AP-OD through their trusted facilitator. "I told my husband Ricardo, 'Let's go. Let's give ourselves a chance,'" she recalls. Ricardo arrived feeling unsure, but in that first class, something shifted. He began raising his hand and actively participating. Soon, he was the one urging Cristina to hurry so they wouldn't be late.

"The importance of reading was very significant, as well as learning through play. They also reminded us of our own childhood — and how that now affects our children's well-being." — Cristina Flores

Tip of the Month

Bring Your Family's Story to Life Through Reading

This month, we invite you to make storytime a moment of connection and legacy.

Here are simple ways to weave your family's story into the books you read together.

- ✔ **Share a memory before you begin.** If a book features a character facing a situation similar to one you experienced, start with: "You know, our family once went through something like that..."
- ✔ **Pause and connect.** As you read, ask your child: "Does this remind you of anyone in our family?" These conversations plant roots.
- ✔ **Make it a tradition.** Whether it's Sunday mornings or a bedtime routine, a regular reading time tells your child: this is important, and so are you.
- ✔ **Tell your own stories.** You don't need a book. Share a story from your childhood — a challenge you overcame, a celebration you remember, a person who shaped you. These moments of storytelling can happen anywhere, even during everyday routines, like on the way to school.
- ✔ **Let your child lead.** Invite them to choose the book and follow their curiosity. Reading should feel like an adventure, not a task.

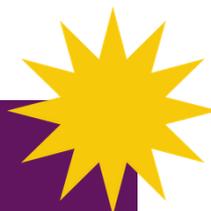


Remember: the goal isn't perfection. It is presence. Every page you turn together is an act of love and an investment in your child's future.

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Upcoming Events and Workshops



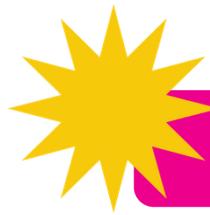
AI & Youth Safety: What Happens When Tech Talks Back Presented by [Operation Parent](#)

Tuesday, March 31, 2026 | 1:00 pm EST

Explore how kids use AI, from chatbots to digital companions, and what it means for their safety, emotions, and development. Dr. Michael Robb of Common Sense Media shares research and practical tips for talking with kids about AI in honest, age-appropriate ways that build critical thinking instead of fear. Live captions will be available in English and Spanish.

[Register](#)

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Community Building

Share Your Story — Help Us Celebrate Families

This month, in the spirit of National Reading Month, we want to hear the stories that live in your family. Maybe it's a book that was passed down through generations. Maybe it's a saying your grandmother always used. Maybe it's a tradition around storytime that your children now expect every night.

Every family's story holds wisdom. When you share yours, you help another family feel seen, supported, and less alone.

We invite you to **share your AP-OD story**. How has the program shaped your family, your goals, or your leadership journey? **Families whose stories are selected will receive a \$50 gift card as a thank you for sharing your voice.** When families share, we all grow stronger together.

Ready to share? Submit your story [here](#). If you have questions or need support telling your story in a way that feels comfortable and meaningful, connect with us at: info@ap-od.org.



Saying "The more that you learn, the more places you will go."