

Reading Corner at clinic office



Contributed photo Connie Dunham, Kathi Skinner and Ellen Owings show off the new Reading Corner bookshelf at the McFarland Clinic North



Alicia Elliott and 4-month-old Kaydence were the first ones to enjoy the new Reading Corner at the McFarland Clinic North Ames office.

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Kathi Skinner, a new Raising Readers volunteer and wife of McFarland family practice physician Don Skinner, Raising Readers board member Connie Dunham, and Ellen Owings, director of McFarland Clinic North Ames Office, recently set up the Reading Corner at the clinic.

When the books were unpacked and arranged in the bookshelf, they asked a young woman in the waiting room to take their picture. The woman was Alicia Elliott, who happened to be in Ames on a family visit from Carroll. Dr. Skinner practiced in Calhoun and Carroll counties for 27 years before the family moved to Ames. Alicia and Kathi recognized each other and discovered some other coincidences. Alicia was the very first baby delivered by Dr. Skinner, and she was born on his birthday.

Alicia and her 4-month-old baby, Kaydence, were the first ones to take advantage of the new Raising Readers Reading Corner. They started by choosing the board book "Global Babies" from the bookshelf.

Kaydence opened the book and right away flipped to the page featuring a baby face from Afghanistan. As it happens, Alicia's husband and Kaydence's father is currently serving in the armed forces in Afghanistan.

The new Reading Corner at McFarland Clinic North Ames Office is one example of how many hands make light work as community members join together to accomplish the Raising Readers mission of improving language and literacy development in children from birth to eight years of age and nurture healthy parent-child relationships.

A number of Raising Readers volunteers were involved in creating this Reading Corner. Ray and Trish Strah prepared the bookcase and delivered it to the clinic. Carol Elbert selected 40 books, including books donated by Theta Chi, her recent review books and books purchased with individual contributions. Volunteers applied labels and laminated covers. Connie Dunham made set-up arrangements, delivered the books and took pictures. Kathi Skinner helped deliver the books and will continue to maintain and support the Reading Corner.

In order to entice families with young children to enjoy books together, Raising Readers has established Reading Corners in public reception areas of 21 community partners.

The seven health care sites include McFarland Clinic Story City office and Nevada office as well as four clinics in Ames (Pediatrics, East, North and West) and Story Medical Clinic in Nevada.