



**NEWS RELEASE**  
**North Olympic Library System**  
**2210 South Peabody Street**  
**Port Angeles, WA 98362**

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date:** June 22, 2016  
**Contact:** Jennifer Knight, Port Angeles Main Library  
360.417.8500 ext. 7705; [youth@nols.org](mailto:youth@nols.org)  
**Re:** Playdates for Babies @ the Port Angeles Main Library

The Port Angeles Main Library invites babies, toddlers, and their parents or caregivers to attend weekly Baby Playdates this July and August during the annual summer reading program at the North Olympic Library System (NOLS). Baby Playdates will take place from 2-3pm on Wednesdays, July 6 through August 17, in the Port Angeles Main Library's recently renovated children's area. In addition to the existing early-learning furniture and puppet theatre in the section, library staff will provide scarves, shaker eggs, and puzzles for even more opportunities to play. Parents or caregivers must be present at this unsupervised and casual community gathering.

Research shows that regular play can help children tell stories and learn vocabulary, both of which are critical early literacy skills. "Play is important for kids and families," said NOLS Youth Services Librarian Jennifer Knight. "Libraries across the country, including the North Olympic Library System, are making space at the library for positive, interactive play. A huge part of last year's remodel at the Port Angeles Library was creating a welcoming, interactive space for families and kids to play in and explore. Baby Playdates are a way for the library to encourage play and build community."

### **About the 2016 Summer Reading Program**

The 2016 Summer Reading Program continues through Saturday, August 20, and provides an array of events and an incentive-based reading challenges to encourage children to continue reading throughout the summer. Research shows that children who do not read during their

summer vacations lose up to a month of instructional knowledge learned during the previous year in what is known as the “summer slide.” Library summer reading programs have been shown to help alleviate the “summer slide” by providing access to materials, enrichment activities, and encouraging kids to read.

For more information about the 2016 Summer Reading Program and other events for young people, visit [www.nols.org](http://www.nols.org), call the Port Angeles Main Library at 360.417.8500 x 7705, or send an email to [youth@nols.org](mailto:youth@nols.org). The Port Angeles Main Library is located at 2210 South Peabody Street in Port Angeles.

The 2016 Summer Reading Program is generously supported by Friends of the Library groups in Port Angeles, Sequim, Forks, and Clallam Bay.



*Baby Playdates will take place from 2-3pm on Wednesdays, July 6-August 17, at the Port Angeles Main Library.  
(Photo credit: North Olympic Library System)*

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