



**BabyRead**  
babyread.org

**MAY 2018**

## **BABYREAD FAMILY PROFILE** **Kara and Jacob**



participation in BabyRead.

Kara first learned about BabyRead at the 2018 K-4 screening, which she was attending for her older son, Daniel. She immediately signed up, thinking this would be a great opportunity for her and Jacob to spend time together outside of home and with another adult who loves books as much as she does. (Kara enjoys reading mysteries “in her spare time” – a rare occurrence for a mother of two young children!)

Both BabyRead and family reader, Nancy, have more than fulfilled Kara’s expectations. She and Jacob travel from their home in Fairplay every two weeks to meet with Nancy at the Seneca Public Library. Although their meeting time is noon, when Kara tells Jacob they are going to BabyRead that day, he wants to go as soon as they drop Daniel off at school. In the year they have been reading with Nancy, Jacob’s attention span and love of books has grown significantly. His speech is advanced, according to Kara. Nancy often brings a ball or bubbles to their session, but of late Jacob shows a preference for books over other entertainments. Both at home and at the library,

Jacob, four months shy of his third birthday, is quite a talker and is quick to tell you how much he loves his books and “stawbewees”. Kara attributes his love of books in great part to their

he selects a book and tells his mom or Nancy, “Let’s read.” He loves selecting a book to take home with him from BabyRead and the most current chosen books often end up as favorites over the next couple of weeks. On the day we met, the last two were in their car for him to “read” while riding. Kara says Jacob talks about the trip to the library throughout the week after their reading session.

Jacob points out letters in the books they read and tells her what they are. While at lunch, Jacob demonstrated his mastery of the alphabet by singing the Alphabet Song. When he finished, Nancy said, “That was so beautiful” Jacob responded with a formal bow from the waist and said, “Thank you!”

Jacob watches TV with older brother, Daniel, but mom controls the programs they watch.

Five-year-old Daniel is also a great lover of books. His K-4 class provides books and expects that each student read 100 books by the end of the school term. Daniel surpassed 200 books this spring and keeps reading. An added benefit of his love of reading is that he reads to Jacob each night, giving Mom a little break and providing a great bonding time for the brothers.

Jacob’s dad has a full-time job, providing Kara the opportunity to stay at home with their boys while they are young. It surely seems this choice has paid off – in a happy and well-adjusted little boy, one who smiles constantly.

*Janice Garcia*

## BABYREAD VOLUNTEER PROFILES

### Nancy Chandler and Brenda Barton



Nancy Chandler is a fairly new full-time resident to the Upstate. After retiring in 2008 from the Gwinnett County, Georgia school system, she and her husband left the area to spend the next 10 years living on salt water, first on the Florida Panhandle before moving to the South Carolina Low Country in 2018.

When the fish aren't biting, she is active with Yogalates and dance classes, is a member of a book club and a flower arranging group.

After she had moved here, Nancy found out about BabyRead from one of the many bookmarks BabyRead has been distributing around the area. She identified with the mission of BabyRead as she remembers both her son and daughter-in-law were read to early and often, and believes that set

them both on their individual paths to success. She couldn't be more proud of both of them. She says she has been blessed with a great family. Jacob and his mom, Kara, are invested in the program. They are always on time for their twice a month sessions at the library and have only cancelled once. It has been fun watching Jacob's vocabulary grow exponentially along with his interest and interaction with the books they read. It is obvious to her that what they do during their sessions is reinforced at home, so kudos to Kara. She tries to include fun, supplemental activities for the books that will make 2 ½ year old Jacob associate both the library and the reading of books with fun. He is always smiling and involved, so she intends to continue with longer stories as his attention span grows.

BabyRead is pleased to have another Family Reader enjoying such success with her family. *Brenda Barton*



Like many other BabyRead volunteers, Brenda Barton did not come from an education background. As a graphic designer, she owned and operated a successful awards business in Connecticut, where she and her husband lived for 22 years. As a child, she loved to read and was able to pass on that love to her daughter and two granddaughters. When she read an article about BabyRead in the Journal several years ago, she met with Caren von Hippel and joined BabyRead.

Since then, Brenda has had two families, each for about a year. Her first family gave her challenges, but she felt she learned from the experience. The family eventually graduated from BabyRead.

Brenda's experience with her second family was more satisfactory. Nevaeh was 17 months old when they started. She loved her books from BabyRead, and proudly brought

them in her little pink bin to every meeting. Her grandmother, Ginger, accompanied her, and was a joy to work with. Occasionally they would put on puppet shows, or sing songs together, all the while engaging the young child. Sadly, the sessions had to come to a halt as Ginger was about to begin caring for a new infant grandchild.

Currently, Brenda reads to the toddlers at Early Head Start whenever possible. In addition, she is the BabyRead Newsletter editor, and for the past 2 years has had great fun delivering BabyRead's Christmas gifts to BabyRead supporters.

Since moving here, Brenda enjoys many outdoor activities such as golfing, kayaking, hiking, pickleball, fishing, and travelling. She is a member of Pilot's Club of Seneca, and the Seneca Women's Club.

Brenda has loved working with BabyRead and plans to be part of this great organization for years to come. *Janice Garcia*

### Update from Director

**News:** BabyRead had its 5th anniversary in March 2019. We had a big party - a luncheon - to celebrate. All volunteers and donors were invited. We started with 8 volunteers and 5 families, became a corporation and then a 501 (c)(3). We have grown and strengthened our organization, with many volunteers in administrative roles, in addition to those reading to families.

**Families:** We now have over 30 families and over 50 volunteers. If we had more readers, we could have more families. 25 families have graduated from BabyRead. Ask your friends!

**Funding:** We are supported by individual donations, local fund raising, and grants from foundations, churches and other organizations. We had a successful Belk's Charity Day Sale in May 2019, raising \$1,300. A big thanks to Bob and Dolly Johnson for co-chairing this event and to the churches, individuals, and organizations who have given us monies. We are applying in 2019 for the same grants we won in 2018 and several new ones.