

ROTARY CLUB OF BUENA PARK



Dear New Parents,

Congratulations on having a wonderful little baby! As famous educator Maria Montessori once said, "The child is both a hope and a promise for mankind."

You are receiving this gift from the Rotary Club of Buena Park as a part of our "Books & Bags for Babies" literacy project. We want you to have resources for the care of your newborn and for the reading foundation you will provide—even when your child is still an infant.

You may already know that parents are the first and most important teachers in their children's lives. **Research shows that parents**, who provide lively and constant verbal interaction at an early age with their children, **promote vocabulary development**, a critical predictor of **third-grade reading achievement**. An easy way to have verbal interaction is to read to your baby every day, beginning as soon as you get home from the hospital.

In order to help new parents with the reading challenge, the Buena Park Rotary Club is giving you a **small tote bag** sewn by the Acacia Quilt Guild of Buena Park and finished by the Buena Park Women's Club. It contains information about:

1. infant development and the care of babies during their first year of life: *Your Baby's First Year* from the American Academy of Pediatrics—especially notice the information on brain development on pages 185-188;
2. research on reading and interaction between parents and babies: See page T3 in the enclosed *Los Angeles Times'* "Parent Reading Guide."
3. information about two local school districts: if you live in their attendance areas, you will know how to contact them about their schools and programs;
4. and **most importantly**, a book for you to read to your baby: beginning today!

We hope you enjoy this gift and that you will prepare your child well for reading, for school, and for life by reading to your baby every day. Maria Montessori also said, "**Children are human beings to whom respect is due, superior to us by reason of their innocence and of the greater possibilities of their future.**" May you and your child have a future rich in happy possibilities and love!

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Swift, Ed. D., Past President, Rotary Club of Buena Park

Buena Park Rotary
P.O. Box 5243
Buena Park, CA 90622-5243