

## Raising A Reader



Bright red book bags have a unique significance at Greensboro Housing Authority's Claremont Courts; one that can bring early literacy skills to children in the Thriving at 3 program. Raising A Reader, a national program, works to build a bridge from the home to the

school to the library in more than 30 states. Thriving at 3 - Claremont Courts is one of four Raising A Reader sites operating in Greensboro.

Raising A Reader rotates bright red bags filled with four award-winning books into children's homes on a weekly basis, exposing children to potentially 100 books a year. On completion of the program, each child receives their own My Library Blue Bag to encourage their continued love of books at home and library usage.

Raising A Reader's mission is to engage parents in a daily "book cuddling" routine with their children to support:

- Healthy brain development
- Parent-child bonding
- Early literacy skills critical for kindergarten success

On Valentine's Day, February 14, at 12 noon, a new Raising A Reader session will begin at the Claremont Courts Community Center. All families with young children living in the community are invited to attend but are asked to contact the program coordinator at 303-3033 by February 7 to enroll. On Friday, March 22, from 9:30 to 11:30 am, a celebration for all Raising A Reader participants throughout Greensboro is planned at the Central Library, 219 North Church Street.

Thriving at 3 operates in the Claremont Courts Community Center and is offered through a partnership with the United Way of Greater Greensboro. The initiative works with families with young children living in Claremont Courts and has a simple premise: children who are healthy, physically and emotionally, by age three are more likely to be successful in school and in life. Monthly group sessions and Imagination Playground times are currently held at the center.