Kenda Hammer, M.Ed., has been a teacher in the Fox Chapel Area School District for more than 30 years. She has degrees in both child development and early childhood education. During her time at Fox Chapel Area, Mrs. Hammer has taught kindergarten-age students at four schools in the district. She has worked with more than 1,500 families and has given numerous presentations on early childhood topics. She has a passion for early childhood development and has extensively studied literacy — focusing on ways to create fun and interactive learning experiences for young children and families. She has also studied full-day kindergarten, kindergarten transition and readiness issues, and wrote the documents that provided the foundation and evaluation for Fox Chapel Area School District's full-day kindergarten program. Additionally, Mrs. Hammer was the kindergarten teacher who led the district’s full-day kindergarten initiative.

Mrs. Hammer is a member of the National Association for the Education of Young Children. She also serves on the planning committee and as a presenter for the University of Pittsburgh Early Literacy Conference through Beginning with Books. She was selected to present at the 2009 Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) Conference, and to work as a faculty facilitator at the Governor's Institute for Early Childhood Educators through the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). Most recently, Mrs. Hammer was invited to teach as an adjunct professor of early childhood education at the University of Pittsburgh and honored by selection into Cambridge Who's Who Among Executive & Professional Women in Education & Research – Honors Edition, 2008-2009. She has been recognized annually by the local Parent Advocates for Learning Support (PALS). Mrs. Hammer also received “Challenge Award” recognitions from the Fox Chapel Area Association for Gifted Education (PAGE) and, in 2000, she was named a Finalist for the Teacher Excellence Award.

Mrs. Hammer has been married for 33 years to Dave, the coordinator of the Apraxia Center of Western Pennsylvania and Speech & Language Services through Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh/UPMC. They have two grown children, Katie and Brad.
Do you have three- or four-year-old children at home? Would you like to discover ways to make reading fun for you and your children? Then you'll want to be a part of this exciting new program where families learn together at the Family Literacy Center.

Who runs the Family Literacy Center?
The Family Literacy Center is operated by the Fox Chapel Area School District under the direction of Kenda Hammer, a kindergarten teacher and the school district’s early literacy specialist, and Nancy Cannon, assistant to the director.

What is it?
The Family Literacy Center is for three- and four-year-old children and their parents or caregivers. Although it is run by the Fox Chapel Area School District, it is not a school. It is a place for parents and caregivers simply to learn more about helping their children get ready for school.

Why should I participate and how can it help my family?
Parents and caregivers will learn more about making reading fun! The Family Literacy Center is designed to help families with preschool-age children and to create partnerships between schools and families. It will help parents and caregivers learn more about reading to their children and, as a result, it will help children improve their talking, listening, reading, and writing skills. The objective of the program is for parents and caregivers to learn more about interacting with their children through the use of these skills. Field trips and other activities will also be a part of the program.

What will happen when I visit the center?
The Literacy Center staff and volunteers will help parents and caregivers have fun with their children through action-oriented literacy activities. There will also be planned presentations (geared to parents and caregivers) by speakers from outside the school district who will address a wide variety of early learning and parenting topics. Additionally, parents and caregivers will be afforded the opportunity to observe their children in a small group setting.

How much of my time will this take?
We ask that parents and caregivers plan to attend regularly scheduled sessions once per week at the Family Literacy Center. Parents and caregivers who are uncertain about the time commitment involved, are encouraged simply to stop by the center to receive information.

How much does it cost to participate?
The program is FREE for all residents of the Fox Chapel Area School District with preschool-age children. All that is asked is that parents and caregivers give a little of their time and regularly attend scheduled sessions.

How do I sign up?
Signing up is easy. Please fill out the form below and return it to 614 Main Street, Sharpsburg, PA 15215; stop by the Family Literacy Center; or call 412/696-0065. Information can also be found on the Fox Chapel Area School District’s Web site at www.fcasd.edu, then go to Quicklinks, “Early Childhood: Literacy Center.”

Please fill out and return the form below.

Name of Parent/Caregiver: ____________________________
Names/Birthdates of Children: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________________________
City, State, and Zip: ____________________________
Phone Number: ( ) ____________________________
E-Mail Address: ____________________________

Please feel free to share this information with your friends. If you know of someone you think would enjoy and benefit from hearing about the Family Literacy Center, please tell them about us or let us know!