

PRESS RELEASE

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**Commissioner Allison Blake to Attend Literacy Celebration at
The Children's Home Society of New Jersey's South Ward Family Success Center**



Ashley Gonzalez reads to children during CHSofNJ's South Ward Family Success Center Fun with Books & Music Program.

Trenton, NJ (September 25, 2015) – In honor of National Literacy Month and Library Card Sign-Up Month, Commissioner Allison Blake of the State of New Jersey Department of Children and Families (DCF) will visit The Children's Home Society of New Jersey (CHSofNJ) South Ward Family Success Center (SWFSC) on Tuesday, September 29 from 10:00am – 12:00pm. Commissioner Blake, a strong supporter of Family Success Centers, will read a selection of books to local children and speak with families about a new partnership between DCF, New Jersey State Library, and CHSofNJ Family Success Centers. Together, the three organizations will partner to connect the community with valuable resources available to children and families throughout the state for New Jersey.

Families in attendance can open a free library card on-the-spot during the Commissioner's visit, and each child will receive complimentary books to take home for their own personal library. "We are excited to have Commissioner Blake visit us at our South Ward Family Success Center in Trenton, as she is such a remarkable advocate for education and early literacy in the lives of New Jersey children," said Maritza Raimundi-Petroski, CHSofNJ's Director of Maternal/Child Health, Family, & Community Support Services. Raimundi-Petroski continued, "Our FSCs make every effort to encourage healthy parent-child relationships and positive interactions to help children learn, grow, and thrive. Commissioner Blake's visit will demonstrate the many benefits of story time for our families, and we hope that a new, free library card will help each family recreate the experience at home to make reading a part of their daily routine."

Light refreshments will be served at this free event, open to all residents of Mercer County. If you would like to register or learn more about the National Literacy Celebration at CHSofNJ's South Ward Family Success Center (635 S. Clinton Ave., Trenton) on September 29, contact Zachyra Rodriguez at 609-695-6274 x125.

About The Children’s Home Society of New Jersey

The Children’s Home Society of New Jersey is a nonprofit child and family serving agency whose mission is to save children’s lives and build healthy families. Founded in 1894, the agency protects abused or neglected infants and at-risk children by ensuring stable, permanent, and loving homes for each and every child it serves. All services are confidential and most are free. For more information, visit our website at www.chsofnj.org.

About CHSofNJ’s South Ward Family Success Center

CHSofNJ’s South Ward Family Success Center (SWFSC) is located at 635 S. Clinton Avenue in Trenton. Services available to participants include information and referrals, fatherhood enrichment programs, job readiness and life-skills education, parent and child education activities, concrete goods donations, and much more! For more information, call 609-695-6274 or visit our website at www.chsofnj.org.

About CHSofNJ’s North Ward Family Success Center

CHSofNJ’s North Ward Family Success Center (NWFSC) is located at 1554 Princeton Avenue Trenton. Services available to participants include information and referrals, fatherhood enrichment programs, job readiness and life-skills education, parent and child education activities, concrete goods donations, and much more! For more information, call 609-393-2980 or visit our website at www.chsofnj.org.

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