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Beloit Public Library

When I was a little girl my mother refused to put me in frilly white dresses. It wasn't because I didn't like dresses and it wasn't because I had an older brother and "if Timmy doesn't have to wear a dress I'm not going to wear a dress". No, her issue wasn't with the dresses themselves. Her concern was with laundry day. You see, it's hard to get grass stains, streaks of mud and frog slime out of frilly white (expensive!) dresses. I was a tomboy and I played hard. Growing up, summers meant leaving the house at dawn and not coming home until it was too dark to even see your way home. It meant wading in the creek, playing tackle football in the park with the neighborhood kids and building tree forts in the backyard. Playing was my job and I took it very seriously.

But I read and enjoyed books just as hard too. I loved rainy days as much as sunny days because it meant I could stay on the couch in the basement all day catching up with Pippi Longstocking, Laura Ingalls and those crazy kids from Wayside School. And for mom it meant there was a decent chance my clothing would stay somewhat clean.

Playing and reading are two of the cornerstones of raising healthy, productive, engaged children. And the Beloit Public Library is here to help you help your child learn to read through play. Starting in early October, the library is excited to start hosting *Play and Read* playgroups facilitated by AmeriCorps workers. These weekly playgroups are designed for children ages 3 and 4 and their caregivers. Children will learn reading skills through play and caregivers will learn how to incorporate reading and playing in the home as well. For more information on the *Play and Read* program and to register your child for a playgroup, call the Youth Services desk at (608) 364-2915 or visit [www.beloitlibrary.org](http://www.beloitlibrary.org) and click on Kids on the homepage.

And as always, be sure to check out these books coming soon to your Beloit Public Library:

*50 Years, 50 Moments: The Most Unforgettable Plays in Super Bowl History* by Jerry Rice and Randy O. Williams. ... celebrates five decades' worth of memories, insights, and personal experiences of Super Sunday. Super Bowl MVP Jerry Rice has compiled his list of the most iconic, strategic, and record-breaking moments in football history from the Super Bowl's inception to today—from the Green Bay Packers and Kansas City Chiefs in Super Bowl I; to the amazing Miami Dolphins championship in Super Bowl VII that capped their seventeen-game undefeated season... (Book Description)

*Home by Nightfall: A Charles Lenox Mystery* by Charles Finch. It's London in 1876, and the whole city is abuzz with the enigmatic disappearance of a famous foreign pianist. Lenox has an eye on the matter - as a partner in a now-thriving detective agency, he's a natural choice to investigate. Just when he's tempted to turn his focus to it entirely, however, his grieving brother asks him to come down to Sussex, and Lenox leaves the metropolis behind for the quieter country life of his boyhood. Or so he thinks. (Book Description)