Growing Mississippi Readers is a statewide campaign to boost language for early literacy by raising awareness that talking to and with children from birth is essential to learning to read. In partnership, The Mississippi Children’s Museum and The Barksdale Reading Institute, are working to improve early literacy development of the children of Mississippi.

“Talking to children from birth is a key and important component to solving the literacy issue in Mississippi. Mississippians like to talk and just need to be intentional in our communication with children.”
- Susan Garrard, President and CEO of the MS Children’s Museum

“TALK from the START is a statewide initiative that can bring every single citizen into Mississippi’s efforts to grow strong readers in our state,” said Kelly Butler, Chief Executive Officer of the Barksdale Reading Institute. “Talking makes a difference. And it’s free!”

Building a strong foundation for early literacy is critical and can make all of the difference to becoming a proficient reader. Research has proven that simply talking to and with children throughout the day from birth can provide the foundation that a child needs to

Play. Eat. Learn.

MCM, in partnership with the Junior League of Jackson, the Center for Advancement of Youth, and St. Andrew’s Episcopal School, is providing a free family learning series for the community. These presentations allow the opportunity for parents, caretakers, and educators to take a peek inside the mind of a child with the help from pediatric and medical professionals.

Each presentation is unique with topics that are prevalent in today’s society relating to children’s health and development. Let’s Talk: Development of Early Childhood Speech and Language presented by Brooklyn Sparnecht, M.S., CF-SLP & Lilian Hines, M.S., CF-SLP is the topic for our upcoming Play. Eat. Learn. series on Tuesday, January 28 from 5:30 pm to 7:15 pm.

“In this presentation we will discuss early developmental milestones and differentiate the meaning of ‘speech’ versus ‘language’ as well as explain the types of disorders associated with each,” said Brooklyn Sparnecht, M.S., CF-SLP and Lilian Hines, M.S., CF-SLP.

Play. Eat. Learn is open to the community and dinner is provided for the whole family at no cost. Childcare is available for ages 3 to 10 provided by members of the Junior League of Jackson. Parents will be able to attend the program while children play in the museum.

Contact Monique Ealey at monique@mcm.ms or 601.709.8970 for more information
### JANUARY 2020 PROGRAMS & EVENTS

**MUSEUM CLOSED FOR NEW YEAR’S DAY**

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**STORYTELLING FESTIVAL**

**JANUARY 18**

Special guests: Dorris Jones, Shanina Carmichael and more!

- **ABC Come Play with Me**
- **Fueled for Adventure**
- **Milkful Mornings**
- **Making Masters**
- **Mindful Mornings**
- **Play Eat Learn: Let’s Talk Development of Early Childhood Speech and Language**
- **Tinker with Tuesday**
- **Visiting Artist: Kinetic Etchings**
- **The Girl Code**

**ABC Come Play with Me** is sponsored by International Paper • **Farm Bureau Spotlight** is sponsored by Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation • **Fueled for Adventure** is sponsored by St. Dominic Health Services • **Food Lab** is sponsored by Sysco Jackson • **Know to Grow** is sponsored by the Field Co-Operative • **Making Masters** is sponsored by Monsanto • **Tinker with Tuesday** is sponsored by Georgia-Pacific • **Visiting Artist** is sponsored by Mississippi Arts Commission • **The Girl Code** is a paid program

**JANUARY 18**

Special guests: Dorris Jones, Shanina Carmichael and more!