August 2015

To all Michigan Public Libraries, Head Start Programs, Great Start Readiness Programs, and Public and Private Schools serving grades K-2:

Welcome to the Michigan Reads! early literacy program presented by the Library of Michigan. The featured book for 2015 is *Do Unto Otters*, written and illustrated by Michigan author Laurie Keller. **We encourage the reading of *Do Unto Otters* with children statewide during the months of September and October to develop early and family literacy in your community.**

In our 2015 book, Mr. Rabbit's new neighbors are otters. OTTERS! But he doesn't know anything about otters. Will they be friends? Will they even get along? Follow Mr. Rabbit as he learns how to be a good friend and neighbor by simply following the Golden Rule.

The 2015 Michigan Reads! materials and program activities are designed for infants, toddlers, preschoolers and K-2 school-aged children. **If you are in a school, Head Start program or Great Start Readiness program, please share these resources among your classrooms and the library.** The activities in the programming guide help promote the enjoyment of reading to and with children. The program will be kicked off in September with a tour by Laurie Keller to libraries and schools throughout the state. For those interested in the tour event, the schedule is at [www.michigan.gov/michiganreads](http://www.michigan.gov/michiganreads).

The contents of this kit are:

- A hardcover copy of *Do Unto Otter* (by Laurie Keller; published by Macmillan);
- A Programming Guide based on the book with standards based activities;
- Bookmarks providing early literacy tips for parents and caregivers; and
- A poster to promote the program and for children to write their name after they listen to or read the story.

A curriculum standards crosswalk is available for the preschool and school-age activities. Other program materials and resources for librarians, teachers, parents and caregivers are also available. These include further activities, reading lists, developmental guidelines, and a promotions toolkit, among many other things. These are all at [www.michigan.gov/michiganreads](http://www.michigan.gov/michiganreads).
Finally, this kit includes a reminder for our program survey. Your feedback on the
number of programs you have and how many children participate is very important
to us. **We strongly encourage your participation in this survey.** In order to
continue the program and to determine program impact, the 2016 program will be
undergoing changes in the next year. Information on the changes, including which
institutions will receive kits, will be announced on the program web site at
[www.michigan.gov/michiganreads](http://www.michigan.gov/michiganreads).

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[Institute of Museum and Library Services](http://www.imls.gov) (IMLS) administered by the State of
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Yours truly,

[Signature]

Randy Riley
State Librarian