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Leaf the Bookworm Attends Youth Arts Fest 2011 at Selby Library in Support of the Literacy Empowers All Families Program

Who: [Literacy Empowers All Families \(LEAF\)](#)

What: Leaf the Bookworm Supports Literacy at Youth Arts Fest 2011

Leaf the Bookworm, mascot for The *Literacy Empowers All Families (LEAF)* program, attended Youth Arts Fest on April 2 to help support the message of the LEAF Program. The Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County administers the communications efforts for the LEAF program and the message for parents of Sarasota County is a simple one: "Your child's success is as easy as ... 1) Talk (to them) 2) Listen (to them) 3) Read (to them)."

Parents are encouraged to sign their children, ages 0 to 5, up for a free membership program. The child receives an introductory packet that includes a reading book, activity book featuring Leaf the mascot, and a bookmark. Throughout the year e-mail alerts with fun activity ideas are sent to parents; and, new this year, children will receive postcards in the mail from Leaf the Bookworm.

To find out about the free membership program for Sarasota children age 5 and younger and to see a schedule of Leaf's upcoming appearances, visit www.growingmindsread.org.

Where: Youth Arts Fest 2011 at Selby Library

About LEAF: The Community Foundation of Sarasota County along with Sarasota early learning and education communities recognized the importance of early intervention and came together to establish the [Literacy Empowers All Families \(LEAF\)](#) program. The comprehensive literacy initiative is funded by the Community Foundation of Sarasota County and is supported by a number of community partners including the Sarasota County School Board, Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County, Sarasota County Library System and Children First. This multi-year commitment to reading and learning for children, parents and educators "connects the dots" from birth through middle school and unites early child care providers, the libraries, and the Sarasota County school district in a unified approach to serving at-risk families.

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Images Attached:

- Leaf the Bookworm visits with children at Youth Arts Fest 2011.
- Leaf Membership Program Introductory Packet