

News from Ready to Learn Providence

What: Opening celebration of How-To Book Exhibit

Where: Providence Children's Museum

When: Jan. 20, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Contact: Leslie Gell, (401) 490-9960, lgell@provplan.org

Learn how to be a dog, fly like Superman, tie your sneakers, fall asleep by yourself

"Look where you are going when you are flying," warns Dean in his book *How to Fly Like Superman*. Dean's book is one of more than 100 how-to books, created by and for preschoolers, that will be on display at a special celebration the night of January 20 at the Providence Children's Museum.

Thanks to the recently announced \$50 million Early Learning Challenge grant, the attention of the state is focused on the learning of our youngest children. Ready to Learn Providence, a school readiness initiative, wants to make that learning more visible.

The how-to project came out of a seminar for early childhood teachers titled "Making Learning Visible – Inspiration Takes Flight," a collaboration between Ready to Learn Providence and a Harvard University program called Making Learning Visible. Twenty-two early childhood teachers from nine early-care programs across the state participated in the six-session seminar, which focused on observing and documenting children's learning.

At the opening night celebration on January 20, visitors to the museum can learn how to fall asleep, be a dog, whistle, sing at a contest, be a big brother, and much more. Many of the 4-year-old authors will be on hand to answer questions, and all children will engage in activities related to the books. Admission to the museum is free that night.

Also on display will be books written by some of the state's leading educators and public officials, including Providence Mayor Angel Taveras. The mayor's book is titled *How to Be a Good Student*.

The children, like the adult authors, approached the project by first deciding what they were experts at. The preschoolers then provided instructions for mastering that skill, and illustrated their books with drawings or photographs. You can see two of these books by clicking on the links below.

How to Fly Like Superman

http://issuu.com/r2lp/docs/fly_like_superman

How to Whistle

http://issuu.com/r2lp/docs/how_to_whistle

This project was funded by the R.I. Child Care Resource and Referral Center. For more information on Ready to Learn Providence, go to www.r2lp.org. For information on Making Learning Visible, go to <http://pzweb.harvard.edu/mlv/>