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## Lion helps preschoolers learn to read

COSHOCTON — A friendly lion that has delighted young and old for centuries in Afghanistan has become part of an innovative new program to teach English literacy skills to the preschool children in the Kno-Ho-Co-Ashland Head Start Program.

Recently, 339 preschoolers at the Kno-Ho-Co-Ashland Head Start Program each received a copy of "The Lion Who Saw Himself in the Water," along with an audio CD of the story and a visually oriented home guide that models supportive parental behavior and family activities.

"The Lion Who Saw Himself in the Water" by Idries Shah is based on a traditional Afghan story that has been a favorite for nearly 800 years throughout Central Asia and the Middle East. About a misunderstood king of the jungle who is frightened by his own reflection in a pool, it has been extremely well-received in the U.S. since its publication in 1998 by California-based Hoopoe Books ([www.hoopoekids.com](http://www.hoopoekids.com)).

Literacy specialists have long recognized the positive effects of family reading. In the spring, in Phase 2 of the project, Kno-Ho-Co-Ashland Head Start children will receive a book and CD of another Hoopoe title from the same Afghan tradition.

## Tuesday

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