



# *News Release*

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## ***Ready to Read Michigan: 'Touch the Brightest Star'***

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LANSING – “Touch the Brightest Star,” an interactive children’s bedtime story by Christie Matheson, shines brightly as the Library of Michigan’s (LM) 2019 *Ready to Read Michigan* selection, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) announced today.

“This book takes children on a journey from sunset to sunrise to show that they shouldn’t fear the nighttime,” Interim State Superintendent Sheila Alles said. “Having interesting and fun books helps endear children with reading and develop the important literacy skills that are a focus of Michigan’s plan to become a Top 10 education state in 10 years.”

All 649 public libraries statewide received copies of the book to read aloud at story times and for use in outreach programs in local communities. An online programming guide offers early literacy tips; read-a-likes; printable support materials; and more.

Be sure to check with your local public library for programming and story times featuring this year’s *Ready to Read Michigan* book.

*Ready to Read Michigan* supports public librarians who model early literacy skills for youngsters up to age 5 and who teach parents and care givers the five early literacy practices of the Public Library Association’s Every Child Ready to Read program: singing, talking, reading, writing, and playing. These practices help young children learn to read.

Details about *Ready to Read Michigan* and early literacy are available at [www.Michigan.gov/ReadytoRead](http://www.Michigan.gov/ReadytoRead).

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