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[Download photos from Dr. Seuss Reading Day](#)

Oh, the Places You'll go: When Reading is Encouraged, You'll Grow
Sunbeam Hosts Dr. Seuss Reading Day at Nine
Early Childhood Centers Across the Metro

(OKLAHOMA CITY) – Today, Sunbeam Family Services celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday and the love of reading. More than 10 volunteers from The Oklahoma Proton Center and Friends of Sunbeam, Sunbeam's auxiliary volunteer group, read to young children, ages birth to five, at Sunbeam's Early Childhood sites across the metro area.

"The Oklahoma Proton Center was excited to partner with a great community organization like Sunbeam Family Services in cultivating a love of learning amongst young children. It was a privilege for our team to read to so many kids Friday morning and celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday," said Jenny Washington, vice president of operations for The Oklahoma Proton Center.

Learning begins long before a child starts kindergarten. Studies show early learning strengthens a child's verbal and math abilities, prepares them socially to interact with others, teaches them self-regulation skills and supports development to their fullest potential. Children who are not prepared to start school at age five are at risk of never catching up, leaving an achievement gap that can persist until high school. This gap can be linked to social and economic problems later in life, including illiteracy, teen pregnancy, and high-dropout rates.

Sunbeam's Early Childhood program is a leader in early childhood education. This program prepares children from prenatal to five to enter kindergarten with the skills necessary to be ready for school - and beyond. Sunbeam helps families who might normally have difficulty in accessing high quality early learning and care programs by providing home-based and full-day, full-year center-based services at no cost to the family of the child. Last year, this program served a total of 614 children and more than 2,100 family members and maintained an average monthly enrollment of 74 percent.

For more information, visit sunbeamfamilyservices.org or call 405-609-8994.

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About Sunbeam Family Services

Founded in 1907, Sunbeam Family Services is one of Oklahoma's longest serving nonprofits, providing help, hope and the opportunity to succeed to people of all ages and all stages of life in central Oklahoma through Early Childhood, Counseling, Foster Care and Senior Services. To learn more, call 405-528-7721, visit sunbeamfamilyservices.org, or join the conversation on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

About The Oklahoma Proton Center

The Oklahoma Proton Center opened in 2009 as the sixth proton therapy center in the United States. The center has successfully treated thousands of patients from all over the country since opening using state of the art proton therapy technology which allows for the effective treatment of many types of cancer while reducing unnecessary treatment-related side effects. The Oklahoma Proton Center remains one of just approximately thirty proton centers nationwide. The center

is dedicated to excellent patient care and advancing proton therapy through innovation and clinical research. For more information, visit www.okcproton.com or call (405) 773-6700.