

## Summer Food Program

The Accomac and Nassawadox locations of the Eastern Shore Public Library are participating in the national Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) this summer. The SFSP is a federally-funded childhood nutrition program administered by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH). Anyone 18 years old or younger can come and eat for free at open SFSP sites. The Eastern Shore Public Library at Accomac and the Northampton Free Library at Nassawadox will be serving meals one day a week during the Summer Reading Program.

Libraries are a great resource for children during the summer. They provide safe places for children to learn, read, and play with friends and family. Summer reading programs at public libraries promote literacy and encourage children to rack up those reading minutes even when school is out of session. By partnering with the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore and Accomack County Parks and Recreation department to participate in the SFSP, Eastern Shore Public Library is ensuring children on the Shore have all the brain power they need to learn and read over the summer and succeed during the upcoming school year.

In Virginia, only 13% of children relying on free or reduced price school lunch are also receiving summer meals. Last summer, 3.8 million meals were served to children through the SFSP in Virginia. The 2016 SFSP in Virginia welcomed 36 new library sites due to partnerships among No Kid Hungry Virginia, VDH, and the Library of Virginia.

With Eastern Shore Public Library participating with 2 sites this summer, more children on the Eastern Shore of Virginia will have access to healthy meals. If interested in finding more SFSP sites near you where children can access healthy meals all summer long, text FOOD to 877-877 during the summer.