



Family Reading Fun



Welcome back to another exciting school year! As you are getting back into the routine, remember to take advantage of the WSRA website (www.wsra.org) which has Calendars of Ideas in the Families and Literacy section. These include several book titles as well as many ideas for how to engage your family in literacy activities at home. Also, make sure you are taking the time to read daily by establishing a routine, whether before bedtime, right away in the morning, or another part of the day you can find in your schedule!

Though it's an exciting time of year, the start of school can create some anxious feelings when considering a change in routine, new people, and a need for making new friends. Sometimes these conversations can be tough to have, so consider the use of picture books to help get the discussion started. Talking through these feelings with your child can help them prepare and feel at ease.

Family Tips



Some topics are tough to tackle like divorce or a death in the family. One way to help is by reading a story about a character who has experienced similar circumstances. This will help you facilitate a discussion to meet your child's social/emotional needs during this difficult time.

When selecting books for your child, remember you can utilize your library's search engine to find books that reflect your family's current needs. The library's website usually has a spot for searching about topics, which you can access at home or on the computers when you get there.

Another way to help your child feel excited about reading is to tap into their interests. Think about what your child likes to do or is interested in, then get books to match. When looking for books of your child's interests, don't forget your local librarian is a great resource and person to ask!



Author Spotlight



Pat Zietlow Miller

Both a writer of insurance information and children's books, Pat Zietlow Miller developed her interest in being a writer in the seventh grade. Pat is a Wisconsin native who was born in Oshkosh and now lives in Madison with her husband, two daughters, and two cats.

She has several books about making friends, including: *Be Kind*, *The Quickest Kid in Clarksville*, and *Sophie's Squash Go to School*. To learn more about Pat Zietlow Miller or her books, visit www.patziertlowmiller.com.

Technology Corner

Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood is a wonderful educational show that has episodes on how to make friends. Go to PBSKids.org then click on the picture of Daniel Tiger. Search the videos for these episodes: *Friend's Help Each Other* and *Friends are Different and the Same*. Be sure to check out this great site for books that can be read to you, other videos, and much more!

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