



The goal of the Families and Literacy Committee of the WSRA is to develop and carry out plans which convey to parents the value of involvement in reading activities with children.

Members:

Amy Sippert – chair

Nicole Cilley

Teresa Prus

B Whalen

Deb Stensen

Mary Pohlman

Nina Ruskey



Family Reading Fun

In this issue the focus is on the Writing standards, a part of the Common Core State Standards. Listed below you will find Writing Standard #7 and what it looks like at a kindergarten, fourth grade, seventh grade and high school level. The standard is as follows:

Writing Standard 7

K-Participate in shared research and writing projects (e.g., explore a number of books by a favorite author and express opinions about them).

4-Conduct short research projects that build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic.

7-Conduct short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions for further research and investigation.

11-12- Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

This standard can help develop reading and writing skills. However, it is important that after doing the research, children write about what they have learned. That is how the writing standard will be addressed.

Literacy Tips

For the young reader: Start with a family hobby; fishing, camping, trips to the zoo, etc. and do research to dig deeper. Have your child draw a picture and write some new facts they have learned about the topic.

For the teen reader: Choose a topic of interest or current event and think of related questions. Conduct research using multiple sources of information (newspaper, magazines, internet, books, etc.). Think of a way to share that information with your intended audience (report, poster, YouTube video, etc.). Think of other questions you may want to investigate related to the initial question.

Wisconsin State Reading Association www.wsra.org



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Child Friendly Search Engines



The Internet can be a great source of information right at your fingertips. However, not all sites are content or language appropriate for kids. The following search engines market themselves as being child friendly. They may be good sites to use for researching with your children.

www.kidtopia.info

- This site was created by school librarians. It includes only websites recommended by teachers or librarians.

www.askforkids.co

- According to the site, it is dedicated to an audience of children and adolescents. It links to sites that are age appropriate and language appropriate for children.

www.nationalgeographickids.com

- Affiliated with the National Geographic Society, this website has kid friendly articles, videos and pictures that children can search to obtain information about various topics.

To see the **Common Core State Standards** go to
www.corestandards.org



Website Spotlight

Have your child, with parental support, use Google or Ask.com to type in a question and research the answer. Help your child evaluate the credibility of the source. Go to <http://libguides.berry.edu/evaluatingweb> to get ideas of what makes a source credible.

****Look for our June issue when we focus on Writing CCSS.****