

# Families and Literacy

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Wisconsin State Reading Association [www.wsra.org](http://www.wsra.org)



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

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## Family Reading Fun

Are smart kids born smart or does their environment make them smart? Well it turns out it is probably a little of both. So what can you do as a parent to help foster your child's intellectual development? Here are some tips from the experts.

**\*Talk to your child:** Ask your child open ended questions that require him to use his prior knowledge.

**\*Read, Read, Read:** Read to your child, with your child and in front of your child. Have books available for your child to read whenever the mood strikes her.

**\*Promote Curiosity:** Ask your child questions about the things that interest her. Tell your child what interests you. Go to a museum to spark your child's curiosity. Check out the wonder of the day at [Wonderopolis.org](http://Wonderopolis.org)

**\*Investigate your child's other intelligences:** There are other ways of being smart that are not tested on standardized tests. Perhaps your child has strengths in music, the arts or physical coordination. Celebrate these smarts too.

Talk. Read. Wonder. Learn. It's the "smart" thing to do.

## Meet the Author

### Kate DiCamillo

Kate DiCamillo is a 21<sup>st</sup> century children's author who has written across the age range with picture books, early chapter books, and novels. She won the Theodore Seuss Geisel Medal last year for her early chapter book, [Bink and Gollie](#). Her latest novel is [The Magician's Elephant](#) which is the story of an orphan, Peter, in search of his sister, not knowing if she is even alive. She is best known for her novels [Because of Winn-Dixie](#), earning her a Newberry Honor Book Award in 2001, and [The Tale of Despereaux](#) which earned her the Newberry Medal in 2004. For more information about Kate DiCamillo and her books, visit her website at <http://www.katedicamillo.org>.



## Website Spotlight

Have you ever wondered how many stars are in the sky or how come vending machines are so smart? These are just some of the questions that are answered at [Wonderopolis.org](http://Wonderopolis.org).

Sponsored by the National Center for Family Literacy, Wonderopolis invites you and your family to take time each day to wonder, explore and learn.

### Literacy Tip

Looking for a way to get the whole family involved with reading? Try connecting a book to a movie. Read a book together, such as [Because of Winn-Dixie](#), and then watch the movie. Compare and contrast the two versions. Evaluate the two versions. Is the book or the movie better? Have your child retell the story to a friend or relative and decide if he or she would recommend it. Make it a part of your family reading night!