

Families and Literacy

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Wisconsin State Reading Association 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

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Teresa Prus

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Family Reading Fun

September means back to school. For many of us that means getting back into routines that may have taken a summer vacation. Back to school time is the perfect time to establish or reestablish a reading at bedtime routine for your child. Make sure you allow at least 15 minutes for reading aloud to your child each night. Keep in mind this activity is worthwhile for all children including those who are already reading independently. The key is to choose high quality literature. Need ideas on great titles to read to your

child? Check out the Website Spotlight section of this newsletter. The Cooperative Children's Book Center is a phenomenal resource for books of all levels. Or simply ask your friendly neighborhood librarian for suggestions.

While we often think of making reading part of a child's daily routine, don't forget to make it part of yours as well. A great way to get your child to read is by reading yourself. Kids often imitate their parents. By modeling reading daily, you are

showing your child that you value reading. It could be as simple as letting your child see you read the daily newspaper. Or you could even try reading the same book that your child is reading and then discuss your thoughts about the book with each other.

Whether it is reading aloud to your child, reading a book with your child, or modeling reading for your child, reading is an important part of everyone's daily routine. Reading is one habit you don't want to break!

Literacy Tips

For the young reader: Do you love reading aloud to your youngster but want to start shifting the ownership of reading the book to your child? How about sharing the reading? The parent and the child can take turns reading the pages. A great book series to do just this is the "We Both Read Books". These award winning books are designed for parents and children to read together while promoting fluency and expanding vocabulary. The books are best suited for children in grades K-3. Check them out at www.webothread.com or ask at your local library.

For the teen reader: Are you struggling with getting your teen to read? Try parallel reading. This method has the parent and the teen reading the same book at the same time or different books with the same theme or topic at the same time. The parent and teen choose the book or topic together and then set aside a consistent time each week for discussion. The discussion aspect can be very enlightening as to what your teen is thinking. Not sure your teenager will buy in? Try enticing him or her with an extension activity at the end, such as watching the movie version of the book or visiting the place in which the story took place. Using this approach your teen may make some great connections to text as well as some great connections to family!

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Meet the Authors



David Ezra Stein

David was born in Brooklyn and raised in Queens. As a child he loved to doodle. He attended Parsons School of Design. Early on in his career he found work as a puppeteer and a cartoonist for The New Yorker. He published his first book Cowboy Ned and Andy in 2006. In 2011 his book The Interrupting Chicken won a Caldecott Honor Award. His newest book is entitled Love Mouserella. To learn more about David and his books check out his website www.DavidEzra.com

Rick Riordan

Author Rick Riordan was a teacher in San Francisco before quitting to write full-time. You probably recognize his name--he's the author of the Percy Jackson and the Olympians series. He's also worked on some books in the 39 Clues collection. Did you know he also wrote a series of books for adults, about a private eye in Texas? Lots of people read more than one book at a time; Mr. Riordan is writing two series at the same time! He is writing sequels to Percy Jackson, and he's writing The Kane Chronicles, based on Egyptian mythology but set in today's world. Rick Riordan has won many awards, including back-to-back Mark Twain Awards in 2008 and 2009, and two Children's Choice Book Awards. Check out his website: www.rickriordan.com



Website Spotlight

Struggling to find good books for your child? Here's the solution! Check out the Cooperative Children's Book Center web site at www.education.wisc.edu/ccbc Once on the site, choose books for *children and young adults*. Then click on *booklists*. Choose your age group and have fun exploring! The choices are endless!