

Families and Literacy

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Wisconsin State Reading Association www.wsrq.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

Teresa Prus

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Jane Nicholl

Rachel Conran

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Family Reading Fun

In the February 2012 issue of Parenting Magazine, author Christina Vercelletto explored what it would take to become the next Steve Jobs (*Raise the Next Steve Jobs*). She found that parents have a powerful role to play. Here's what she suggests you can do to encourage success within your children.

*Talk to your children. Ask them open ended questions. Don't be afraid to use more advanced vocabulary words.

*Read, read, and read some more. The more a

child is read to, the better he or she is likely to do in school. Be sure to model good reading habits yourself as well.

*Praise a child's effort. Kids who are praised for staying with a task and their efforts tend to stick with challenging tasks more so than kids who are praised for how smart they are.

*Keep kids motivated to learn by celebrating their curiosity. Ask questions about things they are excited about. Take time to share what you are interested in as well.

*Make everyday a teachable moment. A trip to the grocery store can be used to teach a child vocabulary (name the items as you put them in the cart), math skills (count the three apples), and writing skills (help write items on the grocery list).

In the end, what matters is that parents get involved in their child's learning. Talk to, read with, praise, motivate and make the most of each day. Be a role model for your child and help him or her to be the best he or she can be.

Vercelletto, C. (2012, February). *Raise the next Steve Jobs*. *Parenting*, 75-79.

Literacy Tips

For the young reader: Do want to give your young child a head start on school achievement? Try talking to him or her! Research has shown that children need to hear words repeated in meaningful sentences and questions throughout the day and the T.V. doesn't count! Research has shown that too much T.V. viewing is more harmful than meaningful. So, talk to your child. Read to your child. Narrate the things you are doing every day to your child. Engage your child in conversations. Ask your child questions. Words make the difference!

For the teen reader: Are you struggling with getting your teen to read? Help your teen find a book in which he or she can relate to the character. By making a personal connection to the character in the book it will help your teens "see themselves in the story". For example, in the Joey Pigza books by Jack Gantos, Joey is a high energy child. If your child has an abundance of energy, he or she might be able to relate to Joey. Then, if your teen finds an author he or she likes, help him or her find more books by that author. Not sure what books to look for? Check with your local librarian or check out on-line book recommendation lists such as www.readkiddoread.com.



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Meet the Authors



Tony Fucile

Tony Fucile has spent the last 20 years designing and animating characters for cartoon feature films such as *The Lion King* and *Finding Nemo*. In 2009, he published his first picture book for children called Let's Do Nothing! This hilarious book follows two kids who try really hard to do nothing. Do you have a child who won't go to bed? The next picture book Mr. Fucile illustrated, written by Hallie Durand, was Mitchell's License; all about a boy who doesn't want to go to bed. Mr. Fucile currently resides near San Francisco with his wife, two kids, and his two Chihuahuas.

Jack Gantos

Author of Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key, Mr. Gantos has written books for people of all ages. Some of his award winning books include Dead End in Norvelt, Hole in My Life and Joey Pigza Loses Control.

Mr. Gantos was inspired to write in 6th grade when he read his sister's diary. He felt he could write better than her. He begged his mother for a diary and began to jot down things every day, even things he overheard outside of the teachers' lounge!

Jack Gantos now spends his time speaking at conferences, lecturing at universities and providing in-service training. Visit his website at www.jackgantos.com. You can also see him in person at the WSRA 2013 Authors Festival February 9th in Milwaukee, WI.



Website Spotlight

Looking for a fun way for your child to develop their academic skills? Try going to www.pbskids.org. Then click on Games and go to Games by Educational Topic. There are games for reading, letters, math, science and tons of other topics! So the next time you and your child are snowed in, try snuggling up with the characters of PBS.