

# 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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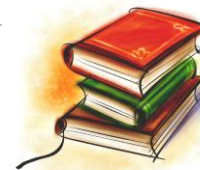
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Nancy Schumacher

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## Family Reading Fun

"Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its life believing it is stupid". – Albert Einstein

In 1983, Howard Gardner introduced his idea of multiple intelligences. His theory states that children can possess wide ranges of cognitive abilities. Therefore it is best to not to ask how smart are you, but how are you smart?

Reading and math are the typical areas assessed for smartness. What are some other areas of intelligence and what can parents do to foster growth in those areas? Read on to find out.

\*Does your child love to talk

and tell stories? He or she may be verbally smart. Read lots and introduce writing early.

\*If your child is good at math, sorting objects and working with shapes, he may be logic/math smart. Conduct science experiments, cook with him and play logic games to develop this intelligence.

\*Kids good at puzzles and designs may be visually smart. Provide lots of art materials for creating projects and keep lots of puzzles on hand.

\*Body smart kids have great physical coordination. Promote this intelligence by enrolling your child in sports or

dance and encourage lots of physical movement.

\*Does your child love to sing and play music? She may be music smart. Expose her to a variety of musical genres. Teach her songs and sing along. Instead of just telling you something, have her write a song about it and sing it to you.

\*Is your child charismatic? Do other kids love to be around him or her? Your child may have interpersonal intelligence. Plan lots of play dates and even do some party planning together.

Capitalizing on your child's strengths can help bring out the genius inside.

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

## Literacy Tips

**For the young reader:** Are you looking for a fun way to develop early literacy skills? Try putting a literacy spin on some classic games. After creating some simple letter and word cards with index cards and markers, you are all set to play. Play "Go Fish" for letter names, letter sounds or words. Look for letter or word matches while playing "Memory". You can even play "Tic Tac Toe" with letters and words! Check out our featured website for downloadable and printable game boards and directions.

**For the teen reader:** Games don't have to be for just the younger reader. You can play games with your teens to develop their reading vocabulary skills as well. Choose a mystery vocabulary word and play 20 questions. Your teen can ask you questions about the word or you can give your teen clues to help him or her guess the vocabulary word. Play vocabulary BINGO. Write vocabulary words on each square of a BINGO board. Then give synonyms or definitions of the words on the board. Your teen covers the word he or she thinks you are describing. Play until a BINGO is achieved. Commercial games such as Apples to Apples can also be great games to play to develop vocabulary knowledge. So, gather a group together and let the games begin!

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## Meet the Authors



Dan Greenburg

Using his humor and interest in weird stuff, Dan Greenburg has a way of motivating even the most reluctant reader. Greenburg is the author of four different book series for children, including The Zack Files. Originally studying to be an artist, Greenburg turned to writing in college. The Zack Files series was named after his son Zack. The series follows a 10 year old boy, Zack, as he encounters strange and weird situations. If you know a 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade reluctant with an oddball sense of humor, than The Zack Files and Dan Greenburg may be the author for you.

Kami Garcia and Margaret Stohl

Teen fans of the Twilight Series may be interested in Garcia and Stohl's teen gothic romance series, Beautiful Creatures. In the first book, the main character Ethan, has a reoccurring dream about a girl he doesn't know. He soon realizes that the girl from his dreams is the new girl in school and she is no ordinary girl. She is a "caster" a person who can use magic. As their romance evolves, trouble seems to follow. The first book of the 4 book series was made into a film version and released on Valentine's Day 2013.

Garcia is a teacher and reading specialist who leads book groups for children and teenagers. Stohl has a M.A. in English and has studied creative writing. Find out more about the authors at [www.beautifulcreaturesauthors.com](http://www.beautifulcreaturesauthors.com).



## Website Spotlight

Looking for some fun games and activities to develop early literacy skills? Check out [www.albany.edu/crsc/parents.shtml](http://www.albany.edu/crsc/parents.shtml). Under the Games and Activities tab you will find game and activity ideas along with downloadable and printable game boards to use. Let the games begin!