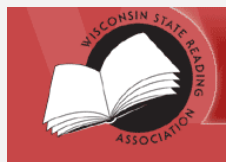


# Families and Literacy

January 2014  
Volume 8, Issue 1

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

Teresa Prus

B Whalen

Deb Stensen

Mary Pohlman

Jenny Seiler

Nina Ruskey

## Family Reading Fun

You may be hearing talk of the **Common Core State Standards (CCSS)**. Are you wondering what the CCSS are and how they will impact your child? Well, you are not alone. Read on to find out some basic information about the CCSS and what you can do to support your child.

### What are the CCSS?

The CCSS are rigorous, clear and specific expectations of what children should know at each grade level K-12 for English/Language Arts and Math. The standards outline the knowledge and skills children need to graduate college and career ready with an emphasis on 21<sup>st</sup> century

skills. The CCSS have currently been adopted by 45 states in the U.S. and the District of Columbia.

### What the CCSS are NOT!

The Standards are not a curriculum. They do not tell teachers how to teach. They instead establish the foundation for what students need to learn by the end of their current grade. The CCSS are not a federal mandate. The development of the CCSS was a state led effort.

### How will the CCSS affect my child?

Chances are you are already doing everything you need to do to help your child be successful.



However, the following are a few tips you may find helpful.

\*establish a homework routine and have a quiet area where your child can complete his or her homework

\*read to and with your child every day

\*talk about the stories that are read at school and at home

\*encourage your child to be writing at home (thank you letters to family, lists, etc.)

\*turn real life situations into math story problems for your child to solve

### Are the CCSS a good thing?

Yes! Who wouldn't want high academic standards for their child?

## Literacy Tips

**For the young reader:** The Common Core State Standards have a strong emphasis on informational or nonfiction text. One way to help your child prepare is to read more nonfiction text from your local library or subscribe to magazines such as Ranger Rick or National Geographic for Kids. While reading with your child highlight nonfiction text features, such as the Table of Contents, bold words, pictures with captions, maps or the glossary. Talk about what you can learn from looking at these features.

**For the teen reader:** Does your child research the latest celebrity gossip online? If so, this is the perfect opportunity for your child to develop his or her critical thinking skills. While online ask your child questions about the source. Is it a reliable source? Can you find another source that confirms what this source states? Is it a primary source? Remind your child that not everything you read online is the truth. It is the reader's responsibility to analyze and critique the source.

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## Meet the Authors



Martha Rustad

Rustad is the author of more than 100 children's nonfiction books. Her topics include everything from animals to space, places on Earth to weather. Rustad's books are most suitable for children ages 4-8, providing younger children the perfect opportunity to explore nonfiction text features. Rustad currently lives in Minnesota with her family.

Seymour Simon

Simon, a former science and creative writing teacher at the elementary and secondary levels, has written more than 250 science books for middle grade readers. He has written books covering topics such as oceans, space, animals and weather in an attempt to make learning science fun. His books have been honored with many awards over the years. His website, [www.seymoursimon.com](http://www.seymoursimon.com) provides great resources for parents and teachers alike. Simon currently resides in Upstate New York.



## Website Spotlight

Looking for more information on the Common Core State Standards? Go to <http://standards.dpi.wi.gov/families/families> Here you will find helpful information such as the top 10 things parents should know about the CCSS, myths and facts about the CCSS and an overview video.

**\*\*Look for our March issue when we focus on the Language Arts CCSS.\*\***