



Parents' Clipboard

ELEMENTARY LEVEL



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Parents' Clipboards and
Parent Brochures

Helping Beginning Readers to Love Books

Children who are surrounded by books learn to love books. You and your child can discover the exciting world of books together. As your child grows you can continue to read aloud, even when she takes the first steps toward reading independently.

One of the best places to find a wide variety of books that are *absolutely free* is at the public library. Yet many parents take one look at the thousands of children's books available there and think, "Where do I begin?" Here are some ideas:

- 📖 Ask friends, relatives, neighbors and teachers to share titles of favorite books and then check them out of the library.
- 📖 The children's librarian can help you make good book choices for your child's reading ability and personal interests, even books written in Spanish.
- 📖 Get a library card for yourself and your child. Children love to help select their books and use their own card to check them out.
- 📖 Attend library story times (including evening story hours for working parents).
- 📖 Begin to build a library of books for your whole family to enjoy by making trips to bookstores, garage sales, thrift shops and giving books to them as gifts.

Making the library a regular part of your family's life from the time your child is very young means she will be comfortable in the library as a teenager and may develop a lifelong love of learning through reading.

For a list of books that are *Hot Off the Press*, visit the Children's Book Council's web site: www.cbcbooks.org/html/hotp.html.

To obtain *More Kids' Favorite Books*, a list of more than 300 books chosen by elementary school children, send a 9"x12" self-addressed envelope with \$1.00 postage affixed to: International Reading Association, P.O. Box 8139, Newark, DE 19714-8139.

Thought for the Day



"Don't give up! I believe in you all! A person's a person, no matter how small!"

By Dr. Seuss
from *Horton Hears a Who*

2004 marks the 100th anniversary of Theodor S. Geisel's birth. A new postage stamp is available as part of the year-long celebration of Dr. Seuss' 100th birthday.

Did you know that his 44 books together have sold more than 500 million copies?

How many times have you read or watched *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*?

Can you imagine having 27 publishers reject your first book (*And to Think That I Saw it on Mulberry Street*), and still not be discouraged about writing?

Q&A

Q Our family has the tradition that at a determined time all of us sit down and read. Is it just as important that my child write every night?

A The best answer is yes, but family life has changed to the point that there is never enough time to be together. Perhaps writing every night is not as important as writing on a consistent basis – three or four times a week. It is certainly true that the more one writes the better and easier the task becomes. Remember that professional writers all say that what helps their writing the most is reading.

For more information on this subject, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for a free copy of *Questions Parents Ask About Writing* to CCIRA, 10266 Rustic Redwood Way, Highlands Ranch, CO 80126.