



Dear Parents,

As children's literacy awareness emerges, it's important to expose them to a variety of literature that achieves a variety of purposes. For instance, we want them to experience joyful, celebratory stories (such as those that surround holidays or childhood milestones), stories that revolve around make-believe, factual literature that they can turn to for real-life information on specific interests, and stories that impart a sense of history or culture. We want them to understand that words are written for all different purposes, and in this way they can begin as young children to pick through literature styles to find the types of stories they best like to hear. Below is a list of books for children that meet this end:

*Caps for Sale* by Esphyr Slobodkina

This is a humorous story about a peddler who loses all his caps. Did monkeys take them? How does he get them back?

*Today I Feel Silly* by Jamie Lee Curtis

This is an excellent book to read with your child to help identify feelings and their roots. It has a realistic feel and funny pictures!

*The Napping House* by Audrey Wood

This is a fun, repetitive story about an afternoon nap gone awry.

Classic Nursery Rhymes are not only a great way to introduce children to poetry and rhyming but are also an interesting and historical piece of our culture. Children delight in the comedy of these poems, and there are many illustrated versions from which to choose — from classical Old English to modern and contemporary.

Fairy Tales are another beautiful piece of our history, and it's very rich indeed to introduce these oldest stories through the texts. Again, there are many versions from which to choose, ranging from Disney illustrations to a wonderfully executed Eric Carle adaptation.

Other practices can be employed when reading a good book with children. You can draw them into a story by asking questions about what they think will happen next. Another way to help children relate to characters they meet in storybooks is to refer to the characters later. Remind children of solutions a character used to solve a problem or of games a character played for amusement. Most of all — ENJOY! Find books that please everyone.

Have a great summer!

