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insights and encouragement from the “home front”

# MEMOIRS OF A MOM

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May 2006

I registered my daughter for kindergarten this past week. It is a bit nerve wracking to send her out into the big world. I had to remind myself that parents have the biggest influence in their children's lives. This principle also applies to reading. Here are a few tips to help parents find time to read to their children:

\* Visit the library with your child. There's nothing like being surrounded by a lot of great books to get you interested in reading. Also check out the library's programs for story times and reading contests.

\* Set aside a special time each day to read with your child. Bedtime or before their daily quiet time are great choices (see the January installment of *Memoirs of a Mom* for more on quiet times).

\* Read a book yourself. The more you read the more you will be interested in others reading. Your child will pick up on your enthusiasm.

My daughter Hannah and I compiled a list of some of our favorite children's picture books. Hope you enjoy our picks. Have fun coming up with your own favorites!

<i>Daisy Comes Home</i>	by Jan Brett	Wonderful drawings and a well rounded story.
<i>Bunny Cakes</i>	by Rosemary Wells	A great and funny story—made me laugh out loud!
<i>Big Bad Bruce</i>	by Bill Peet	A great story for reading aloud!
<i>Maxi—The Hero</i>	by Debra & Sal Barracca	The artwork is fabulous—look for the hidden pictures!
<i>Mrs. Armitage—Queen of the Road</i>	by Quentin Blake	One of my particular favorites—you'll love Mrs. Armitage!
<i>Rub-a-dub Sub</i>	by Linda Ashman	A great read-aloud picture book. One you'll read again and again.

Happy Reading!

Lisa Potts