



Pennsylvania's *One Book, Every Young Child* About the Program

In 2009, for the fourth consecutive year, Pennsylvania's **One Book, Every Young Child** program will lead the way and highlight the importance of early literacy development in preschoolers ages 3 to 6. In its inaugural year, the **One Book, Every Young Child** program won a coveted national John Cotton Dana Library Public Relations Award.

The selection for 2009 is *If You Were a Penguin* by Wendell and Florence Minor, author and illustrator. This brand new children's book will be released for the first time in December 2008.

The collaborating agencies involved with the program all believe strongly in supporting early literacy efforts. They are working together to develop a multifaceted program accessible to all areas and populations of the state. There are 560,000 children in the target age group, many of which are in the state's childcare facilities, Head Start programs, licensed preschools or kindergartens.

The **One Book, Every Young Child** program goes far beyond just giving parents and caregivers a book to read to preschoolers. The program's design is based on studies showing that simply reading a book is not enough. Adults must find ways to engage children in activities like talking about a book's cover and illustrations, discussing the action in the book and favorite parts, pretend play related to the book and more.

Through this program, adults with preschoolers in their lives will learn how they can support the development of literacy in preschool children. Because it is important for children to be prepared for school, **One Book, Every Young Child** will provide opportunities for adults to read aloud, share books and stories and related activities with preschoolers. These activities have been shown to be crucial to early learning.

One Book, Every Young Child information and program ideas have been developed by librarians and museum educators from across Pennsylvania to promote the value and benefits of reading early and often to preschoolers and to encourage family bonding through books and reading.

Throughout the year, there will be local events supporting the **One Book, Every Young Child** reading initiative, including limited days of author and illustrator visits at select locations across the state; library and museum programming for families; activities for

parents, early care providers and educators on the Web site www.paonebook.org; and state government VIPs across the state reading to children in libraries and other sites.

Each year, traveling trunks are developed by museum educators to help expand upon the concepts in the chosen book. Each trunk is filled with fun book-related puppets, games and manipulatives for young children. In addition, each trunk includes a guide for librarians and educators that encourages use of the trunk contents in activities that are aligned with the Pennsylvania Early Learning Standards.

One Book, Every Young Child is made possible through a collaboration of the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Children's Museum of Pittsburgh, Please Touch Museum, State Museum of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Library Association, Pennsylvania Public Television Network, Pennsylvania Center for the Book, Pennsylvania Association for the Education of Young Children, The Pennsylvania Child Care Association, PennSERVE, HSLC/Access PA and Verizon. This program was supported in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered by Pennsylvania's Office of Commonwealth Libraries.

Previous selections for the Pennsylvania **One Book, Every Young Child** program are:

- 2008 Book Selection
Up, Down, and Around, by author Katherine Ayres and illustrator Nadine Bernard Westcott

- 2007 Book Selection
A Splendid Friend, Indeed by author and illustrator Suzanne Bloom

- 2006 Book Selection
Inside Mouse, Outside Mouse by author and illustrator Lindsay Barrett George