

The Undeniable Connection between Child Literacy and the Bedtime Story

(Los Angeles, CA, May 14, 2010) What's new in child literacy? A recent survey from Oxford University Press of 300 teachers has discovered that more than half believe many children in their classes have never been read a bedtime story. The lack of storytelling at home is damaging children's writing abilities, the researchers believe.

Pie Corbett, literary expert and former primary school teacher, said, "Storytelling is hugely important, as the ability to tell a story is developed by building up a bank of well-known tales to draw upon. Those who struggle may not yet have built up that storehouse. For example, if they are not read to at home, they are unfamiliar with the language patterns. Narrative is a necessary, primary act of mind and natural to all human beings—we are all story-makers whether we like it or not."

On top of that is the report from experts that reading a bedtime story to your child for twenty minutes every night could improve his or her literacy by at least ten school days a year, but most parents say they don't have time.

Hank Frazee, a father of three and author of the forthcoming book **BEFORE WE SAY "GOODNIGHT": HOW TO TELL STORIES ABOUT YOUR LIFE AND FAMILY** (Sycamore Canyon Publishing LLC, September 2010), cites the benefits for a child whose parent takes the time to tell them a bedtime story almost every night.

"Number one is a closer relationship with the parent, and that's number one for the parent too," he says. In his book, Hank takes reading a story to children at bedtime one step further, and that is relating stories of real life and family experiences. "A story about a parent that actually happened before the child knew the parent is irresistible," Hank says. "It creates a bridge from listening to reading. Plus, listening to the spoken word is literally how we learn to speak, and hearing a story teaches by example how to relate a complex set of ideas to others."

Research backs up Frazee's claims. According to a national survey commissioned by BetterSleep.org and conducted by Ipsos Public Affairs, when it comes to putting kids to bed and telling them a bedtime story, the overwhelming choice of children age 7 or younger are stories that Mom and Dad make up themselves, which three in four parents say they have done. More than one in three parents said that their kids preferred stories the parents spun from their own imaginations.

In **BEFORE WE SAY "GOODNIGHT"** author Hank Frazee gives parents and grandparents the tools they need to tell bedtime stories to their children, based on their experiences and family history, and gives them a unique method to access their memories for an unlimited number of stories to tell. Hank has used this process to tell over 7,000 bedtime stories to his own children, some of which follow each chapter as examples.

For more information about Hank Frazee and his book, visit the website at www.beforewesaygoodnight.com

Before We Say Goodnight: How to Tell Bedtime Stories about Your Life and Family

By Hank Frazee

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