



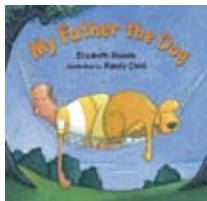
A Page in a **BOOK**



By Paige Gardner Smith

Fathers Day: Take Dad to the Bookstore

Fathers who read aloud to their young children can have an enormous positive impact on their child's academic and social success. For a variety of reasons, however, most young children receive the majority of their 'read-aloud' experiences from their mothers. According to independent studies, the percentage of fathers who read aloud to their kids on a regular basis peaks at about 40% in the U.S. These same studies show that there are distinct and undeniable benefits for youths whose fathers do take an active role in reading to them. Recent reports indicate that children who have fathers or father figures reading to them will perform better in school, will have better relationship skills and will become superior readers. Researchers also suggest that fathers are more inclined to actively participate in shared reading with their children when they are reading materials that are "in their comfort zone." In fact, fathers who help select their child's reading material read to their kids almost twice as much as dads who don't participate in their child's book buying/borrowing. The following selections fall right into the comfort category for most dads because they are wonderful reminders of all the things that make dads so special. A family trip with Dad to the children's section of the local bookstore is recommended for this Father's Day!

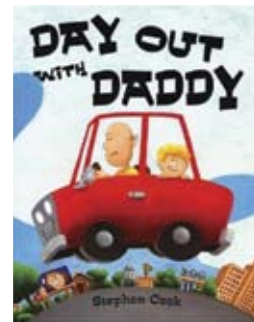


My Father the Dog

By Elizabeth Bluemle, Illustrated by Randy Cecil
Publisher: Candlewick Press ISBN: 0763622222

Told from the daughter's point of view, *My Father the Dog* presents a young girl's observations that lead her to conclude that her father is really a dog. With her younger brother in tow, she follows her father throughout the day noting all of his dog-like inclinations. The family's older hound mirrors dad's activities and expressions throughout the day. Scratching when they wake up, fetching the newspaper, and napping are all part of the regular routine for both. The bright, clean illustrations are the humorous counterpart to the daughter's sober anecdotal narrative. With just a touch of the "body function" humor that is so engaging for the younger set, readers of all ages will laugh out loud at the "blame the dog" reference. Even though this title has some fun at Dad's expense, it closes nicely at the end of the day, noting Dad's most positive canine characteristics – loyalty and unconditional love. (Pre-Kindergarten – Elementary)

share the very different traits that make both her father and stepfather dear to her. An additional positive aspect of this book is that it reinforces the importance of fathers reading to and with their child. This book may even inspire young readers/listeners to create their own book. An ideal reminder that each father is different – and yet they are all treasured and appreciated by the children who love them. (Pre-kindergarten – Elementary)

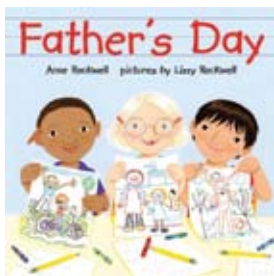


Day Out With Daddy

by Stephen Cook
Publisher: Walker & Company ISBN: 0802780598

Most fathers and their children will agree that they place a high value on their "one-on-one" time. *A Day Out With Daddy* is a hilarious look at one day a boy and his father devote to each other. With Mom going out of town for the day, the stage is set for an "all guys" experience. When jumping out of bed bright and early devolves into father and son jumping on the bed, the reader quickly learns that Daddy is focused on making it a worry-free and fun day for both of them. While the illustrations definitely give a light-hearted wink at the father's ability to manage tasks that he is unaccustomed to, the rendering of the sugary-foods-only breakfast and image of Daddy chasing underwear-clad Junior down the sidewalk just make the successes of the day that much brighter. Mothers reading this title will also appreciate with laughter (or déjà vu) the dad's smoldering dinner kitchen followed by pizza delivery to a home that is now cluttered with the detritus of the long day. This boy's day out with this dad is just what it should be; a special time devoted to each other – with not a care in the world for housekeeping. (Pre-kindergarten – Elementary) ♦

Read more at www.paigegardenersmith.com.



Father's Day

By Anne Rockwell, Illustrated by Lizzy Rockwell
Publisher: Harper Collins ISBN: 0060513772

Father's Day features a group of children who are each creating a handmade book for their father, a project that becomes a window into each child's perceptions about his father and what make their relationship unique. As each child ponders what makes his own dad special to him, the reader appreciates the range of culture, class and lifestyles represented in this title. The shared activities and interests – from cooking and reading to camping and athletics – vary for each child, but they all illustrate the personal bond between these kids and their dads. One child gets to