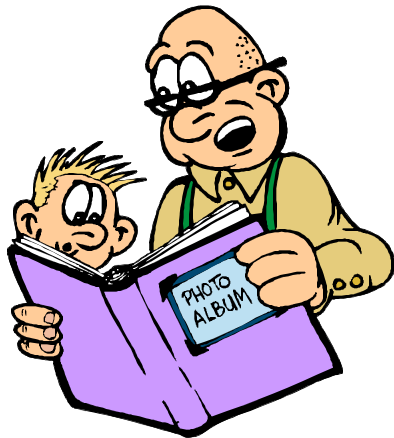


Include pictures of your child, too, and encourage your child to write down stories of his or her own about what was going on when the pictures were taken. If you decide to include pictures from family vacations, write a trip journal with your child about where you went, what you saw, ate, etc. The journal ties your family stories to a written record, and will help your child appreciate the power and joy of reading, writing, and storytelling.



### **About Reading Wizards:**

*Reading Wizards: Parents and Children Reading Together* is a series of bulletins on reading with children. Bulletins A through D are designed for parents of children as young as 2 years old and include activities based on Dr. Seuss books. Bulletins 1 through 6, based on the Harry Potter book series, were created for parents with children between the ages of 5 and 12. The bulletins will include tips on how to make the most of reading time with your children, as well as activities based on the Harry Potter Books for you and your child to do together.

### **For more information contact:**

[educator name, county] or Daniel F. Perkins, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Family and Youth Resiliency and Policy.

The Harry Potter books are written by J.K. Rowling and published by Arthur A. Levine Books.

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## **Reading Wizards**



## **Parents and Children Reading Together**

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As a parent—the person who most influences your child—you can nurture your child’s love of books and words. By reading with your children, you will not only improve their reading skills, you will also help them develop a love for reading that will last throughout their lives.



This is the fifth “Reading Wizards” bulletin, and, as before, we will offer some tips<sup>1</sup> on reading to your children, as well as activities to do together based on the *Harry Potter* series (books that you will enjoy reading as much as your child!).

Experts agree that learning to write is strongly linked to learning to read. In fact, many educators believe that children

<sup>1</sup> Reading tips adapted from [www.scholastic.com](http://www.scholastic.com)

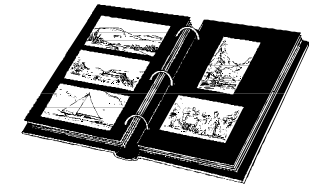
actually learn to read through writing. Children are better able to understand others' written messages after the experience of writing themselves. Encouraging your child to write will help your child become a better reader, and will improve their spelling, grammar, and language skills. Below are some ideas of ways to encourage your child's writing.



- Encourage your child to tell you a story. It can be fictional or be a story about his or her day. Share your stories as well. Remember to include story elements like beginning, middle, and end.



- Your child has led quite a fascinating life up to now. Encourage your child to write the story of his or her life. (An added benefit is that the memoir will give you a clue about what he or she thinks is important.)



One of Harry's most prized possessions is a family album, with pictures of the parents he can scarcely remember. Try making a family album like Harry's with your child, and spend time looking through old pictures to decide what to include. If you have pictures of your parents and grandparents, put them in the album, and write down stories about them to read to your children. Reminisce about when you were little. Describe things that happened at school involving teachers and subjects you were studying.