

Check It Out Column for week of Nov. 1- Nov. 7 '09

New Color Coded Reading Levels for Beginning Easy Readers

By Patricia Schroader, Children's Services Supervisor

On numerous occasions, parents who have visited Warsaw Community Public Library have asked "With so many books in Easy Reader section of Children's Department, how do I find which book is the right level for my beginning reader?" WCPL has found a solution! Colored labels have now been applied to each book identifying four reading level within the ER collection. This color coded system will help you decide at what level your child is reading and what books match his/her reading level as he/she continues to improve their reading skills.

The four levels and their matching colors are Pre-Emergent (purple), Emergent (pink), Early Fluent (green) and Fluent (blue). Pre-emergent books are for children who have just begun to learn to read. These books contain few words and have large pictures to help the child identify words and read the text. Emergent books are for children who can read some words and phrases on their own. These books contain repeated words and often have rhyming words and phrases. Early Fluent books are for children who have begun to read a whole book on their own. They contain more difficult, longer words and have smaller illustrations. Fluent books are for children who are comfortable reading on their own and ready for more complicated ideas and can handle books with extended action. These books often have 3 or 4 short chapters.

Because each child reads at their own personal level, there might be sub-levels in the same color group, so be sure to check each book to see what level of difficulty it represents. Signs and hand-outs are available in the Easy Reader section that identify the reading skills a child will need to read the books at each level. As always, the staff at the Children's Department will be happy to help you locate the books you need or answer any questions you have about the new system.

WCPL has many free children's activities as well. Come and participate. Baby and Me Story Hour is every third and fourth Monday at 9:30 AM, Story Hour for 2's is each Tuesday, Story Hour for 3's is each Wednesday, and Story Hour for 4's and 5's is each Thursday. Each of these is held at 10 AM. In addition, once a month a Pre-School Story Hour is held on the second Friday at 1:30 PM. All of these story hours require registration which can be done online or in person at the Library.

For more programs and events, visit us online at www.warsawlibrary.org or call us at 574-267-6011.