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Reading Can be Fun at School and at Home

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The University of Dayton

News Release

April 16, 1991
Contact: Dick Kubik

**READING CAN BE FUN
AT SCHOOL AND AT HOME**

DAYTON, Ohio -- April 21 kicks off "Reading Is Fun Week," and a University of Dayton reading specialist says a growing trend in public schools is to make reading exactly that.

"Today, many teachers are helping their pupils learn how to read by using high quality children's books rather than basal readers or text books," says Patricia Hart, assistant professor of teacher education at UD.

"These teachers are using a variety of types of literature--poetry, picture books, informational books, biographies, historical fiction, fantasy, realistic fiction, traditional literature and multiethnic literature. It's a more enjoyable way for students to learn how to read and a more productive way, too."

Hart says that traditionally in our schools, there has been a breakdown between reading as a school subject and reading at home.

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"The reading at school was often tedious and not real reading," says Hart. "Children saw the reading at home as more fun but often carried over the negative attitude of reading at school to the reading at home."

The new "whole language" approach seeks to surround the child with good, enjoyable reading at home and at school.

"Children are learning to read and write by actually reading and writing, a sort of 'hands-on' approach," says Hart.

Regardless of whether students are receiving the "whole language" approach in their school, parents can still support a child's love of reading, says Hart.

"Parents need to be encouraged to use their public library system. Librarians are there to help parents 'match' their child's interest, age, and abilities to their books. I've found that librarians go out of their way to help children find books for their needs."

Hart says it's also important for parents to read to their children, even if the children know how to read by themselves. "It's critical to children's reading development to see adults in their lives reading. This adds to their positive attitude toward reading."

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For media interviews, call Patricia Hart at (513) 229-3304.