

# Early Childhood Read and Romp Day

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Although I use books in my teaching as often as I can, I devote one special day during the school year for Read and Romp Day. This is an event for Preschool, Pre-K, and Kindergarten students that has the physical education department and library working together to promote physical activity and reading. Ten books are selected by the librarian and me, ten activities are designed to coincide with the books, and ten stations are set up in the gymnasium areas. Parents come to school to read the books and lead the activities as the children rotate through the stations every 12 minutes. It is a wonderful event.

I have been doing Read and Romp Day for the past fourteen years. On my school web page I have placed a Read and Romp Day Handouts link to a description of the event and the various books and activities that we have used. There are 140 different books and activities. Some of the activities are very active and others encourage individual creativity among the students. Having an array of activities helps me reach more students.

Over the years, I have learned that variety is important in both book selection and activities. It is what keeps the children anxiously waiting for the event each year. I hope you will visit my web page at [www.wcsks.com/wagner.htm](http://www.wcsks.com/wagner.htm) . Even if you don't use my books or ideas, something may spark your interest and you may soon create your own ideas. You may also find some books and activities that you can simply use in your everyday teaching or some that might fit in well with a special event, holiday, or activity that you are doing at school.

Much of the success of my event is due to the wonderful parent and grandparent volunteers that sign up to help with this special day. I understand that not all schools have a good response when recruiting volunteers. To help with this, some teachers, who are now doing their own Read and Romp Day events, have told me that they are using middle or high school students to lead the reading and romping. This seems to work well for some schools.

Although my event is done with very young children, Read and Romp Day is something that could easily be done with elementary students. Even though they are reading their own books, this age still loves to be read to and, for some children, it brings back many special memories.

Read and Romp Day is a wonderful advocacy tool, as well. When students go home and talk to their parents about the books that were read and the games that were played, it reinforces both the library and physical education programs and shows your willingness to work with others and integrate various academic content areas into your teaching.

I hope you will visit my web page for ideas. If you have any questions or want to offer suggestions, please email me at [kathywagner@wcsks.com](mailto:kathywagner@wcsks.com) . Happy reading and romping!

