



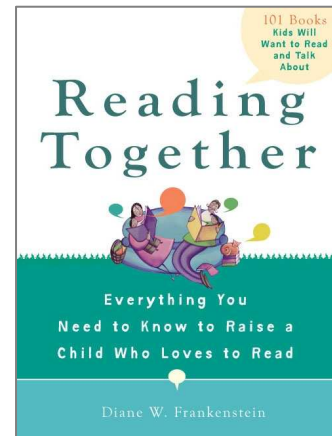
Jewish Family and  
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NEWS

## Author Diane Frankenstein Helps Jump-start the Habit of Reading

It's not the books your kids consume, but the conversations about those books that will better determine whether they develop a lifelong habit of reading. So maintains Bay Area educational consultant Diane Frankenstein, who has worked for 20-plus years with teachers, parents, and youngsters around the globe to promote childhood literacy. "I realized early on in my career that children like to talk about stories," Diane says. "Talking to them about stories builds their confidence to become good readers."



Diane is bringing her expertise and passion for literature to JFCS' Parents Place, where she will be working with early childhood educators to jump-start these conversations.

As a springboard, Diane will be using her new book, *Reading Together: Everything You Need to Know to Raise a Child Who Loves to Read* (Perigree Books, 2009). In it, she offers 101 book titles that parents and educators might want to encourage their children to read. But, she quickly adds, there are countless other books that will work just as well to ignite the literacy spark. "The secret is to find the home-run book that your child wants to talk about with you," she says. "My book is not a how-to. It offers ideas and guidelines to initiate conversations and to get your kids thinking critically—through books—about important, age-old questions: 'What does it mean to be a good friend?' 'What does it mean to leave the world a little better than you found it?' There's more power in the questions than in the answers. Everyone comes to his or her own answers. They are inside of us."

Read about Diane's book at [www.dianefrankenstein.com](http://www.dianefrankenstein.com). And look for her at [Parents Place](#).