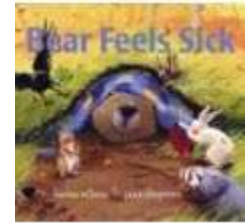


## **Kansas Reads to Preschoolers Celebrates the Lovable *Bear Feels Sick***

by Janie Rutherford, Communications Specialist

The rhyming words and cute characters of *Bear Feels Sick* came alive in November as libraries statewide celebrated Kansas Reads to Preschoolers About Health.



Kansas Center for the Book and the State Library hosted *Bear Feels Sick* author Karma Wilson for two days, enjoying story hours at Easter Seals Capper Foundation, the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library, and the Lawrence Public Library. Librarians across the state joined Wilson in a one-hour OPAL session where she shared her history and tips for writing children's books.

Karma Wilson writes humorous, rhythmic picture books for very young readers. The Bear books share her ideas in a fun, understandable way for the youngest readers, who also enjoy their delightful illustrations.



The partners in Kansas Reads to Preschoolers joined Wilson and others at the Statehouse on Friday, November 14, to attend a signing of the proclamation by Governor Kathleen Sebelius. Partners for 2008 included: Kansas Parent Information Resource Center (KPIRC); the Kansas Association of Child Care and Resource and Referral Agencies (KACCRRA); Kansas Public Health Association; Kansas Health Online; and the Kansas Coalition for School Readiness.

***Karma Wilson came to Kansas to join the statewide "Kansas Reads to Preschoolers About Health"***

Governor Sebelius, also honorary chair of the event, kicked off the week by visiting the Topeka Salvation Army and reading to about a dozen preschoolers. Other state dignitaries joining in the fun were Attorney General Steve Six and Kansas Insurance Commissioner Sandy Praeger.

Talking Books, a division of the State Library, "Brailled" five copies of *Bear Feels Sick* for use by the visually impaired. You may check out a "Brailled" version by contacting Talking Books at 800/362-0699.



*Governor Kathleen Sebelius kicked off Reads to Preschoolers by reading to the preschoolers at Topeka Salvation Army Proclamation Signing in the Governor's Office November 14, 2008*



*Featured book author Karma Wilson ~~ch~~ ~~anned~~ Wilson joined Kansas Center for the Book preschoolers at Easter Seals Capper Food ~~Dick~~ Roy Bird (left) and WIBW Channel 13 talk-show host Ralph Hipp in promoting Kansas Reads to Preschoolers Week November 13*

The lovely quilt, sewn by State Librarian Christie Brandau and Director of Statewide Resource Sharing Patti Butcher, was auctioned earlier in November, finding a permanent home with Jenifer Trimble and the Burlington Public Library. The \$226 will be used for future Kansas

Center for the Book projects and programs.

Log onto [www.kcfb.info](http://www.kcfb.info) to see what other libraries are doing across the state and to download bookmarks or other story hour activities. Kansas Center for the Book is in the process of developing the 12-member advisory committee for the 2009 Kansas Reads to Preschoolers book. If you are interested, contact State Librarian Christie Brandau.

2009 Kansas Reads to Preschoolers Week is Nov. 15-21, 2009. There will be another article in the January issue of *Kansas Libraries Newsletter* reporting on the statewide participation in this project and plans for the future.