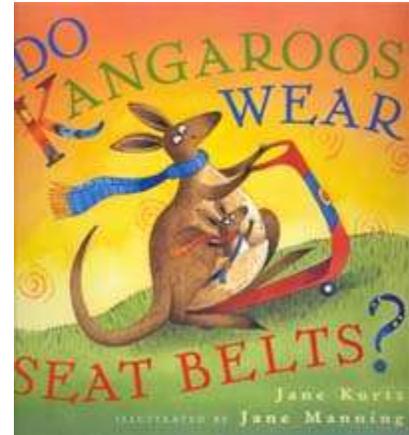


## Safety is Theme for Reading to Children Program

by Vikki Jo Stewart, Special Project Coordinator/Kansas Center for the Book Coordinator

The State Library of Kansas presents a brief sneak preview to the newest preschooler reading project with *three books* for 2007! The theme is safety and the age range, for this year, covers babies to age 8. The State Librarian, with some help from children in the target age range, chose the following titles for this year's project: 1) *Do Kangaroos Wear Seatbelts* by Jane Kurtz, 2) *Look Both Ways: A Cautionary Tale* by Diane Z. Shore, and 3) *It's Time to Call 911: What to do in an Emergency* (Penton Overseas, Inc.).



The committee for the 2007 preschooler project was chaired by Joyce Steiner, Lawrence Public Library, with Cherie Sage, Safe Kids Kansas; Linda Childress, Kansas Association for Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (KACCRRRA); and staffed by Vikki Jo Stewart, State Library. Joyce is gearing up to create a bibliography of other age-appropriate "safety-theme" books. The Kansas Center for the Book website will be home to the 2007 Kansas Reads to Preschoolers About SAFETY. Check [www.kcfb.info](http://www.kcfb.info) for more information later this summer.

Librarians should begin to consider what they will do to promote reading during Children's Book Week (the week before Thanksgiving) November 11-17, 2007.

Jane Kurtz lives in Kansas. Her book *Do Kangaroos Wear Seat Belts* is a wonderful opportunity to talk about safety while riding in cars. Libraries can partner with local police departments and service organizations. Safe Kids Kansas has some wonderful material to share too.

Diane Z. Shore lives in Georgia. She was so excited to find out that her book, *Look Both Ways: A Cautionary Tale*, was one of the three books promoting the notion of safety for children. It's never too early to teach about safety and KACCRRRA is committed to promoting this reading initiative.

Lastly, *It's Time to Call 911: What to do in an Emergency* from Penton Overseas, Inc. is a terrific board book that was a story on Good Morning America a few months ago. The story was about a 4-year-old who knew what to do when he could not wake up his mother because his grandmother bought him *It's Time to Call 911* a year earlier! The board book includes a number pad and when 911 is pressed in sequence a congratulatory message is heard along with sirens so children will know help is on the way.

There you have the three titles for the 2007 Kansas Reads to Preschoolers about SAFETY. Please share your ideas on Kanlib-l.

