

Office of the Governor

PO BOX 004
TRENTON, NJ 08625

NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Jayne O'Connor
609-777-2600

RELEASE: March 5, 1999

Governor's Weekly Radio Message Encourages Adults to Read to Children

Gov. Christie Whitman provides a weekly radio message to radio stations throughout the state. Each week, the message focuses on a different concern or event of interest to New Jerseyans.

This week the Governor discusses the value of helping children develop a love of reading. The National Education Association suggests that the best way to help children become good readers is to read aloud to them often and encourage them to talk about books they already know. For this reason March 2nd has been designated as Read Across New Jersey Day. The day is intended to encourage adults to get involved in reading to children and to send a clear message to children that reading is important.

Attached is the text of the message.

The radio message can be accessed by calling the Governor's actuality line at 609-292-3249. It will be available today, beginning at noon, and will run through the weekend.

Governor's Weekly Radio Message
March 5, 1999
Read Across America

There are few things you can do for your children's education that are more important than helping them develop a love of reading.

Books not only open up new worlds of knowledge for children, but also build skills that are crucial to their future.

A recent study by the National Academy of Sciences confirms that the more children read outside of school, the better they do in school.

The National Education Association suggests that the best way to help children become good readers is to read aloud to them often and encourage them to talk about books they already know.

That is why we designated March 2nd as Read Across New Jersey Day. The day is intended to encourage adults to get involved in reading to children and to send a clear message to children that reading is important.

Last week, libraries, schools, and communities across the state sponsored events to promote reading with children. What's more, to help celebrate Read Across

New Jersey Day, I had the opportunity to read to children from the Woodrow Wilson School in New Brunswick.

Read Across New Jersey Day is becoming a yearly tradition. However, we shouldn't wait to start reading to our children. We should not wait to take a trip to the library, crack open a new book, or re-read an old favorite.

I want to encourage every New Jersey parent to make it a part of your daily routine to read to your kids and with your kids.

It's not just important to your child's future, but it is also a great way to spend more time with your child.

My message to the children of New Jersey: whether you are interested in sports, science, history, or adventure, there is sure to be a book for you - just think about what interests you and then read about it.

A love of reading will start a child on a life-long pursuit of learning. So open a book and help your child open up a whole new world.

