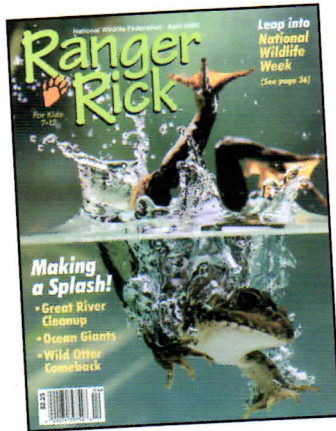


A switch to “Magazinebag!”

Every Friday morning during the school year, I attend Family D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything and Read) time in my son’s classroom. Along with other parents able to get away for 30 minutes of quiet reading in under-sized chairs, I relish the opportunity for guaranteed time for pleasure reading, all in the name of being an “involved” parent. But the highlight of the experience is the sharing that takes place afterward.

A critical feature of Family D.E.A.R. is that children are able to read whatever they wish. One of my favorite readers is Molly, who can usually be seen with no fewer than 12 *Ranger Rick* magazines on her desk. *Ranger Rick* lights her fire and spreads it to other students each time she mentions a three-toed sloth or the humpback whale she read about that morning. Molly isn’t the only student with magazines stacked high. Others are



reading publications like *Sports Illustrated for Kids*, *Zillions* (which teaches kids to be educated consumers) and *Smithsonian Magazine*.

Magazines are hot tickets for kids—from avid readers like Molly to the most reluc-

tant readers you may know.

One of the surest ways to draw a child into reading is to tap into his or her interests. Magazines serve that purpose and offer manageable “portions” for kids who prefer smaller bites of information.

Many parents of magazine-reading kids take comfort in the fact that their child is at least reading *something*. But not all magazines are created equal. Some offer literary value that nurture young minds; others dish up all the value of a sugar buzz.

A series of magazines published by The Cricket Group falls solidly into the former category. Published every six weeks, *Babybug* is

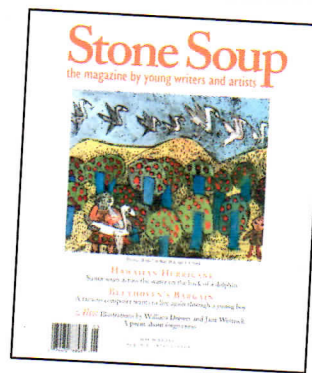
geared toward children ages 6 months to 2 years. *Babybug* prides itself on its ability to hold up under repetition with appealing writing and board-book pages.

Just as a child hits the magical 2s, along comes *Ladybug*. Designed to meet the desires of children 2 through 6, *Ladybug* contains an assortment of fiction, non-fiction and poetry. Six- to 9-year-olds move up to *Spider* and 9- to 14-year-olds can turn to *Cricket* for valuable entertainment. For more information about any of these publications, visit www.cricket-mag.com.

After a recent Family D.E.A.R. session, I was approached by Alex, one of my former kindergarten students. By the way she was hopping up and down as she talked, I could tell that she wanted to discuss something important. It seems she had heard about my column and Alex wanted

me to know that she, too, was a writer. Furthermore, Alex wanted to know if I could help her get a story she wrote “made into a real book.” I told her perhaps we could do lunch one day and discuss her plans. But I know Alex and I won’t be able to put her off for long.

Stone Soup exists for all



PROJECT: PARENTING

Sponsored by **fray's** Food & Drug Stores

Cox Cable Channel 14
Every Saturday and Sunday

4 and 4:30p
7 and 7:30p

By Mary Anne Duggan

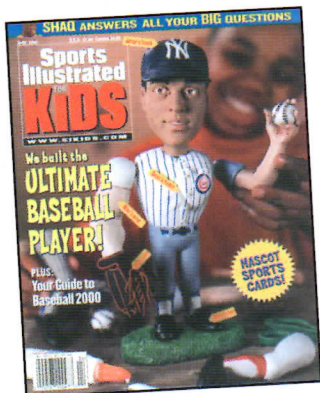


Mary Anne Duggan is a teacher mentor specialist for the Scottsdale Unified School District and the mother of Taylor, 11, and Seanie, 9. Reach her by e-mail at bookbag@razkids.com.



the Alexes out there. *Stone Soup* calls itself "The Magazine by Young Writers and Artists" and features contributions by children up to age 13. Each feature is accompanied by a photo of the child writer and/or artist. Another publication, *New Moon: The Magazine for Girls and Their Dreams* (www.newmoon.org), boasts girl editors from ages 8 to 14 and girl contributors from all over the world. A listing of additional magazines that publish children's work can be found in the *Children's Writer's and Illustrator's Market*, which is published annually.

The tug between quality reading material and brain candy is one my 11-year-old daughter and I battle over at the magazine stand. A win-win for us both is *American Girl* magazine (www.americangirl.com). This bimonthly publication presents hobbies, crafts, profiles and history of interest to girls ages 8 to 12. I take comfort in knowing that *American Girl* doesn't deal with themes of romance or dating, which is just what my 11-year-old wants to read about and I want to put off for as long as possible. 🙌



Tickets start at just \$8

Pure Adrenaline



Phoenix Mercury versus:
 Detroit Shock, Thurs., July 6 at 7 pm
 Minnesota Lynx, Tues., July 11 at 7 pm
 Sacramento Monarchs, Thurs., July 13 at 7 pm
 Utah Starzz, Wed., July 19 at 7 pm
 Los Angeles Sparks, Fri., July 21 at 6 pm
 Cleveland Rockers, Mon., July 24 at 7 pm
 Indiana Fever, Wed., July 26 at 7 pm
 Sacramento Monarchs, Sun., July 30 at 1 pm



Cards

phoenixmercury.com Official Card of the WNBA

Call 602-252-WNBA, ETM/Dillard's at 480-503-5555 or toll free at 877-386-2466.

A WELL-ROUNDED EDUCATION BEGINS BEFORE 5

Children in Montessori preschool programs gain a lifetime advantage
 Give your child the Montessori edge
 Call today! Serving toddlers through Middle School



Unequaled Excellence in Education

Phoenix
 9215 N 14th St
 602 943 7672

Scottsdale
 6239 E. Bell Rd
 480 596 7922

Tempe
 6415 S. Lakeshore Dr
 480 730 8886

Our 20th year of serving Arizona's children and families