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Helping children with real-life problems-- Give them a good book to grow with.

PORTLAND, OREGON – Would you know how to deal with three of the biggest problems young children face? How do you help a young child whose parents are getting a divorce? Or who's being bullied? Or who's just lost a family member?

Author Cheryl Coon says that one of the best ways to help a child in need may simply be to give them the right book.

Case in point: Seth, a nine-year-old boy, was severely affected by his parents' impending divorce. His teacher watched him change into a quiet, withdrawn child from his former star-student self. She shared with him books about boys whose parents had divorced: *A Month of Sundays* and *Rope Burn*.

Result: "It really helped him to see that other kids had gone through the same problems," said his fourth-grade teacher. "He started spending time with his friends again."

Cheryl Coon is author of ***Books to Grow With: A Guide to Using the Best Children's Fiction for Everyday Issues and Tough Challenges***. She says:

"Sometimes offering advice just isn't enough. A child may be too young to understand or they're at the stage where advice is the last thing they want to hear. The right book about a fictional character experiencing the same issue can help them handle difficult situations."

Case in point: Lily, a five-year old, was worried about starting kindergarten. She wondered whether she would make new friends. Her mother brought home from the library *First Day Hooray!* Together they read and talked about what starting school might be like.

Result: "She really identified with the main character," said her mother, Karen. "She made a new friend on her first day and came home eager for the next day."

In ***Books to Grow With***, Mrs. Coon identifies and recommends from over 500 fiction books for ages two through ten that feature characters handling over 100 common problems and tough challenges. From bullies to teasing to alcoholism to divorce, Coon recommends the best books that offer wisdom, solace, and problem-solving skills.

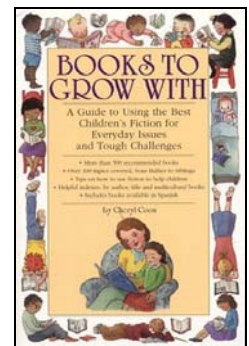
Books to Grow With: A Guide to Using the Best Children's Fiction for Everyday Issues and Tough Challenges by Cheryl Coon

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"A practical guide to finding resources that will help children develop life skills and, perhaps, feel more confident in a confusing, difficult world."—Booklist, June 2004