

Common Reactions

- **Confused:** Children may feel confused when they see someone with Alzheimer's act in strange ways.
- **Angry:** Children may get angry when they do not understand what they did wrong or when they know the person with Alzheimer's is upset with them.
- **Helpful:** Children may want to help take care of someone they love who has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's.

Other Storybooks and Reading Guides

Other Storybooks and Reading Guides can be found at:

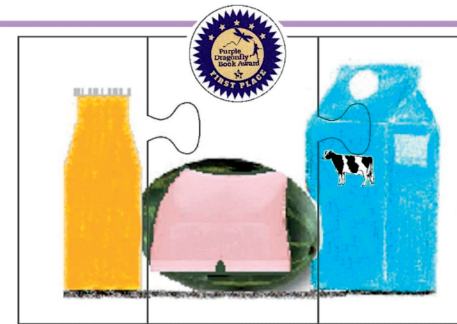
<https://www.montana.edu/extension/alzheimers/booksandreadingguides.html>



Reading Guide for

Why Did Grandma Put Her Underwear in the Refrigerator?

WHY DID GRANDMA
PUT HER UNDERWEAR
IN THE REFRIGERATOR?



AN EXPLANATION OF ALZHEIMER'S
DISEASE FOR CHILDREN

By Max Wallack and Carolyn Given

Alzheimer's Awareness for Children

Montana State University Extension is an ADA/EO/AA/Veteran's Preference Employer and Provider of Educational Outreach.



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About this Program

The MSU Extension ***Alzheimer's Awareness for Children Storybook*** program is designed to teach children about a form of dementia.

The goals of the program are 1) increase awareness and knowledge about Alzheimer's (a form of dementia) and 2) provide supportive resources to children and families when they have a loved one diagnosed with Alzheimer's.

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Brief Summary

Julie has always loved spending time with her Grandma. They enjoy many activities together like shopping, drawing and building puzzles. Now Grandma lives with Julie and her parents. This means they get to spend even more time together. Sometimes Grandma has trouble remembering people's names or where she put things. At times, Grandma doesn't remember who Julie is! When Grandma forgets, Julie helps Grandma remember. She always tells Grandma she loves her. Julie's parents explain to her "Grandma has Alzheimer's and the cells in her brain can't always throw and catch messages the way they should." Julie's parents also tell her she is a good caregiver when she helps Grandma.

Questions to Ask

- Julie loves to spend time with Grandma. *What are some of their favorite activities?*
- Sometimes Grandma can't remember where she put things. *Why did Julie think it was her fault?*
- Julie was worried that she might catch Alzheimer's from Grandma. *What did her parents compare Alzheimer's with so Julie could understand it?*
- Julie's Mom says she is very proud of her because she is a good caregiver. *What are some of the things Julie does to take care of Grandma?*
- There is one thing Grandma doesn't forget how to do. *What does Julie say Grandma never forgets?*

Activity Enrichment

- **Memory Activity Book:** Sometimes people with Alzheimer's and their family members benefit from a memory book. Create a notebook or bound journal with a series of drawings or printed photographs. Be sure to use short captions and dates to help with remembering. Look through this memory book together as a reminder of the activities enjoyed and memorable moments shared together. This book can strengthen the connection between a child and a loved one with Alzheimer's.
- **Identifying Emotions Activity:** Think about a time when you lost a favorite toy or a time when you didn't get to do something you wanted to do. *How did that make you feel?* Julie takes walks with Grandma to make her feel better. *What is an activity that makes you feel better when you're having a difficult day?*