



Dear Preschool Teacher:

Alzheimer's disease is rapidly growing in the United States. According to the 2020 Alzheimer's disease Facts and Figures Report:

- One in 10 adults aged 65 and older are living with this disease.
- Alzheimer's is the 6th leading cause of death in the United States.
- 22,000 Montanans age 65 and older have Alzheimer's.

When a family member has Alzheimer's, everyone in that family is affected, including children. Montana State University Extension has developed a program called the **Alzheimer's Disease Awareness for Children Storybook Series**. The goal of the program is to increase awareness and knowledge about Alzheimer's disease and provide supportive resources to children and families in Montana.

We invite you to participate in this program. We believe you would enjoy reading these books to your group of children. The content of the website includes:

1. A **Reading Guide** that accompanies each book, can be downloaded for each of the eight books within Series A and B. The reading guides can be downloaded at: <https://alzheimers.msueextension.org/teachermaterials/storybooks.html>

The reading guide includes:

- Questions to ask the class while reading the book.
- Common reactions children may have towards Alzheimer's disease.
- Enrichment activities to do in class to help tie together the key ideas of each book and reinforce learning.
- Other websites that provide more information about Alzheimer's disease.

After you have read several books children will:

- Be able to tell you that Alzheimer's is a disease that affects the brain of some older adults.
- Understand that Alzheimer's disease is not contagious.
- Identify emotions they may feel and name people who can help them work through these emotions.
- Understand a person with Alzheimer's disease will act in unusual and sometimes frightening ways.
- Talk about some of the changes that may happen to someone with Alzheimer's disease.
- List an activity they can do with someone who has Alzheimer's disease.
- Realize all family members can contribute to the care of someone with Alzheimer's disease.

We wish to acknowledge the Alzheimer's Association—Montana Chapter and the Montana Geriatric Education Center at the University of Montana for their contributions to this program.

Your partners in Alzheimer's disease education,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jennifer Munter'.

**Jennifer Munter**

Rural Opioid Misuse Grant Project Manager  
MSU Extension, Family & Consumer Science  
E-mail: [jennifer.munter@montana.edu](mailto:jennifer.munter@montana.edu)  
Tel: 406-994-3088 Cell: 406-220-3620

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Marsha A. Goetting'.

**Marsha A. Goetting**, Ph.D., CFP®, CFCS  
Professor and Extension Family Economics  
Specialist

E-mail: [goetting@montana.edu](mailto:goetting@montana.edu)  
Voice: 406-994-5695 Fax: 406-994-4838

Montana State University,  
U.S. Department of  
Agriculture and Montana  
Counties Cooperating.  
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P.O. Box 172800  
Bozeman, MT 59717-2800  
<http://www.montana.edu/extensionecon/>

Tel (406) 994-3511  
Fax (406) 994-4838  
E-mail [khayes@montana.edu](mailto:khayes@montana.edu)