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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Families can Celebrate Children's Book Week with Educational Picture Book

Mt. Pleasant, S.C. (Nov. 3, 2006) – This Monday, Nov. 13, is the start of Children's Book Week, an annual event sponsored by the Children's Book Council (CBC) to encourage the enjoyment of reading for young people, and illustrator Kirsten Carlson's picture book is one way families can celebrate.

Carlson's first children's book, "The Giraffe Who Was Afraid of Heights," was released in June by Sylvan Dell Publishing. "Giraffe" was written by David A. Ufer and is modeled after "The Wizard of Oz." The picture book tells the story of a young giraffe who is afraid of heights and refuses to raise his head above the savannah's grasses. On his trip to the village doctor, the giraffe meets a monkey who is afraid of climbing trees and a hippopotamus who is afraid of water. When a life-threatening situation involving a crocodile emerges, it is up to the trio to overcome their fears and defend themselves.

"David wrote 'Giraffe' to show children that fear is a natural and healthy thing," explains Carlson, a Gig Harbor, Wash., resident, "and I made my illustrations as soothing as possible to create an environment children feel comfortable exploring their fears in, whether it's in their home or their classroom. And I think it's great that the book will teach children something new too—Sylvan Dell added an educational section with animal facts and adaptation information, a game and a mix-n-match activity."

In addition to that "For Creative Minds" section, Sylvan Dell's website also contains "Learning Links" and "Teaching Activities" that educators can use to develop classroom lessons and parents can use at home.

"Giraffe" has been vetted for scientific accuracy by educators at the Houston Zoo. The picture book is also part of the Accelerated Reader Program used in over 57,000 schools, and is on the Book Sense Autumn 2006 Children's Picks List.

Carlson decided to combine her love of science and art by becoming a scientific illustrator after earning a Masters degree in Marine Biology and traveling to Antarctica for a research expedition. Previously she worked at the Monterey Bay Aquarium as an exhibit graphic designer. Her second children's book, "Ocean Seasons," will be published by Sylvan Dell in May.



Sylvan Dell Publishing

Illustrated Children's Books

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Readers can ask for Sylvan Dell titles at their favorite local or online bookstore. For more information about “The Giraffe Who Was Afraid of Heights” or Sylvan Dell, visit www.SylvanDellPublishing.com or call Katherine Miller at (877) 958-2600. Those interested in learning more about Children’s Book Week and the Children’s Book Council can visit www.cbcbooks.org.