

## Common Reactions

- **Sad:** A child may feel sad when they see the changes that are happening in the person with Alzheimer's.
- **Curious:** A child may have a lot of questions about Alzheimer's.
- **Acceptance:** A child may start to accept the person with Alzheimer's and find new ways to interact with them.

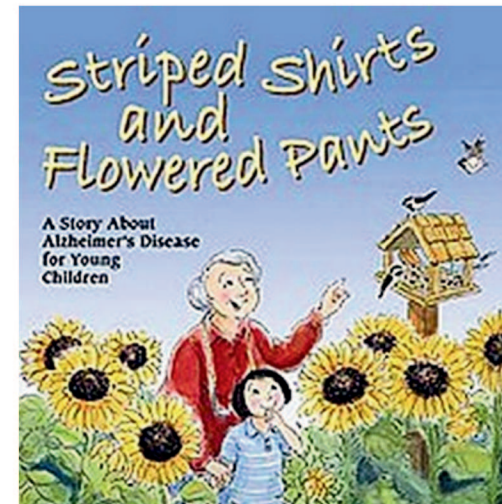
## Other Storybooks and Reading Guides

Other Storybooks and Reading Guides can be found at:

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



## Reading Guide for Striped Shirts and Flowered Pants



By Barbara Schnurbush  
Illustrated by Cary Pillo

## Alzheimer's Awareness for Children

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



National Extension Association  
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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.

The authors of the reading guides are:

- **Jennifer Munter**, Volunteer Program Coordinator. Jennifer is a former Early Childhood Educator and has worked with children and their families for over 15 years.
- **Marsha Goetting**, MSU Extension Family Economics Specialist
- **Keri Hayes**, MSU Extension Program Assistant

## Brief Summary

Libby is a young girl who is worried when she notices her Nana is having trouble reading and remembering things.

Libby's parents explain to her that Nana's brain isn't working right because she has Alzheimer's. By gaining knowledge about Alzheimer's, Libby begins to understand what is happening to her Nana.

With her family's love and reassurance Libby is able to find positive ways to interact with Nana. Libby continues doing all the activities she and Nana love doing together like planting flowers, feeding the birds, and wearing striped shirts and flowered pants together.

## Questions to Ask

- Libby noticed Nana having trouble remembering things. *What were some of the things Nana forgot?*
- After Libby witnessed some strange things Nana was doing. She asked her parents and they told her Nana was having trouble remembering things? *What are some strange things Nana did that showed she had signs of Alzheimer's dementia?*
- Sometimes Nana gets mad and Libby. *Who does Libby go to when her Nana gets mad at her for no reason?*
- There are many activities you can do with someone who has Alzheimer's dementia. *What were some of the activities Libby did with her nana?*

**See notes to parents at the back of book**

## Activity Enrichment

- **Catch and send:** If your whole family can play, have them form a circle. Each person in the circle represents a brain cell and together make a healthy brain. Start by rolling a ball back and forth across the circle to one another. Then begin placing barriers in the middle of the circle until no one can successfully roll the ball. After your family is done playing, explain that the ball represented messages or thoughts and the barriers were Alzheimer's. Ask your children how they felt when they could not get the ball rolled to their family member.