

Exton author pens book to help kids read

By Nancy Houtz
Special to the Village News

When school went back in session it meant one thing for kids — more reading.

For most students reading is a pleasurable activity, whether it's for a school assignment or just for fun.

For others, however, reading can be a grueling, stressful or even painful activity.

A book was published recently to help children who have trouble learning how to read. The book details an effective method for learning and teaching reading.

The book — "Easy Steps to Reading" — is directed to parents and teachers who are seeking an alternative approach to those currently used in classrooms.

The author, Karen Truncellito of Exton, a professional tutor and former classroom teacher certified in Pennsylvania, developed the program in response to the needs of children with learning disabilities.

"I have been using this method for 12 years. It all began after I tried this special approach with a boy who had a reading problem, and it worked," said Truncellito. "After a

few sessions he learned how to read. I have had a 100 percent success rate with this program."

Truncellito said her technique has proven successful with students from the age of four to adults. She has also worked with children who vary in ability from average to severely disabled.

"If I am aware of a child's disability early enough I can have them reading by first grade," said Truncellito. "I think this technique would be good for schools and parents to learn so they can teach their kids at home as well as in the schools."

The book offers a phonetic approach to reading, which is an easier approach for children who have trouble concentrating.

The program works by cutting the typical four-step process in half, which is beneficial for students with attention problems.

Instead of using the four-syllable approach frequently used by teachers, Truncellito turns the word inside out, and cuts the method into two steps.

She uses the word *stick* as an ex-

See **READING**, Page 2)

READING

(From Page 1)

ample, Truncellito said she will sound out the "i" sound and then adds the ending "-ck". Then students go back to the "st-" and add it to the "-ick", which sounds out *stick*.

"I feel this is honestly the easiest

way to go," says Truncellito. "I've researched a lot, and I've tried a lot. It works."