

de légèreté et non de déséquilibre (retour à la maison, p. 19). Cette variété dans les illustrations fera sûrement en sorte que des enfants ne sachant pas lire prendront plaisir à feuilleter ce livre.

Les personnages sont bien campés et pleins de fantaisie tout en étant réalistes. Le chien qui se promène de page en page est un personnage de soutien amusant. Les bêtes imaginaires qui habitent le monde inconnu entre la maison de Marc et le dépanneur sont tout à fait mignonnes. Les petits détails qui, dans plusieurs cas, ne peuvent être relevés que dans un deuxième temps font la base d'un bon travail et soutiennent bien l'ensemble du texte (par exemple: le chien déguisé en crocodile en page 14 ou l'araignée de la page 23). Bref, une conception pleine de fantaisie et d'imagination réalisée de façon très professionnelle. C'est à se demander si les illustrations ne surpassent pas le texte par moment...

Un seul point d'interrogation...pourquoi avoir en exergue la phrase suivante: "A tous les livreurs d'épicerie"? Quel rapport y a-t-il entre un petit garçon qui fait une course pour sa mère et un livreur d'épicerie Est-ce que c'est parce que tous les petits enfants qui réussissent à se rendre chez le dépanneur par eux-mêmes deviennent livreurs d'épicerie? A moins que l'auteur ait voulu nous dire que tous les livreurs d'épicerie ont eu à surmonter les mêmes peurs que le petit bonhomme de notre histoire. Allez chercher à savoir...A part cet exergue déroutant, ce livre saura intéresser les enfants de 2 à 6 ans pour qui s'adresse la collection **Coeur de pomme** dont il fait partie.

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ENCOURAGING PREDICTION AND PARTICIPATION

Alphonse knows...zero is not enough. H. Werner Zimmermann. Illus. author. Oxford University Press, 1990. Unpag., \$9.95 cloth. ISBN 0-19-540797-0; **Alphonse knows...twelve months make a year.** H. Werner Zimmermann. Illus. author. Oxford University Press, 1990. Unpag., \$9.95 cloth. ISBN 0-19-540798-9; **Apples, alligators and also alphabets.** Odette and Bruce Johnson. Oxford University Press, 1990. 32 pp., \$14.95 cloth. ISBN 0-19-540757-1.

Concept books are particularly useful when they teach in an amusing and entertaining way. The following three books do just that. Each holds a child's attention while encouraging observation, prediction and participation.

In the third "Alphonse knows..." concept book, counting to ten is introduced. *Zero is not enough* shows Alphonse and his friend the mouse getting ready to give out candy to Hallowe'en trick-or-treaters. Before the visitors arrive, Alphonse decides to count the candies to make sure he has enough. He uncon-

sciously eats the treats as well, leaving zero in the dish. As listening children begin to realize what is happening, they become actively involved in the story, spontaneously shouting out, "He's not going to have any left!" and "Don't eat any more!" This participation helps to reinforce the numbers being taught. All of the numbers to ten are presented in words and in symbols painted by the mouse. The illustrations are full of energy and enhance the text.

A more challenging concept for children is the months of the year. In *Alphonse knows...twelve months make a year*, we are at a New Year's Eve party with the two main characters. To keep mouse awake during the countdown to midnight, Alphonse reviews the previous twelve months in sequence. He links them to the seasons and to special events such as Valentine's Day and picnics. During October, Alphonse reminds mouse of how he ate all the Hallow'en candy. The link between this book and *Alphonse knows...zero is not enough* thrills children and causes them to nod with understanding. They feel as if they have access to some secret information, something just between themselves and the main characters.

Apples, alligators and also alphabets is a colourful, amusing book which teaches letters, their sounds and the alphabet. New vocabulary, such as quail, newt and elk is introduced. Each detailed, plasticine illustration contains several objects which begin with the upper and lower-case letter indicated. The text, however, mentions just a few of the items, such as "Dizzy dinosaurs and Dancing doctors." The children automatically search for the other objects which have the same beginning sound. Some are obvious, while others require more careful observation and thought.

All three of these books invite participation by the audience and this helps children to learn new concepts more readily.

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PREPARING FOR TROUBLE

Playing it safe: Home, summer, and winter street smart activities for children. Barbara and Doug Hall. Illus. Carl Pickering. Firefly, 1990. 96 pp., \$8.95 paper. ISBN 0-9206668-74-7; **Come sit by me.** Margaret Merrifield. Illus. Heather Collins. The Women's Press, 1990. 32 pp., \$6.95 paper. ISBN 0-88961-141-6.

One of the least pleasant tasks of modern