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## **Betina & Bailey's Facilitated Children's Stories™ Stimulate Imaginations and Enable Conversations with Early Readers**

### **Unique Learning Tool Allows Children to Create, Participate, Innovate**

**Santa Cruz, CA - October 31, 2009** - In today's world, children's school time, free time and activities are often overly structured. Pre-determined content and images stifle kids' resourcefulness, creativity and imagination. Increasingly, busy parents, educators and caregivers are challenged to provide engaging activities that teach and reinforce reading, learning and good social habits. And, at a time when school budgets are being slashed across the country, multi-purposed educational tools are more necessary than ever before.

Now available are the award-winning facilitated stories™ of Betina & Bailey's Adventures. Their unique open and tactile approach frees children from the restrictive stereotypical images all too common to learning tools and allows them to express themselves creatively and safely. Each Adventure Pack contains a Fun Book, Companion Guide and CD and retails for \$24.99.

First, children choose which character they want to be: Betina or Bailey. Then, using the open space in the art-pad style Fun Book, they're free to illustrate their shared adventure as they wish -- with words, pictures or nothing at all. The Companion Guide provides teachers, parents and mentors with thoughtful questions and clever activity suggestions that encourage dialogue, creativity and imaginative fun. And, so that children may enjoy countless adventures with Betina and Bailey, an included CD allows for easy reprinting of Fun Book pages. Through this creative process, children are able to develop vital social, communication and decision-making skills and progress from *learning* to *learned* readers.

"As an educator, I see so many benefits to the Betina & Bailey series, from the creativity and critical-thinking opportunities to reading comprehension skills," said Tamera Parks, California high school guidance counselor and former english teacher. "I haven't seen a better method for encouraging good reading practices than those found here."

While these stories were created to assist early readers in grades 2 and 3, they've proven to be extremely versatile and well-suited to various scenarios, including home schooling, tutoring programs, bilingual education and children with autism. "My 6-year-old son, Justin, is on the spectrum of autism," says mother, Lyna Le. "Your story's format gives Justin, and others like him, the opportunity to connect with the story, engage in the process, and to express themselves."

Betina & Bailey's Facilitated Children's Stories™ meet all states' education standards for Language Arts. They received Honorable Mention awards at both the 2007 London and 2008 New England Book Festivals.

### **About the Author**

Ruth A. Pavilonis is a career writer and world-traveler with a lifelong passion for children's stories. She is a member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators and is available for appearances and book signings.

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