

Children's Book Review

Squirrel tale; kids' resumes

Chirpee is a happy little squirrel who appreciates his owners providing him with a feedbox. But he battles the birds for his food. When a tiny squirrel from across the river appears, Chirpee is glad to share with Susie. Chirpee and Susie name their baby squirrel, Snuffy.

On snowy days Chirpee talks to the vole and watches out for the owl at night. He is pleased that the woodpecker is finding his own food instead of being a camp-robber.

In spite of a text that suddenly changes point of view, children will enjoy the Chirpee story. Alice Gates wrote this true story after observing Chirpee playing and talking with his friends in her yard. She has dedicated it to her husband, Joseph Gates, Jr. At 84, she now lives at Harbor Place, an assisted living facility. She is justifiably proud of having sold 1550 Chirpee The Squirrel books on her own.

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Why would a child need a resume? Kris Manley is very convincing when she encourages parents to celebrate their children's accomplishments, as mundane and ordinary as they



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may seem to adults. Yet kids are on their way if someone validates their abilities. A resume should list hobbies, computer knowledge and skills, participation in special programs at school such as drama, band, or choir. A spelling bee, sports, and summer camp are the "work world" for young people.

Eight-year-old Deborah was struggling with her own weight and began walking with her mom. She distributed flyers and persuaded 25 children to join their Saturday mornings walks plus two evenings a week. Seven children lost ten pounds and kept it-off. With before and after pictures she was interviewed on a radio program.

Origami was a hobby that 10-year-old Wendy turned into income. She displayed her creations at an art fair and the orders began to pour in for

Chirpee The Squirrel

By Alice Gates
Fairbanks, Alaska.
Graphic North
Publishers. 2000.
Paperback. \$9.95.
ISBN 0-97259990-0-8

Resumes for Children: 17 Years Old and Under

By Donna Kristine Manley
Conyers, GA. Christiana
Press. 2006. Paperback. 100
Pages. ISBN 0-9777835-0-2

birthday party decorations and favors.

Manley has given the reader several sample cover letters to use to promote trip sponsors, volunteer activities, and competitions. The back of the book offers worksheets to write their reflections, ideas, and resources.

She suggests that a parent can create a road map that will give their child that edge to succeed and become a well-rounded individual.