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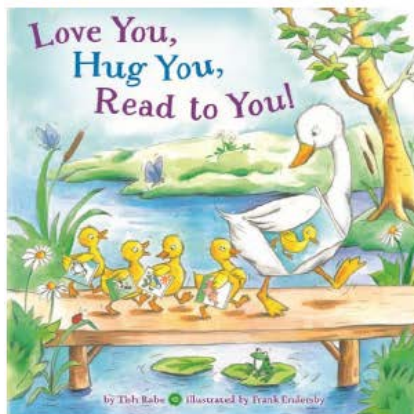
January, 2016

My Newest Children's Books- Risky but Worth It!

By Tish Rabe

One cool day a few years ago, I was lucky enough to meet Christine Garber, the Executive Director of Reach Out and Read Connecticut. Reach Out and Read is a national non-profit organization that gives free books to low income children at their pediatricians' office visits where doctors "prescribe" reading to your child twenty minutes a day. Christine told me they had a creative challenge: they were handing out books to caregivers to read to their children and many of the caregivers struggled with reading themselves. They also needed sturdy board books as they begin giving books to children at six months old.

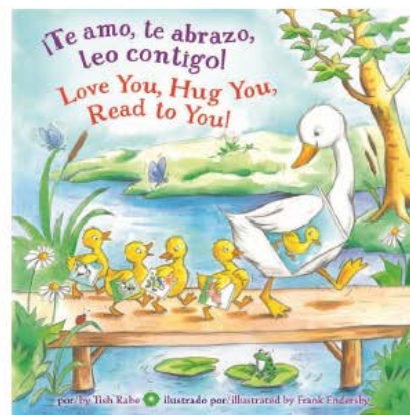
For years, I'd wanted to write books that included simple questions like "What is the little kitten thinking?" because studies have proven that interacting with books helps children learn to read faster than if they just sit and listen to the stories.



So I put together my own publishing company, wrote a simple, rhyming text *Love You, Hug You, Read to You!* and added the inter-

active questions. I hired Publishing Consultant David Wilk who sourced a printer, distributor and warehouse and hired a copyeditor, illustrator and book designer.

I was soon asked to create a bilingual Spanish/English version *Te amo, te abrazo, leo contigo!* On a whim, I sent both books to Penguin Random House and they immediately wanted to acquire the rights. The books hit Amazon on Dec. 22, 2015.



I took a chance and it was risky, but in my heart I knew if the books were successful and would help children learn to read, it would all be worth it. I'd do it again in a heartbeat.

To help a needy child get a free book go to Reachoutandread.org/CT or to learn more about Tish visit www.tishrabe.com