

MRS. PIGGLE WIGGLE

by

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Do you know a child who hates to take a bath? Or does not like to make her bed? Perhaps you know a child who never wants to go to bed at night? Never fear - Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle is here! Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle is a dear old woman with a hump on her back and knee-length hair that she does not mind at all having brushed and styled by little girls who want to play hairdresser. She lives in a house that is built upside down. Her late husband was a pirate and it is rumored that he buried his treasure in the backyard. Any day of the week Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle's house is full of busy children digging for treasure in the garden, baking cookies in the kitchen, or building a car out of orange crates in the backyard. Not only does Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle have a knack for making work fun, she also knows that there are jobs that children would love to do, even though they are not ready to do them very well. That is why she lets them paint and iron and cook and do carpentry. No wonder children love Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle!

Children aren't the only ones who love her. Their parents have discovered that Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle has an amazing array of "cures" for bad habits children very often struggle with. It all began when Hubert Prentiss wouldn't pick up his toys. Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle was able to help his mother correct this problem and soon other mothers were calling about their children's fighting or answering back or being slow-eaters. Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle can always be counted on to have an inventive cure that is guaranteed to work.

There are several books in this series that will delight your children. As you read them together, take the time to discuss the problems and cures. Although Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle's cures are unusual, they may help your family identify problems and come up with your own "cures" that will really work.

Suggested Activities:

1. Review Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle's cures. Some are realistic, but some are not. Which ones do you think might work?
2. Discuss other bad habits children have. Can you think of some cures? It would be fun to make up a "Piggle-Wiggle" type cure and then a more realistic cure
3. Perhaps your family is just trying to learn a good habit. I read of a family once who trained each other to put their napkins in their laps by making a rule that anyone who forgot to do so had to go outside, put his napkin on his head and count out loud to twenty. This made for a few humorous episodes, especially at restaurants. Interview some other families and find out what techniques have worked for them.
4. Do you ever make up games to make your work more fun? Write about what you do or dictate it to your teacher.
5. Ask your parents what bad habits they have had to conquer. How did they do it? Was it hard?
6. Do you know anyone like Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle? Would you like to? Why or why not?
7. Read *Hello, Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle* or *Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle's Farm* to enjoy some more of her creative cures.