

EPISODE **50**

How Books Spark Easy Projects & Play

Guest: Jennifer Pepito

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Meet Jennifer Pepito



She is an author, speaker, and mama of seven. She lives on a mini-farm with her family in Northern California. Jennifer is the enthusiastic podcast host for [Wild + Free](#).

She is the creator of [The Peaceful Preschool](#), a training course for parents and an early learning curriculum that helps family build connection through simple activities.

She blogs at [Willow + Spring](#) and shares her photography at [Instagram](#).

In This Episode

Sarah and Jennifer talk about the real point of projects — connection. Jen shares simple ways to extend the stories we read with our children offering concrete examples that you can use to begin today. She also talks about her older children and the good things that homeschooling has brought their family.

The Listening Guide

Use this guide to skip to parts that most interest you, or listen to the entire podcast.

- 2:40 Meet Jennifer Pepito
- 4:50 Seeing the fruit of homeschooling
- 7:15 Changes in homeschooling philosophy through time
- 9:50 The special play that books can spark
- 11:00 Pinterest worthy projects
- 13:00 Wisdom from Andrew Pudewa
- 15:00 Making learning to read more active
- 16:40 What about co-ops?
- 20:20 How can you extend picture books?
- 24:15 Getting started with projects
- 38:40 Let the Kids Speak

Quotes and Questions

* **Projects that are worth it.**

“If my kids are having fun, that’s perfect; if I’m having fun connecting with them, even better. If it takes me hours to prepare for it and I have to be grumpy and ignore them the whole time, it’s totally not worth it..”

* **Releasing the pressure.**

“I think I just feel a lot less pressure. I think that I was trying earlier on to do the projects, and the art, and the narration, on top of all the curriculum and the worksheets.”

Do you have families in your community who have graduated children from their homeschools? Can you let their experiences calm some of your anxiety? In light of Jennifer’s experience, what can you take off your list to add a little margin into your learning days?

* **Starting a co-op.**

“I don’t think co-ops are hard to start, and I don’t think they have to cost a lot. I really believe that every family could find a few friends who wanted to learn with them.”

The dreaded socialization question is often worries homeschoolers. Haystack Full of Needles by Alice Gunther is an excellent resource on creating a learning community for our children.

You’ll find great examples and helpful tips for starting simple co-ops just like Jennifer suggests.

* **Finding connection.**

“What projects do, is it gives us a starting point for connection, something that we’re doing together.”

This connection is at the heart of building a family culture around books. We can share the stories and then continue the play in simple, approachable ways.

Show Notes

Books from today's episode:

- [Bountiful Homeschooling on a Budget](#)
- [The Charlotte Mason Companion](#)
- [Konos Curriculum](#)
- [A Time to Keep by Tasha Tudor](#)
- [Little House on the Prairie](#)
- [On to Oregon](#)
- [The Fire Trolls](#)
- [Hold On to Your Kids](#)
- [How to Make an Apple Pie and See the World](#)
- [A Tree is Nice](#)
- [Look What I Did with a Leaf](#)
- [Stone Soup](#)
- [Little House in the Big Woods](#)
- [Freight Train](#)
- [The Read-Aloud Handbook](#)
- [Little Men](#)

Other links from today's show:

- A new master class, Homeschooling the Early Years with Purpose, Passion, and Peace starts Sept. 12. Head to ReadAloudRevival.com for more information and to see our calendar of upcoming events!
- Jennifer's blog [Willow + Spring](#)

READ-ALOUD REVIVAL

Cheat Sheet Episode 50

- [Wild + Free](#)
- [RAR #01 Reading Aloud to older Kids, Andrew Pudewa](#)
- [Reading Without Tears](#) (Jennifer's post about teaching an active child to read)
- [Explode the Code](#)
- [The Peaceful Preschool](#)
- [Five in a Row](#)
- [Signing Time](#)
- [Little Bear](#)
- [Scholastic Storybook DVDs](#)
- [RAR #43 Raising Kids Who Read, Daniel Willingham](#)
- Jennifer on [Instagram](#)
- The [RAR Booklist](#)

To find more resources to help you build your family culture around books, visit ReadAloudRevival.com.