



TOT TALK



Since more than a thousand new books are published for children each year, New Bern parents may be in a quandary when making a choice for their own small fry.

Experts suggest several rules to go by. Who is the author, what else has he or she written, and what are the author's qualifications? What is the purpose of the book? Is it inspirational, informational, or practical? How well does the book fulfill this purpose?

What is the subject of the book? Is it within your child's comprehension? Is it true to life? How does it compare with other books on the same subject? Do children like it? Do the characters seem real?

Is the style of writing distinctive, commonplace, or grammatical? Is it involved or oversimplified? Is the format satisfactory in cover, binding, size, type, spacing and margins? Are the illustrations adequate in line, color and imagination? Do they supple-

ment the text?

If the book is other than fiction or poetry, is there an index and a bibliography? Has it lasting value because of content, style and format? The book you are considering buying probably won't have a perfect score in all these categories, but each should be evaluated.

It may surprise you, as it did us, to discover that very few books were written expressly for children prior to the past century. The few that were available weren't entertaining from a child's point of

view. They sought to teach youngsters what they should do and what they should believe.

Before you contradict us, remember that books like Robinson Crusoe, Gulliver's Travels and Rip Van Winkle were written for adults rather than juveniles. It turned out, of course, that they appealed to juveniles, but the authors didn't plan it that way.

Don't purchase just any book for your child. Consider the ones available, and select the best.

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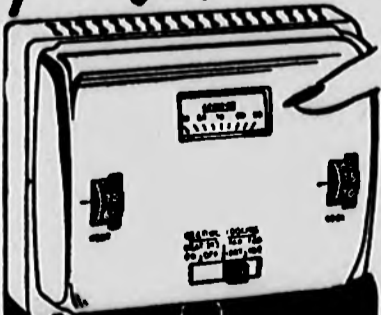
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Heathery pastels for Fall

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Right on the fashion "beat", these hep sweater-skirt combos in Fall's terrific new coordinates. Superb wool-nylon cardigan; in misses' sizes 34 to 40. Three skirt styles with which to make switch - about costumes: welt-seamed "A"-line; modified "A"-line with back-zip; belted modified "A"-line; sizes 8 to 18.