

## **Publishing for Children: Getting Out of Slushville!**

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- I.     **\*\*Have a clear vision of your goal.\*\***
  - A. Read! Read! Read! (Especially recent books to get a view of current market.)
  - B. Familiarize yourself with genres, authors, series, trends, and...kids. Visit libraries and bookstores.
  - C. Develop a vision of yourself as a writer.
  
- II.    Prepare yourself for your new career.
  - A. Write! Write! Write!
  - B. Research your new career.
  - C. Join a critique group and professional organizations like SCBWI.
  - D. Attend conferences, poetry readings, author talks.
  
- III.   Prepare your family for your new career.
  - A. This is not just a “cute hobby.” Think of yourself as a business. (Set your working hours.)
  - B. See your tax preparer. (Know what you can write off prior to and after getting published.)
  - C. Impress on your family the conditions of your new job. (No interruptions unless blood is drawn.)
  
- IV.    Submitting manuscripts.
  - A. Use an online tracking system.
  - B. Telephone publishing companies to double check names and receptivity for unsolicited submissions.
  - D. Submit simultaneously as much as you can.
  - E. Write withdrawal letters to other editors if manuscripts are accepted.
  - F. Have a number of stories circulating continuously.
  
- V.     Rejection.
  - A. Don't take it personally! Have another round of publishing houses selected.
  - B. Update your database and mail out again...if it does not need revision.
  - C. If more than one editor says something similar, revise first.
  - D. Read between the lines...if an editor says your story does not fit what they are looking for, can you make it fit? Then RESUBMIT—but only if you think you can now meet his/her needs.
  - E. Pull out all rejections for a story, study them, and regroup. See something you didn't see before?
  
- VI.    Develop “a working relationship” with an editor.
  - A. Try to provide something the editor is looking for; don't waste their time trying to sell them on your idea if you are unwilling to adapt to their needs.
  - B. Request permission to continue submitting even when “the unsolicited door” closes—esp. if you have already got a relationship going.
  - C. Monitor activities and take note when an editor you've been working with wins awards, gets promoted, etc.