Book reviews

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CARABOOSE THE TOOTH FAIRY MOOSE

L. Swanson
Lynn Swanson Books
price £8.43; pp 30
ISBN 9781466317338

Caraboose the tooth fairy moose introduces a new dimension to the magical world of the tooth fairy that will surely delight and excite children as they experience the loss of their deciduous teeth. With lively illustrations and whimsical rhyme this book would be a sensible addition to dental practice waiting rooms to put anxious children at ease before any dental appointment, although as a word of warning, its tedious length might put some children off their following visit.

The character Caraboose the moose is certainly not one you would imagine makes a likely substitute for delicate tooth fairies, who slip secretly under the pillows of sleeping children to gather milk teeth, but that is perhaps part of the story's comic charm, as this bulky moose takes over for the fairies when they are on holiday. Caraboose's enthusiasm for tooth collecting is evident and his warning against leaving baby teeth 'in wild bushes and thistles, in washers and dryers, in jars of green pickles' is one that should be heeded if fairy magic is to find its way back to gap-toothed children.

With his 'great moose dance' Caraboose is intended as an affable protagonist to enliven children's imagination and have them eagerly anticipating their next wobbly tooth. The sheer number and repetitive nature of the

verses, however, draws out the text unnecessarily and the poem loses momentum when it should be reaching its climax. Yet with no mention of financial profit from their trade with the tooth fairy this book may help children rediscover the magic of the experience rather than fall prey to the consumerist attitude of 'milking' wobbly teeth for an extra pound or two. These days there are even apps available to calculate the going rates for milk teeth and the BDA has had to issue a warning to children not to start wobbling their teeth early!

From an oral healthcare perspective the book does not promote healthy habits or stress the importance of caring for primary teeth, but that is not within its remit and *Caraboose the tooth fairy moose* should simply be taken as an attempt to breathe new life into the tooth fairy legend. However, the extent to which this is attained may depend on the length of the young reader's attention span.

L. Pacey

PAEDIATRIC DENTISTRY, 4TH EDITION

R. Welbury, M. S. Duggal,
M. T. Hosey (eds)
Oxford University Press
price £49.99; pp 416
ISBN 9780199574919

Treating children can be challenging for a variety of reasons and this textbook is aimed at guiding students and qualified practitioners through all aspects of paediatric dentistry. Written by a large team of specialists and now in its fourth edition, this highly

respected book has been thoroughly updated and refreshed to reflect current best practice in this demanding field.

The first portion of the textbook acts as a prelude to the 'hands-on' clinical portions. Thus, sections on history taking, examination, risk assessment, treatment planning, local anaesthesia and anxiety management are covered. The specific paediatric nuances of each of these subjects are clearly highlighted, such that these chapters are actually very useful and not simply just revision of standard topics.

There then follows sections on all aspects of conservative dentistry, from basic to more advanced, both for the primary and secondary dentitions. The underlying preventive philosophy of this book is especially evident within these chapters.

Comprehensive chapters covering periodontal diseases, dental trauma, anomalous tooth formation and eruption come thereafter, which are all very useful as this information can only be acquired by consulting many other separate specialist texts.

The final chapters cover orthodontic issues, oral pathology and surgery, general medicine as it relates to paediatric dentistry and finally child protection issues. This last section is a new addition to this fourth edition and is very welcome because such issues are now becoming increasingly important. The book is also lavishly illustrated with many quality photographs, diagrams and flow-charts that all help to reinforce the text and act as a useful revision aid.

The only slight criticism that can be applied to the book is that some inconsistencies exist between a few chapters.