



## Children's Author Biography with Publication Highlights

Working in a charming writing cottage built by her husband, Toni Buzzeo lives on 35 acres of a colonial farm in Buxton, Maine most of the year, but slips down to her sunny winter nest in Sarasota, Florida when the weather turns blustery at home. As a children's writer, Toni has published 19 picture books thus far, with four more currently under contract.

In 2013, Toni's *New York Times* best-selling book *One Cool Friend*, illustrated by David Small, won a Caldecott Honor. It also won the Maine Literary Award for Children's Books from the Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance in the same year. Since her first book, *The Sea Chest*, won a Maine Lupine Honor in 2003, Toni has received many other awards for her books, including a 2004-2005 Children's Gallery Award, also for *The Sea Chest*, and the 2012 Time of Wonder award for *Lighthouse Christmas*. Her books *Dawdle Duckling*, *Little Loon and Papa*, and *One Cool Friend* have been chosen by the Dolly Parton Imagination Library for international distribution to young children. *Just Like My Papa*, *Stay Close to Mama*, and *Dawdle Duckling* have all been Children's Book of the Month Club selections as well.

Toni also wears the hat of a seasoned educator. A former college and high school English teacher, Toni then became a practicing school librarian and was named the 1999 Maine Library Media Specialist of the Year. Although she no longer works in a school, she retains her librarian identity locally and in the broader educational community. In that hat, she has published eleven professional books and regularly publishes educational articles, Common Core curriculum based on children's literature, as well as teaching and promotional guides for children's books.

Toni holds degrees from the University of Michigan-Dearborn (B.A.), the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor (M.A.), and the University of Rhode Island (M.L.I.S.). She was the 2004 University of Michigan-Dearborn Alumnus of the Year.

Toni is also a well-known speaker. She speaks extensively in schools as well as at conferences and district and regional professional development trainings, both nationally and internationally.