**NEWS RELEASE**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Mother-in-law, daughter-in-law**

**co-authors tell kids,**

**“It’s okay to have more than one best friend!”**

What happens when two elementary school educators who are mother-in-law and daughter in-law, team up to write a book for young children about friends? What happens when they decide that it’s never too early to communicate a very important message to even the youngest children? The result of this teamwork is the new children’s board book, ***The Search For Your Best Furever Friend, An Animal Alphabet Adventure*** by Julie Snodgrass (formerly Martucci) and Anne Martucci with illustrations by Rob Peters.

This book leads children on a wonderful animal adventure through the alphabet! Colorful illustrations and delightful text capture the attention and imagination of all young learners! Most importantly, the book provides a good lesson for all young children…it’s possible to have many “best” friends!

 “We all have specific talents and traits that make us unique,” said co-author Julie Snodgrass. “Children will love the variety of animal ‘best friends’ in the book. This blessing of many friends enriches our lives and should be encouraged and celebrated.”

Children’s lives are becoming more complicated and stressful. With social media influences and environmental stressors, children can get confused about who their friends are. Parents and teachers can use this new book as a starting point for important discussions. This book is one that a child may recall when they are older and facing new concerns about their social circle. Who is my best friend? Can I have more than one best friend? Reading ***The Search for Your Best Furever Friend*** will remind them that, yes, life offers many best friends!

“This book has a message to children that implies the more the merrier. Even the youngest learners can understand how to be inclusive of others no matter their looks or personality,” said co-author Anne Martucci. “This book is for young children who are easily influenced and starting to make their own friends. A children’s book with a simple, yet direct message can influence behavior and communicate a better way for parents and teachers to handle an issue.”

**ABOUT THE AUTHORS:**

**Julie Snodgrass** is a native of Louisiana and has worked in education for over 15 years. She received bachelor’s and master’s degrees in Speech Pathology from the University of Arkansas and the University of Tennessee, respectively. Later, she was fortunate to be a stay-at-home mom while raising her five sons.  She has always recognized the importance of reading regularly with children and looks forward to doing the same with her grandchildren. Julie lives in Kansas City, Missouri, with her husband.

**Anne Martucci** was born and raised in Columbus, Ohio. She moved to Georgia to attend the University of Georgia for college and then earned a Master of Arts in Teaching at Mercer University. She has over eight years of teaching experience in elementary education. Anne currently lives in Atlanta with her husband, Danny, daughter, Mary Claire, and dog, Millie.

**ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR:**

**Rob Peters** is also a cartoonist and designer. He has a degree in Visual Communications from Judson University in Elgin, Illinois, and has worked as a cover artist, designer, and freelance artist. Rob has designed logos, book covers and dozens of children’s picture books. He lives with his wife and family in Topeka, Kansas.

Title: ***The Search For Your Best Furever Friend, An Animal Alphabet Adventure***

Age Range: 1-4 years

Grade Range: Pre-school-3rd

ISBN: 978-1-7323447-1-6

Price: US: $9.99 / Canada: $12.99

Page Count: 28, Board book

Genre: Children’s

**Available at bookstores, toy stores, children’s apparel boutiques, and other specialty retailers. Online retailers include Amazon (**[**www.amazon.com**](http://www.amazon.com)**), Walmart.com, and Barnes & Noble (bn.com).**

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**For more Information or to request an interview or review copy, please contact Molly Gore at mgore@ascendbooks.com or call 913-948-7635.**

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