

DR. SEUSS WILL GO TO FINLAND FOR ESL CHILDREN

Johanna Manninen, Early Childhood and Special Education

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Lucia Lu, Early Childhood and Special Education

As an exchanging student from Finland, I heard of Dr. Seuss in EDUC2120, and became interested in him. In 1956, Dr. Seuss (Ted Geisel) accepted the invitation from Houghton Mifflin Publishers to write a children's reading primer. In 1957, *The Cat in the Hat*, one of the world's most famous children's books was born. "The cat" met quite a bit of professional resistance, but *it* became a popular character in the school settings later. I enjoy reading Dr. Seuss' books and his writing style with the hilarious illustrations which make the readers laugh and make reading more interesting. The words he used in the books commonly exist in the children world, and are always repeated whenever possible and easy words come always first followed by larger ones. I am exploring how to include Dr. Seuss in the teaching of English, especially the phonemic awareness to the ESL children in Finland.