“My toddler son began asking me again and again to tell him the story of how I had installed a smoke detector. One morning, it struck me: If I could make him happy with that story, I could come up with other stories, and maybe other kids would like them, too,” says author Chris Barton.

Chris grew up eighty miles from Dallas, in the small town of Sulphur Springs, Texas. In elementary school, he wrote his first story: “The Ozzie Brothers Meet The Monsters,” based on movie-monster books he checked out from the library. He continued to write with his friends throughout high school. During college Chris studied history and joined the staff of the University of Texas newspaper, The Daily Texan, where he met his wife, who also wrote.

After school Chris worked as an editor and content analyst for Hoover’s, a database about companies, executives, and industries. In 1997 he stumbled across the New York Times obituary of Bob Switzer, who with his brother invented Day-Glo fluorescent colors. Fascinated by this story, Chris started researching the history of Day-Glo, and developed his first children’s book. Currently, Chris lives in Austin, with his wife, two sons, and a variety of animal friends. He is working on his next children’s book.

Books by Chris Barton

A discovery that made the world a brighter place.

The Day-Glo Brothers: The True Story of Bob and Joe Switzer’s Bright Ideas and Brand-New Colors is an illuminating account of two very different brothers – Bob, a studious planner and aspiring doctor, and Joe, who liked entertaining people with magic tricks. After an accident that confines Bob to the basement, the brothers come together to create a new kind of color, one that glows with an extra special intensity – Day Glo.