

Dennis-Yarmouth Title I

Volume 1, Issue viii

From the Title I Coordinator

April 2019

For those of you with 3rd graders, the mathematics portion of the MCAS will be given on May 14th and 15th. With that in mind, I thought I would give you a little brain teaser to work on problem-solving skills, measurement, and gathering and interpreting data.

Shannon is one of the greatest cookie bakers of all time.

Aside from such obvious ingredients as flour, butter and eggs, her true secret ingredient is water. Shannon says that her cookies must have exactly four ounces of water. To hold the water, she uses a jar that will contain, when full, exactly five ounces and a jar that, when full, will contain exactly three ounces. There are absolutely no markings on either jar other than their 5 oz. and 3 oz. labels. As stated earlier,

Shannon

REMINDER: ELA MCAS will be given April 3rd and 4th to third graders.



wants to have exactly four ounces of water to support her baking needs.

Please know that Shannon has access to all the water she may need by using the tap in the kitchen sink.

Also know that there are no other jars available to her. The problem is therefore, with all of this water available and only a five-ounce and a three ounce jar, how can Shannon be sure that she will have **exactly four ounces of water?**

Hint: This requires some thinking and using your head! Anyone interested in the answer, please check the newsletter next month!



As always, for further information, or answers to your questions, please contact me, Cookie Stewart at 508-778-7599 or stewartv@dy-regional.k12.ma.us Or at M E Small 440 Higgins Crowell Rd.

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Home & School

Working Together for School Success

CONNECTION®

April 2019

Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program

SHORT NOTES



D.E.A.R. Day

This April 12, celebrate Drop Everything and Read Day with a reading campout—or “camp-in.” Pitch a tent in the backyard, or let your youngster make a living room fort. Then, take turns reading aloud, read silently together, or do both. *Idea:* Encourage regular reading by making D.E.A.R. a monthly tradition.

DID YOU KNOW?

Spending time outdoors can build your child's observation skills. Play “I Spy” with clouds (“I spy a cloud that looks like a rabbit”) and see who else can spot it, too. Or take a walk with a magnifying glass, and have your youngster look closely at plants and animals.

Online homework

If your youngster does homework online, you may wonder how to support him. Just like with pencil-and-paper assignments, invite him to explain his homework to you, and ask to look over his finished work before he sends it. Also, make sure he closes tabs he's not using for assignments so he doesn't get distracted.

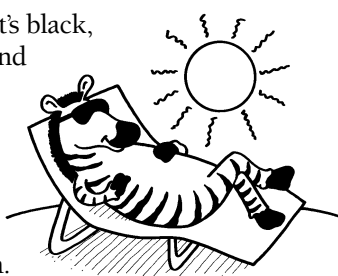
Worth quoting

“The shortest way to do many things is to do only one thing at a time.”
Richard Cecil

JUST FOR FUN

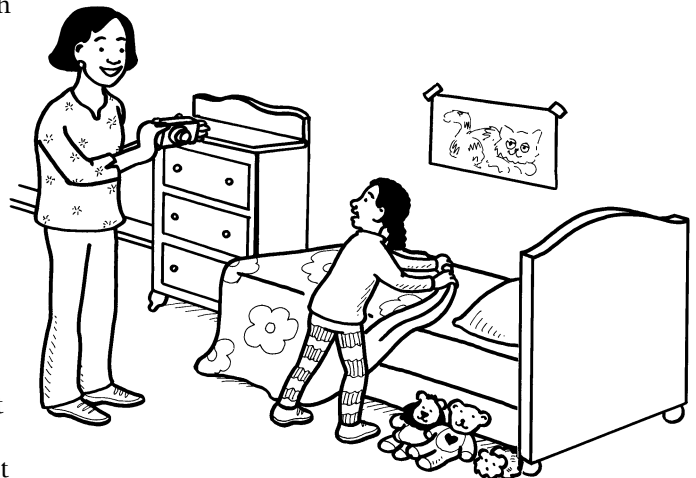
Q: What's black, white, and red all over?

A: A zebra with a sunburn.



Being responsible

Megan keeps up with her homework and is always ready for soccer practice on time. The reason? She has learned about responsibility from a young age. Consider these hands-on ways to help your youngster be responsible, too.



Part of the team

Show your child that everyone's responsibilities matter. Have her cut bookmark-sized strips of paper and write a family activity on one (eating dinner). On the others, she should write jobs that make it happen (plan the meal, buy groceries, cook, set the table). Now let her link the strips to make a chain. She'll see that dinner relies on everyone doing their job!

Around the clock

Help your youngster get in the habit of handling her responsibilities on time. Let her draw a clock on paper or poster board and add sticky notes labeled with

daily tasks. She might put “Homework” at 4 p.m. and “Walk the dog” at 7 p.m. Have her post the clock in a visible spot as a reminder.

Caught in the act

“Catch” your child being responsible, and tell her you noticed. (“That was responsible of you to throw away your trash.”) You could even snap photos of her responsible behavior (say, making her bed) and hang them on the refrigerator. Seeing the photos will inspire her to continue being responsible.♥

Review report cards

When your child's next report card arrives, use it to encourage him to finish the school year strong. Try these strategies for discussing it.

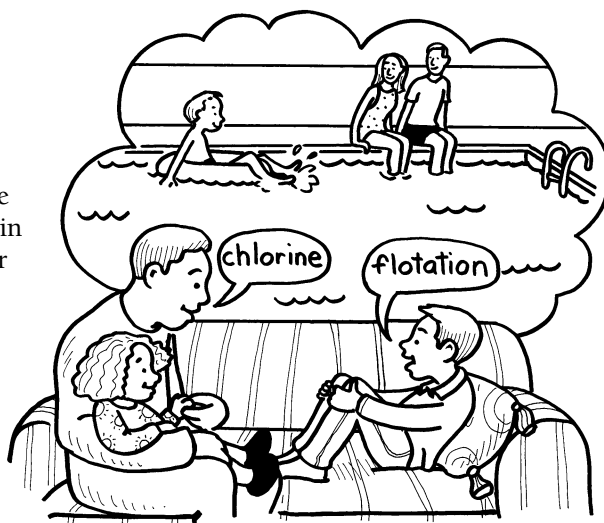
1. Give your youngster and his report card your full attention. For example, find a quiet spot, put away your phone, and turn off the TV.
2. Find reasons to high-five your child. Maybe he brought up his writing grade or the teacher commented on how well he gets along with classmates.
3. Talk about ways he could improve. If his math grade dropped, he might double-check work for careless errors. Or if he needs to be more organized, share strategies you use, like keeping office supplies in different-sized containers.♥



Build a rich vocabulary

Where will your child hear the word *stethoscope*? What synonym could he use for *hilarious*? Hearing and saying words in context is a good way for your youngster to learn and remember them. Consider these ideas to improve his vocabulary.

Match places with words. Ask your child to name a place in your community (*bakery, swimming pool*). Take turns saying a word you might hear or say there. When you run out



of familiar words (*doughnut, swim*), try to come up with less common ones (*aroma, chlorine*). The last person who thinks of a word picks the next location.

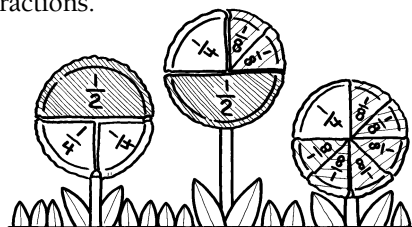
Use synonyms. Hold a conversation full of synonyms—words with similar meanings. Your youngster might say, “The *funniest* thing happened in the *cafeteria* today.” Then, go back and forth, replacing as many words as possible with synonyms. Examples: “What *hilarious* incident occurred in the

lunchroom?” or “I love it when *comical* events *transpire* in the *canteen*!” Tip: Keep a thesaurus or dictionary handy to find new synonyms.♥

ACTIVITY CORNER

Fraction flowers

Spring is in bloom—and so are these “flowers” that let your youngster explore fractions.



1. Have your child color three paper plates, each a different color.
2. She can use a ruler and marker to draw lines dividing the plates into fractions—one into halves, another into fourths, and the other into eighths.
3. Ask her to label each “petal” with its fraction ($\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{8}$) and cut the plates apart on the lines.
4. Now let your youngster see which fractions are *equivalent*—or represent the same parts of a whole—by creating flowers with different color petals. For example, if she glues a purple half and two orange fourths onto a new plate, that’s a whole flower ($\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4} = 1$).♥

PARENT TO PARENT

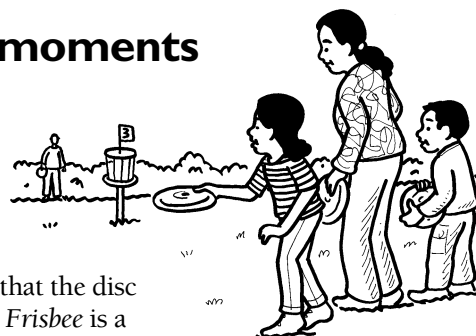
Teachable moments

During a recent game of disc golf at a local park, our family had some fun conversations—and I think my daughter Esme learned a lot, too.

It started when Esme said she was going to “toss the Frisbee.” I pointed out that the disc wasn’t actually a Frisbee! I explained that *Frisbee* is a brand name that people use generically. Soon we were naming all sorts of products like that, such as inline skates (*Rollerblades*) and ice pops (*Popsicles*).

Then, as we played, Esme asked why there were three different types of discs in the game. That led us to a conversation about engineering, as we examined the discs and talked about how their designs affect how far, fast, or straight they fly.

All this made me realize that simple family outings can be learning opportunities!♥

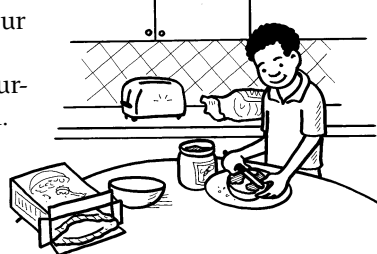


Q & A

Handling complaints

Q: My son has been complaining a lot lately, even about little things. For example, he’ll gripe if we’re out of his favorite cereal or his sister moves his backpack. How can I handle this?

A: Try acknowledging your son’s feelings in a calm, upbeat voice. Then, encourage him to find a solution. You might say, “I know you’re disappointed about your cereal. What could you eat instead?”



Resist the urge to say, “That’s nothing to complain about,” which can discourage him from expressing his feelings. Instead, brainstorm ways to “flip” his thinking. For instance, he could say, “I

have cereal every day, so it might be nice to eat something different.”

With practice, he’ll get out of the habit of complaining—and make life more pleasant for everyone.♥

OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

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Math+Science Connection

Beginning Edition

Building Excitement and Success for Young Children

April 2019

Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program



TOOLS & TIDBITS

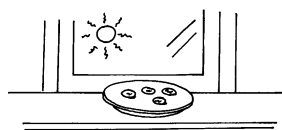
Number symmetry

Ask your child to write the number 808 and

lay a piece of yarn across the middle horizontally, then vertically. What does she notice? It's symmetrical—the top and bottom are mirror images of each other, and so are the left and right. Let her try other numbers and even objects (fireplace, window) to find more examples of symmetry.

Raisins in the sun

Your youngster can make a tasty treat with help from the sun! Have him rinse a few grapes, remove the stems,



and put them on a plate in a sunny window.

In a few days, the grapes will start to shrivel into raisins as the sun's heat causes the water inside to evaporate.

Web picks

Let your child "splat" fruit to solve addition and subtraction problems, pop balloons to learn about money, and try other fun games at sheppardsoftware.com/math.htm.

At nps.gov/webrangers, your youngster will "visit" the national parks to learn about forest fires, salmon, pumas, and more.

Just for fun

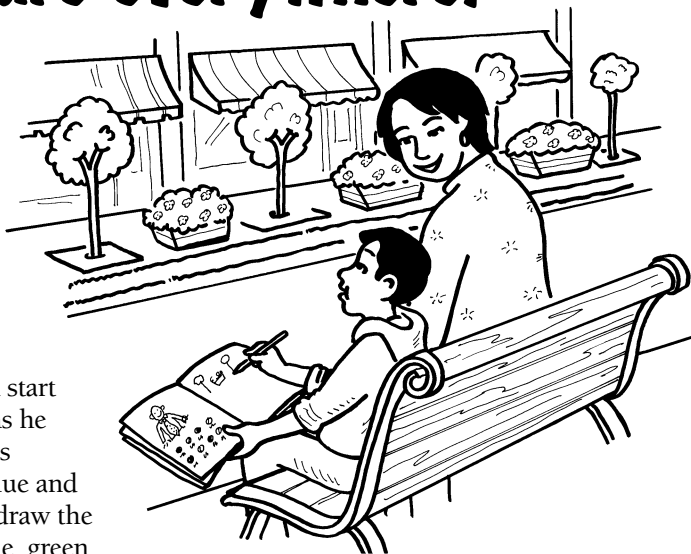
Q: What becomes smaller when it's standing on its head?

A: The number 9!



Patterns are everywhere!

Morning, noon, and night, patterns fill your youngster's world. Playing with them builds his math skills, since numbers follow patterns, too. Encourage him to find, follow, and make patterns with these ideas.



Keep a journal

Suggest that your child start a journal of all the patterns he sees in a week. Perhaps his teacher wears a tie with blue and green polka dots. He can draw the pattern in his journal (blue, green, blue, green) and label it with the day (Monday) and place (school). Invite him to show you his patterns and count how many he found.

Be a copycat

Try this game to help your youngster think logically about what's next in a pattern. Start with a silly movement pattern (hop, hop, waddle, hop, hop, waddle). Do it twice, then your child can copy you to find out what comes next (hop). Repeat the pattern until you both reach the other

side of the room or yard. Now follow a pattern he makes up.

Play with numbers

Your youngster can practice skip counting and make patterns with numbers. Take turns writing a number pattern with one blank. *Example:* 2, 4, __, 8. Or say the numbers aloud, clapping once for the missing number. The other person fills in the blank and explains the pattern. ("The number is 6, because the pattern is skip counting by 2s.")

I'm a rock collector

Big or small, shiny or dull... rocks make excellent specimens for your child to study and classify, just like a scientist does! Here's how.

Collecting.

Together, take a walk to gather rocks. Ask questions to help your youngster describe their *attributes*—color (gray, brown), texture (smooth, rough), size (big, medium, small), and shape (round, flat). Let her observe her rocks more closely through a magnifying glass. Perhaps she'll see lines, sparkles, dents, or holes.

Arranging. Suggest that your child sort her rocks according to color, texture, size, or shape. Then, she can stack several rocks from biggest to smallest and display her collection as a garden landmark (called a *cairn*).



What does the graph say?

The most. The least. Graphs tell us a lot about data through bars or pictures. With these activities, your child can create her own graphs to organize and compare data.

My graphing basket. Toys left out? Have your youngster gather them in a laundry basket and use them to make a 3-D graph. She should line up each type of toy (cars, blocks, dolls) evenly in a separate column. Ask questions to help her analyze the data in her graph. *Examples:* Which toy is there the most of? Are there more blocks or cars?



a magnet in the column of her choice. Your youngster could analyze the graph by counting and comparing the magnets. How many people picked movies? How many more chose books than games?

Question of the week. Let your child write a question (“What do you like to do on a rainy day?”) on a sheet of paper. Then, she could add options in separate columns: “Read books,” “Watch movies,” “Play board games.” She can post her survey on the refrigerator along with a few magnets. To answer, each family member or visitor puts

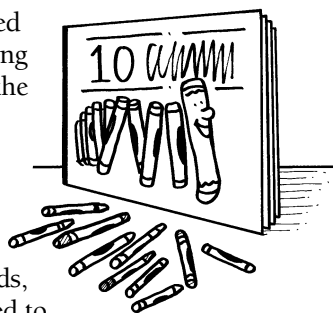
PARENT TO PARENT

Act out counting books

My son Lionel came home from school the other day excited about a counting book his class acted out during math time. The teacher read *The Crayons’ Book of Numbers* by Drew Daywalt, and the kids had to search the classroom for 10 missing crayons and count to be sure they found them all.

We decided to get counting books from the library and act them out at home. For a book about counting birds, Lionel wanted to go outside and count real birds as I read. Then as I read one on counting backward, he got five strawberries and ate one as we turned each page—until there were zero strawberries left.

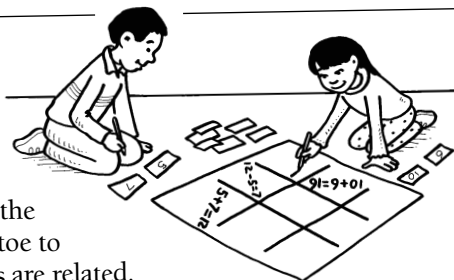
He’s having fun counting in different ways, and we’re both enjoying reading together.



MATH CORNER

Fact-tac-toe

How are $5 + 7 = 12$ and $12 - 5 = 7$ related? Along with $7 + 5 = 12$ and $12 - 7 = 5$, they make up a *fact family*, a group of math facts with the same numbers. Try this twist on tic-tac-toe to help your youngster learn how numbers are related.



1. Have your child draw a large tic-tac-toe board. Then she can number 10 slips of paper (1–10), mix them up, and spread them out facedown.
2. Each player takes two slips and writes the fact family that the numbers belong to. *Example:* If your youngster gets 6 and 10, her fact family is $6 + 10 = 16$, $10 + 6 = 16$, $16 - 10 = 6$, and $16 - 6 = 10$.
3. Play tic-tac-toe as usual, but instead of writing Xs and Os, each person fills in squares with any fact from her family. (Repeat a fact if you run out.) Get three of your “family members” in a row to win.
4. Play again with a new board and new slips.

SCIENCE LAB

Let’s make noise!

Your child will shake things up and learn how sound travels with this experiment.

You’ll need: measuring spoon, small food items with different textures (gummy snacks, dry beans, popcorn, bread cubes), small container with a lid

Here’s how: Which foods does your child think will make the most noise if he shakes them in the container? Ask him to line up the foods in the order he predicts, softest to loudest. He can test his predictions by measuring an equal amount

of each food into the container, one at a time, and shaking it.

What happens? Denser objects like gummies and beans make louder sounds when they collide, since their molecules are packed together tightly. Less dense, “airy” items, such as popcorn and bread cubes, create quieter sounds.

Why? Sound travels faster through the denser objects as they hit each other and the container. The faster sound travels, the higher the volume.



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BUILDING READERS®

How Families Can Help Children Get Ready to Read

Dennis-Yarmouth School District Title I
Virginia Stewart, Title I Coordinator

Three strategies will keep your family reading over the summer

Preschool may be finished for the year, but story time shouldn't be. Reading aloud to your child is as important now as ever. To make sure reading remains a family priority over the summer:

- 1. Schedule it.** If your days are less structured, commit to setting aside 20 minutes each morning or afternoon to read with your child. It'll show her that books are an essential part of everyday life.
- 2. Visit the library.** Write down the library's summer hours and schedule of children's activities. After all, the library is a cool place to hang out all year round.
- 3. Combine it with other activities.** If you are going to the pool, don't leave your child's books at home. Bring a few along, find a dry spot and read together. If the park is more your family's style, cool off in the shade with a book. Heading to a sibling's soccer game? Share a story on the sidelines.



Tame your preschooler's summer screen time habits

It can be challenging to keep your child entertained during the long days of summer. But don't hand him a digital device or turn on the TV at the first cry of "I'm bored!"



Instead, set a daily limit on screen time and fill the rest of your child's day with learning-rich activities, such as reading, coloring, singing and exploring the outdoors.

Save special books for rainy day reading

Don't let rainy weather dampen a summer day. Stash away some "rainy day" books, and break them out when the drops start to fall. Since your child sees these titles only occasionally, she'll think they're extra special.



Build excitement about kindergarten

Share the excitement of starting kindergarten by reading kindergarten-themed books with your child this summer. Look for books like these:

- ***Adventure Annie Goes to Kindergarten*** by Toni Buzzeo.
- ***Amanda Panda Quits Kindergarten*** by Candice Ransom.
- ***Countdown to Kindergarten*** by Alison McGhee.
- ***Elizabeth Grace Quadrapuss Goes to Kindergarten*** by Amy Parsons Meadows.
- ***The Night Before Kindergarten*** by Natasha Wing.
- ***Kindergarten Rocks!*** by Katie Davis.
- ***On the Way to Kindergarten*** by Virginia Kroll & Elizabeth Schlossberg.

Make travel time conversation time

Spending a lot of time in a bus, train or car this summer? Don't dread those hours—spend them talking with your child!

Not only are conversations great for passing the miles, they're also an ideal way for your child to practice language skills.

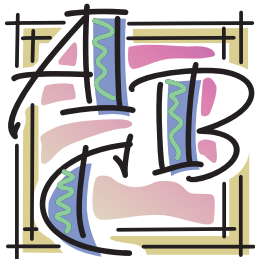
So get your child talking about everything from his favorite book to his silliest friend. You'll reach your destination before you know it.



Use your child's name to strengthen reading readiness

There is one word your child will hear, read and write every day throughout her life—her name. Why not use it to increase her reading readiness? Here's how:

- **Label household items** with your child's name—for example, her coat hook, toys and bedroom door.
- **Give your child a puzzling challenge.** Write her name on an index card, then cut the card into pieces, leaving one letter on each piece. Can she put them back together to make her name?
- **Write her name in creative ways.** For example, have your child write her name in sand with her fingers or shape the letters out of cookie dough.



Sing a song to teach letter recognition

Singing the Alphabet Song is a great way to teach your child the alphabet. But he also needs to be able to recognize the individual letters—and not just sing a catchy tune.

To reinforce his knowledge of specific letters, ask your child to choose a letter. Then, sing the song together and stop when you get to that letter. Try not to accidentally sing further!



Play fun games to boost vocabulary

Boost your preschooler's vocabulary with games, and he won't suspect he's "learning" at all. To strengthen his word smarts in some new ways, try playing:

- **Synonym Substitute.** Pick a word and see how many synonyms your child can find for it. Say something like, "It sure is *hot* today. What other words mean the same thing as *hot*?" Help him come up with a list of related words, such as *warm*, *fiery*, *toasty* and *burning*.
- **Rhyme Time.** Invent a simple rhyme such as, "The cat has a bat." Ask your child to think of other things the cat has. The only catch? The items must rhyme with *cat* and *bat*.



Books to delight your early reader

- ***Stop Snoring, Bernard!*** by Zachariah OHora. Bernard the otter loves to sleep. But the other otters do not love his loud snoring. So he tries to find a place he can fall asleep without hearing someone shout, "Stop snoring, Bernard!"
- ***Tiny Little Fly*** by Michael Rosen. A tiny little fly zooms past an elephant, a hippo and several other animals. All of the big animals try to catch him, but will the fly get away?
- ***The Boy Who Cried Ninja*** by Alex Latimer. When Tim's mom asks him what happened to the last slice of cake, he answers: "It was a ninja!"—and he's not lying! Will his parents ever believe him?



Q: My daughter is really nervous about starting kindergarten in the fall. How can I convince her that it will be fun?

A: It's normal for young children to be nervous about change. Calm your child's fears by familiarizing her with kindergarten before she gets there. If you can visit the school, check out the classroom, the library

and the playground.

When you get home, ask your child to draw pictures of what she saw. Spend a few minutes every day talking about the pictures and all the fun things your child will see and do in school.

Building Readers[®]

How Families Can Help Children Get Ready to Read

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Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

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Book Picks

Read-aloud favorites

■ *The Big Adventures of Tiny House* (Susan Schaefer Bernardo)

Tiny is a little house on a big journey. He travels across the country with his friend Big Truck, looking for a place to settle down. Along the way, he meets all kinds of houses and learns that home is anywhere, as long as you feel it in your heart.



■ *LOOK I'm a Scientist* (DK Publishing)

Just like a scientist, your child can ask questions and use

her five senses to make discoveries. The experiments in this

book call for everyday materials and include easy-to-follow directions for creating bubbles, making slime, learning about sound, and more.



■ *Calendar Mysteries: January Joker* (Ron Roy)

When seven-year-old Bradley Pinto's friends go missing, all the clues point to an alien abduction. But are those mysterious lights and footprints really caused by something from a UFO? Bradley will need to follow the clues to solve the mystery. Book One in the Calendar Mysteries series.

■ *Mapping Our World* (Sandy Phan)

This nonfiction book introduces your youngster to maps and globes. He'll begin by exploring map symbols and lines of longitude and latitude before moving on to fun facts about the seven continents. There's even an activity for inventing a new continent. (Also available in Spanish.)



Fluency: Bringing it all together

As your youngster learns to read, a main goal is for her to become fluent. Fluency happens when all the pieces click into place: recognizing many words instantly, reading smoothly and expressively, and understanding what she reads. Try these tips to help her read more fluently.

Build word recognition

The more words your child knows at first sight, the more fluently she'll read. Ask her teacher for a list of sight words (frequently used words), and play games with them. She could write them in a hopscotch grid to read as she hops. Or play cooperative "Scrabble." Place all the tiles faceup, and together, make a crossword of sight words.

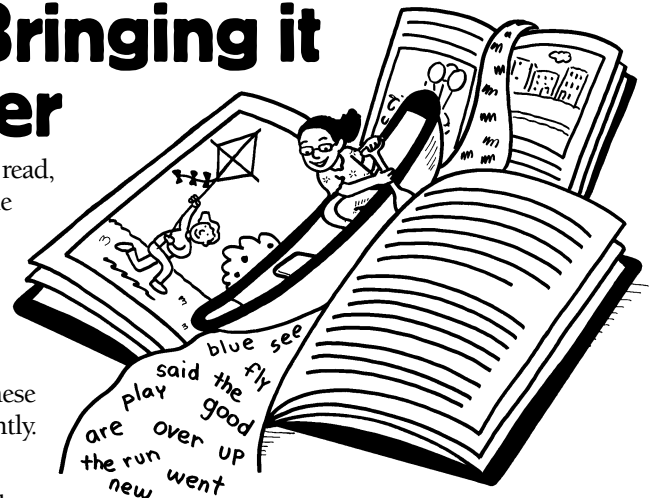
Practice with familiar books

Fluent reading sounds like normal speech—not too fast or too slow, but just right. To practice, let your youngster read books she knows well. She won't need to stop to figure out words, so she'll

be free to read at a comfortable pace and focus on the meaning of the story. Also, ask a librarian for books with a refrain—the same phrase repeats on each page.

Use punctuation "clues"

Encourage your child to think of punctuation marks as clues for reading with expression. Commas and periods tell her to pause slightly. For quotation marks, she might change her voice to show a character is speaking. Have her listen to an audiobook and follow along in the print version, noticing how the narrator uses the punctuation. Then, she can read the book to you.♥



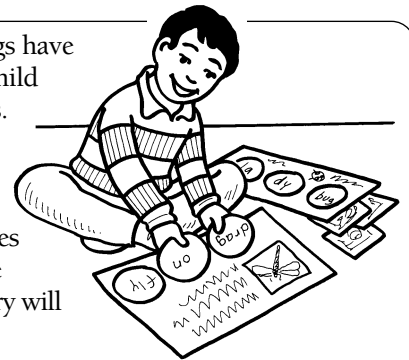
My sylla-bug book

Dragonfly, caterpillar, bumblebee... many bugs have long names. Making this cute book lets your child spell big words by breaking them into syllables.

1. Help your youngster list bug names (*grasshopper, ladybug, centipede*).

2. Let him trace around a soup can to make circles on colored paper and cut them out. He can write each syllable on a separate circle. *Tip:* A dictionary will show him how to break a word.

3. Mix them all up. Have your child glue the circles for each word back together onto separate sheets of paper. He could draw each bug and write about it. Now staple the pages into a book for him to read again and again.♥



Writing: Start with a plan

Before your youngster writes, making a kid-friendly graphic organizer helps him plan what he'll say. And looking at his plan while he writes will remind him of facts or details to mention. Suggest these clever ideas.

Rays of sunshine. To plan a report or story, your child could draw a big sun. He can write a report topic ("Hamsters") in



the center and then a fact on each ray ("Sleeps all day," "Stuffs cheeks with food," "Runs on a wheel"). Or before he writes a story, he might put his main idea in a sun ("Visited relatives") and a major plot event on each ray ("Rode a train," "Played with cousins," "Went to a fair").

Rungs on a ladder. If your youngster needs to write instructions or explain a scientific process, have him draw a ladder with a rung for

each step. "How to Pack a Suitcase" may include "Choose clothes," "Fold clothes," "Open suitcase," and "Put clothes inside." If he's describing how a seed becomes a plant, his rungs could say "Seed is planted," "Seed sprouts," "Leaves grow," and "Flowers bloom." Let him refer to his ladder to write a thorough explanation.♥



Spot the consonant combo

Here's a portable activity that will help your child learn consonant combinations like *bl* and *st*—an important part of sounding out words.



First, have her look through a book and choose words that start with two consonants (*dragon*, *twins*). Suggest that she draw columns on a sheet of paper, write one of the words at the top of each, and circle the beginning consonants.

Now let her take her paper when you go out. Together, try to spot words on signs that begin with the same combinations, and she can write them in the correct columns. Under *dragon*, she might write *drive*, *drilling*, and *drain*.

At home, help her read unfamiliar words. Then, she could count to see which combination she saw the most.♥



Parent to Parent

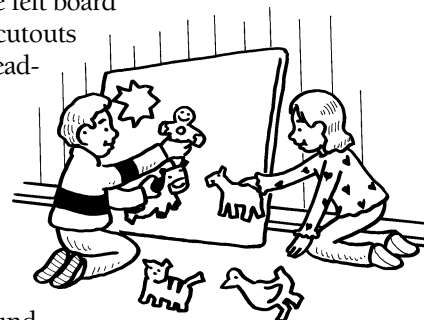
Make your own felt board

My son Antoine loves the felt board at school. The kids use felt cutouts to retell stories, which the teacher said boosts reading comprehension. So I decided to make a felt board for Antoine to play with at home.

I stapled felt to a big piece of cardboard. Then I gave my son smaller pieces of felt, and he used them to make the characters from *The Gingerbread Man*. He drew them with a marker, and I cut them out for him.

Antoine had fun moving the characters around on the board as he retold the story. I smiled when I heard him chanting, "Run, run, as fast as you can. You can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man!"

Now Antoine is eager to make more characters and retell other stories on his felt board.♥



Q&A

"Swap" to find new books

Q My daughter wants new books for her shelf, but we're on a tight budget. Any suggestions?

A Luckily, you don't need to spend money for your child to get new books.

Consider starting a book swap. Invite friends, relatives, and neighbors with older and younger children to gather at your home and trade books. Your daughter's outgrown books can be passed on to a

younger reader, and she could find ones that are just right for her now.

For another type of book swap, scout your area for Little Free Libraries. These cute mini-libraries let people exchange

books for free. Check littlefreelibrary.org, and click on "Map" to find ones near you. When your daughter takes a book, it's hers to keep. Just have her leave one in its place for someone else to enjoy!♥



OUR PURPOSE

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Resources for Educators,
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BUILDING READERS®

How Families Can Help Children Become Better Readers

Dennis-Yarmouth School District Title I
Virginia Stewart, Title I Coordinator

Summer reading programs can give your child's reading skills a boost

Have you looked into your library's summer reading program yet? In addition to being fun, these programs can help your child keep her reading skills sharp over the summer months. Typically, they also:

- **Offer exciting activities.** For example, kids may do art projects, form book clubs and meet authors.
- **Encourage the enjoyment** of all kinds of materials—from magazines to graphic novels and audiobooks.
- **Provide motivation** in a safe environment. Library events are wonderful opportunities to socialize with other readers, too.
- **Build good habits**, such as visiting the library often. And once a child enjoys summer reading events, she may want to come back all year long.



Promote reading with irresistible books

Summer is a great time for you and your child to read the same book—and have fun discussing it, too. But if you're worried that he will reject this idea, prepare in advance.

Let your child pick what you'll read from books with enticing elements, such as:

- **Humor.** Young readers giggle at pictures and wordplay. Older kids understand jokes that play out through dialogue and scenes.
- **Personality.** Look for main characters who are similar to your child in feelings and experiences.
- **Excitement.** Reluctant readers like short chapters with lots of action. Even the first paragraph should be fascinating!
- **Originality.** Sometimes a book's cover or illustrations can draw readers in. Stand-out topics (like "Gross bugs!") attract readers, too.

Read to stop the 'summer slide'

Studies have shown that children who read four to six books over the summer tend to avoid the "summer slide"—the loss of academic skills kids experience when they're not in school.



Encourage your child to read this summer, but don't make it seem like an assignment. Say, "It's summer, and you get to read what you choose! I'll even let you stay up late if a book is so good you can't put it down."

Pets make great listeners

If your child struggles with reading, he may feel self-conscious reading aloud. But it's important for him to practice so he can improve. A family pet can be a nonjudgmental audience that will make your child feel more at ease reading aloud. If you don't have a pet, encourage him to read to a stuffed animal instead!



Your child can organize thoughts with a KWL chart

Before your child begins a reading assignment for school, encourage her to make a KWL chart. Divide a piece of paper into three columns, and then have her write what she:

- **Knows.** She should briefly preview the material. What does she already know about the topic?
- **Wants to know.** What questions does she have?
- **Learned.** When she finishes reading, have her jot down what she learned.



Expand thinking with Alphabet Words

Alphabet Words is an engaging game that can help your child build cognitive skills. To play:

- 1. Create the game board.** Have your child draw a line down the center of a sheet of paper and write the letters A through M down the left side, and N through Z down the right.
- 2. Pick a theme,** such as *food* or *animals*.
- 3. Have your child write one word** next to each letter on the game board. Each word must match the theme and begin with that letter—*apple* for A, *bagel* for B, etc.
- 4. Give your child hints** for possible words if she gets stuck. For the letter *I*, you might say, “I’m thinking of something sweet that is on a cake (*icing*).”
- 5. Tally up the number of words** your child has on the game board. Can she beat her score next time you play?



Start planning now for summer reading

Develop a summer reading plan to keep your child engaged in reading. Here are a few ideas to help you get started:

- **Stock your home** with a variety of reading materials linked to your child’s interests. Ask the librarian for recommendations.
- **Make a list of new places** for your child to read—at the park, in the bathtub, at his brother’s soccer game.
- **Combine reading and food.** Plan to serve a meal related to the theme of a book. Or, go on a reading picnic.
- **Involve your child’s friends.** Help him plan a reading party or a book swap.



Q: I want to help my child think about what she reads. How can I do this?

A: Helping your child think about reading materials helps her understand them. Try asking her questions such as, “What happened in the beginning of the story? The middle? The end?” “Why do you think the author wrote this book?” “What did you like or dislike about it and why?” “Can you teach me something you learned from the book?”

Erase reading excuses

- **“I don’t have time.”** Rearrange your child’s schedule to include time for reading.
- **“It’s too hard.”** Ask the teacher to help you find books written at your child’s reading level.
- **“It’s no fun.”** Extend your child’s positive reading experiences. For example, if he enjoyed a book about dinosaurs, follow up with a visit to a museum.

For lower elementary readers:

- **Jasper John Dooley: Star of the Week** by Caroline Adderson. It’s Jasper’s week to shine—but nothing is going according to plan. Will he be able to get back on track with the help of his family and friends?
- **Waiting Is Not Easy** by Mo Willems. Piggie tells Gerald he has a big, special surprise for them to share—and Gerald just cannot wait!



For upper elementary readers:

- **Fortunately, the Milk** by Neil Gaiman. A quick errand to get milk turns into an unforgettable adventure filled with aliens, time travel and more!
- **Pie** by Sarah Weeks. Alice’s aunt died and left a secret (and popular) pie crust recipe to her cat. She also left her cat to Alice. Now the town is going pie crazy!

Building Readers®

How Families Can Help Children Become Better Readers

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Reading Connection

Working Together for Learning Success

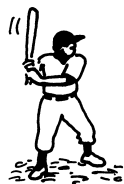
April 2019

Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program

Book Picks

■ *We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball* (Kadir Nelson)

In 1920, Negro League Baseball formed when African American players were not allowed on major league teams. Narrated by a fictional baseball player, this true story shows readers what life was like for players who faced discrimination daily but showed up to do the thing they loved: play baseball.



■ *Annie's Life in Lists* (Kristin Mahoney)

Annie makes lists of everything in her life, from what she sees in the mirror to why she gets quiet or feels nervous. When her family moves, she must overcome her shyness to make friends. Follow along in this story written entirely in lists, and see how Annie adjusts to living in her new town.



■ *The Word Snoop* (Ursula Dubosarsky)

Why is the *k* in knight silent? How did American English develop? Turn your child into a word lover with this entertaining look at language. Chapters cover punctuation, word origins, acronyms, word plays, and more. Solve a puzzle or code at the end of each section to spell out a secret message.



■ *The Bad Guys* (Aaron Blabey)

A shark, a piranha, a snake, and a wolf go on a high-stakes adventure to prove they're "good guys." This first book in the hilarious graphic novel series tells how the group tries to do good deeds, like freeing dogs from a pound, to save their reputations. (Also available in Spanish.)

Write to communicate

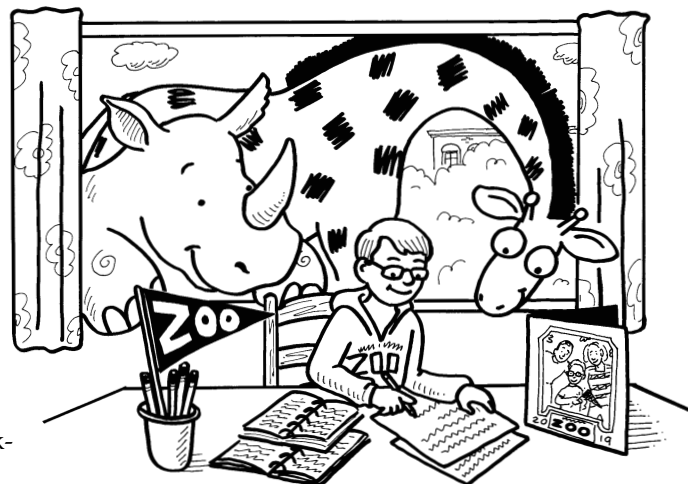
What do emails, newsletters, and thank-you notes have in common? They all give your child every-day reasons to write. Show him how writing can be easy, fun—and useful.

A click away

Become email buddies with your youngster. You might write reminders ("Mom is picking you up Tuesday after school for your orthodontist appointment"), discuss plans ("What should we do on Saturday?"), or ask about school ("What words were on the vocabulary quiz?"). Your child will get practical writing experience as he responds.

Extra, extra!

Put your youngster in charge of writing a family newsletter, and he'll practice taking notes and writing nonfiction accounts. Give him a notebook to track things that happen (a trip to the zoo, birthday parties, books read). At the end of the month, he



could use his notes to write a newsletter to send to relatives.

Thanks again

Make thank-you notes a part of daily life. Keep a stack of index cards handy so your child can write quick messages to family members. ("Thanks for helping me clean my room. The job went a lot faster.") Let him use cards to write longer notes when he gets gifts. He'll work on writing—and also learn to show appreciation to others. ■

Be an inventor

Does your youngster have an idea for an invention? Maybe she wants to walk dogs in the rain without anyone getting wet, or she wants to keep her markers from drying out. Encourage her to read about inventions and then write about her own:

- Together, look for nonfiction books on inventors (try *The Kids' Invention Book* by Arlene Erlbach or *Brainstorm!* by Tom Tucker). She'll read about clever ideas like an edible pet-food spoon invented by a six-year-old girl.
- Suggest that your child write about a product she'd like to invent. She can start with a problem (dogs and dog walkers getting wet in the rain). Then, she could draw and describe a gadget to help (mini doggy umbrellas and a hands-free umbrella for the dog walker). ■



Learning with poetry

Poems can tickle your child's funny bone, stretch her imagination, and improve her reading comprehension. Find poems online or check out poetry books from the library, and enjoy these activities together.

1. Take turns reading verses of a rhyming poem that tells a story, such as "The Swing" by Robert Louis Stevenson. Poems that rhyme will help your youngster read smoothly and with expression. *Tip:* Try having her clap the rhythm as she reads ("How do you like to go up in a swing...").

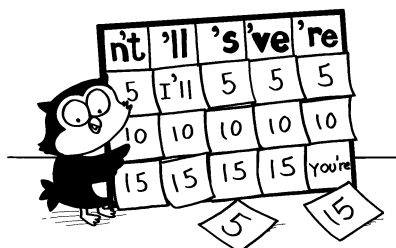


2. Poems often contain imagery, or words and phrases that paint pictures for readers. Suggest that your child read a poem carefully and then illustrate it. For instance, after reading "Where the Sidewalk Ends" by Shel Silverstein, she might draw a bright red sun, swirls of wind striped like peppermint, and flowers growing from the pavement. Drawing what is happening will help her understand and enjoy poems. 📖

Fun with Words

And the answer is...

This Jeopardy-like game helps your child learn contractions.



Have him make a Jeopardy game board with five columns and four rows. In the top row, he should write *n't*, *ll*, *s*, *ve*, and *re*. In the rows under each heading, he can write three contractions using that ending. For *n't*, he could write *didn't*, *can't*, and *won't*. Then, ask him to label sticky notes with point values (5, 10, 15) and put one over each contraction.

Players take turns selecting a category and a box. *Example:* Lift up the "5" note under *ve* and find *we've*. Answer with a question. ("What is 'we have?') If you're correct, score 5 points and continue. If not, the next person picks a new box.

Play until all the clues have been used, and tally the scores. 📊

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Q&A

Online fact checking

Q My son believes everything he reads online. How can I help him figure out what's really true?

A Recognizing inaccurate information online can be a challenge for anyone. Encourage your son to ask himself a few questions.

How current is the information? Remind him to look for the date an article was posted or updated. (It's often at the bottom of the main page.) In today's fast-paced world, the date should be pretty recent. If it "feels old," it probably is.

Who published it? Anyone can post online. Encourage your child to look for reliable sources, such as universities or government agencies on websites that end in *.gov* or *.edu*. Your child can search online for the writer's or the organization's name to find out more. If no author is listed, suggest that he look elsewhere.

What do other sites say? If three or more reputable sites contain the same fact, it's more likely to be true. 📖



Parent 2 Parent

My own résumé

When my husband was recently looking for a new job, our daughter Mary became curious about his résumé. We explained to her that a résumé is a summary of a person's job history and skills. Then, we challenged her to write her own.

Mary listed clubs, sports, and classroom projects she had been involved in as well as "jobs" she has held. She included the skills and new knowledge she had

gained from each one. For instance, taking care of our neighbor's goldfish taught her responsibility for living things and keeping a schedule. As secretary of her school's student government, she learned to take minutes at meetings and give presentations.

When Mary finished her résumé, she was pleased with all her accomplishments. Plus, she had gotten some great writing practice! 📖



Recipes for Success

Practical Activities to Help Your Child Succeed

APRIL 2019

READING Mystery word reveal

What word will emerge from the envelope? Your youngster can build reading skills with this clever idea.

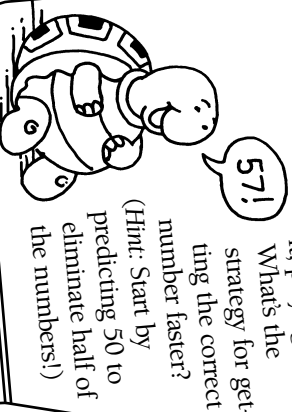
Ingredients: list of spelling words or sight words, index cards, pencil, scissors, envelope

Have your child write one word on each index card. Let her cut off one end of an envelope, then close her eyes while you put one card (say, *spring*) inside. Now she should open her eyes and slide the card through the slit to reveal one letter at a time. She can make the sound of each letter as



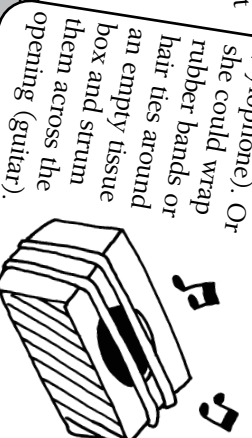
LOGIC

Secretly think of a number (1–100) for your youngster to figure out. Tell him whether each prediction is too high or too low. When he gets it, play again.



MUSIC

Help your child find household objects to turn into musical instruments. She might tap spoons against glasses containing different amounts of water (xylophone). Or she could wrap



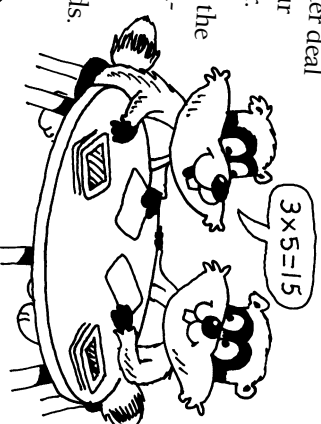
MATH Multiply for the win!

This two-player game makes learning multiplication facts fun for your child.

Ingredients: deck of cards with face cards and aces removed

Shuffle the cards, and have your youngster deal them evenly to the two of you. Stack your cards facedown, and flip the top one over. The player with the bigger number uses the

two cards to create a multiplication equation. So if you play a 3 and your child plays a 5, she would say, “3 x 5 = 15.” If her answer is correct, she keeps both cards. Collect the most cards to win.



HISTORY

Blast from the past

Historians use evidence to discover what happened in the past. Let your youngster pretend he's a historian with this activity.

Ingredients: family photographs and documents, paper, pencil Together, look through photo albums, baby books, school play programs, and even newspaper clippings that mention relatives.

What conclusions can your child draw about your family's past? Like a historian, he should look at details in photos and read materials carefully for dates, names, and places. For example, a photo of his great-grandfather singing with a band would suggest he was a local musician. He could make a family history “museum” by displaying the artifacts and adding signs with facts he discovered.



Refrigerator Poster

Just hang your *Recipes* poster on the refrigerator and sneak in an activity when you have a few minutes. These fun activities will help develop school success and positive behavior. Check off each box as you complete the “recipe.”

Recipes for Success

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APRIL 2019

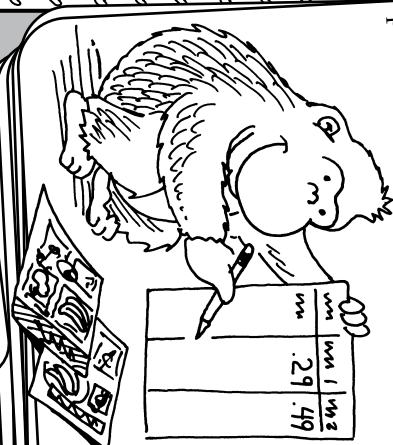
Character Corner

FINANCIAL LITERACY Comparison shopping

Show your child that you can save a lot of money by comparing prices. Here's how.

Ingredients: paper, pencil, grocery circulars

Ask your youngster to draw a chart with three columns labeled "Item," "Store #1," and "Store #2." Then, have him look online or browse circulars from two different grocery stores, list 10 items that both places advertise, and write the prices of each. For example, he might find bananas for 29 cents per pound at one store and 49 cents



Item	Store #1	Store #2
bananas	29	49

at another.

Time to compare! He could add the prices in each column to find the total cost for each store. Which one would save him the most money?

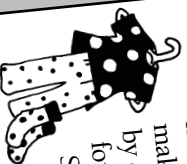
LANGUAGE

An idiom is a saying with a meaning that is different from the actual words. For instance, a "wild goose chase" refers to a waste of time, not to chasing geese. Together, think of more idioms like "raining cats and dogs" (raining heavily) or "piece of cake" (easy). How many can you come up with?



SORTING

Sorting is a good way for your child to practice math skills—and stay organized. Encourage her to sort her clothes in a way that makes sense to her. Sorting by color may make it easier for her to match outfits. Sorting tops by sleeve length can help her dress for the weather.



COMPASSION

Ask your youngster to help you gather household items to donate. She might suggest giving old towels to an animal rescue group or outgrown toys to a children's hospital. Together, box up the donations and deliver them.



GRIT

Grit can motivate your child to push through challenges. Share this fact: Dr. Seuss's first book was rejected by 27 publishers. What might have happened if Dr. Seuss hadn't had grit?



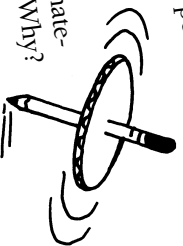
CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Let your youngster pick a topic to debate, like whether students should have homework every night. Pick sides and hold a debate. Encourage him to listen to your points and to back up his own. ("No, because kids need more time to play and be active.")



SCIENCE

Have your youngster experiment to make a longer-spinning top. She could cut same-size circles from paper, cardboard, and a paper plate. Then, she should poke a pencil through the center of each one, spin it, and time how long it will go. Which material works best? Why?



Congratulations!

We finished _____ activities together on this poster.

Signed (parent or adult family member)

Signed (child)

STORYTELLING

Together, tell an original story based on a fairy tale—perhaps *The Three Little Pigs* adding lines to the story. Your youngster will build creativity as he decides what kinds of homes the others will build and which animal they'll need to outsmart.

