

# TITLE I NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2020 VOL. 1 ISSUE 1

Welcome to our first issue of the Title I Newsletter. I am so sorry that this is late, but working from home, I discovered that my home computer is lacking some of the programs needed to create the newsletter, and I simply can not afford them. So, this one will look a bit different.

We are all trying hard to provide your youngsters with the best education possible under these Covid 19 restrictions. We have also discovered some absolutely fabulous parents, who have been helping us tirelessly in educating the children.

The first round of NWEA testing is underway, and much to my surprise, my youngsters are just where they should be at this time in the year! They are learning much better than I ever would have thought under these conditions, thanks in large part to the wonderful parents and their devotion to their children.



Children like to get into the holiday spirit of giving presents. Unfortunately, most of them do not have any money to purchase a “store bought” item. A gift coupon book of promises makes a great gift and best of all, it doesn’t cost anything.

#### Materials:

8 ½ by 11 heavy paper or cardboard for the cover

10 pieces of 8 ½ by 11 paper glue and a stapler

#### Method:

Cut the cover and paper into a large oval. Have the child draw his or her face on the cover.

Print the words “I promise” on a separate piece of paper and cut out in the shape of a cartoon dialogue bubble.

On each of the interior pages have the child draw a picture of a chore or activity that they will willingly do when asked. These become the “I promise” coupons. (Example: set the table, take care of a pet, dry the dishes, clear the table, make the bed, help with the laundry, sing a song or tell a story, write a thank you note, help put away groceries, give a parent a hug or kiss before going outside, help clean the car, etc.)

Glue the words “I Promise” onto the face picture and staple the packet

together.



If you have any questions, please contact me, Cookie Stewart at [stewartv@dy-regional.k12.ma.us](mailto:stewartv@dy-regional.k12.ma.us)

Or call me at 508-398-1638 and please leave a message, because if I am teaching I do not answer my phone. I will return you call the same day.

I wish you and yours a wonderful Holiday season. Please stay safe and wear a mask.



# BUILDING READERS®

How Families Can Help Children Become Better Readers

Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District  
Title 1

## Help your elementary schooler use six strategies to learn from reading

As your child progresses in school, she will need strong reading skills to excel in every subject. To help your child get the most out of what she reads, encourage her to:

- 1. Look through the text,** noting interesting details, illustrations and charts.
- 2. Summarize what she reads** using her own words.
- 3. Ask herself,** "What is the main idea of this passage?"
- 4. Review key words** and terms. She should pay attention to words that are in bold or italics.
- 5. Consider the purpose** of the reading. Why does your child think the author chose to write about this?
- 6. Wonder aloud.** Does a plot in a novel remind your child of a historical event she's learned about? What does your child think about what she learned?



## Review language with word games

It's much easier to remember grammar rules if you use them often. Playing word games with you is a fun way for your child to do this. Here are some examples:

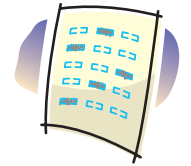
- **Take turns thinking of adjectives** that describe something, such as a rainy day. You might choose *wet*, *misty*, *damp* or *overcast*. How many can your child think of?
- **Use the pronouns** *I*, *me*, *we* and *us* in sentences. Have one person say a sentence, and the other guess if it's grammatically correct. For example, "My friends and *I* will go together" is correct. "My friends and *me* will go together" is not.
- **Define prefixes and suffixes** (the beginnings and ends of words). For example, the prefix *non* means "not," as in *nonstop*. The suffix *ful*, means "having," as in *healthful*.

## Practice reading before tests

To succeed on tests, children must comprehend what they read. Even math tests involve reading instructions and questions.

To help your child prepare for tests:

- **Boost reading skills** whenever possible. Read together daily. Introduce your child to new words.
- **Review schoolwork directions carefully.** What words are used often? Help your child practice following complex directions.



## Graphic organizers get to the point

Graphic organizers are diagrams that help kids think about what they read. Draw a large star with five points. Have your child write the title of a story he has read in the center. Then, in the points of the star, he can use information from the reading to answer *who*, *what*, *when*, *where* and *why*. He'll have a clearer picture of what he's read in no time!



## Make time to cook and read!

To get your child excited about reading, try cooking together. Appoint your child your kitchen helper and:

- **Take turns** reading a recipe aloud.
- **Have him make** a grocery list of the ingredients you need.
- **Cook and enjoy** the meal together. Then, read a book related to the type or style of food you made.



## Ask your child to be your family's 'reference librarian'

Give your child practice searching for and finding accurate information online. Make it fun by asking her a series of questions and challenging her to find the answers.

Get started with questions like these:

- **Who was the first astronaut** to walk on the moon? What else happened on that space mission?
- **What was the largest dinosaur** that ever lived? Where did it live?
- **What happens if people** don't get enough sleep?

Remember to adjust your questions to match your child's interests and ability. When your child finds the information you requested, say, "I'm impressed. Tell me where you found that information." Talk about ways to tell if a source is reliable.



## Build your child's vocabulary to boost reading comprehension

Having a large vocabulary helps children understand what they read. They don't have to stop reading to figure out a word's definition and they can focus on the meaning of the entire passage.

To boost vocabulary:

1. **Provide simple definitions.**  
When defining *curious*, say, "A *curious* person is eager to learn more."
2. **Give relatable examples.**  
"When that big box arrived in the mail, you were *curious* about what was inside."
3. **Ask your child** for examples.  
"Can you think of someone who was *curious*?" "
4. **Keep using the new word.**  
"I'm *curious* about countries in South America. Let's do some research."



**Q:** My third grader has always enjoyed reading, but lately she has begun to complain about books being "boring." What can I do to make sure she doesn't lose interest?

**A:** Your child may be bored because she is choosing books that are too easy. Many third graders can handle increasingly intricate story lines. Help her find books on topics that interest her and that include some challenging words. Ask your child's teacher for recommendations.

## Suggest graphic novels

Graphic novels offer more than just entertainment. Many address relevant and complex social issues. They cover diverse genres of literature, like mystery, fantasy and historical fiction.

Ask the teacher to suggest one your child might enjoy.



## For lower elementary readers:

- ***Pluto Visits Earth*** by Steve Metzger. When Pluto finds out that astronomers have renamed him a dwarf planet, he gets upset and travels to Earth to demand that he be a real planet again.
- ***Who Wants a Tortoise?*** by Dave Keane. What do you do when you want a puppy for your birthday—and get a tortoise instead?



## For upper elementary readers:

- ***Mr. Ferris and His Wheel*** by Kathryn Gibbs Davis. See the inspiration that led George Ferris to create the Ferris wheel, which amazed audiences at the 1893 World's Fair.
- ***Love, Amalia*** by Alma Flor Ada and Gabriel M. Zubizarreta. Amalia has a very special relationship with her Abuelita. Abuelita always knows the right thing to say and do, no matter what Amalia is feeling.

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# BUILDING READERS®

How Families Can Help Children Get Ready to Read

Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District  
Title 1

## Inspire your preschooler's love for books

Your preschooler has the best chance of being a strong reader if you focus on books as something to be loved, not necessarily something to be learned.

To encourage your child's desire to read:

- **Read together every day.** Your child will look forward to spending time with you and listening to new books and old favorites.
- **Write stories.** Children are creative storytellers, and your child will love reading a book he "wrote." Write down stories that he tells you and have him draw pictures to go along with them.
- **Show your own love of reading.** Make sure your child sees you reading regularly. When he sees you get wrapped up in a book, he may want to do the same.



*"I think of life as a good book. The further you get into it, the more it begins to make sense."*

—Harold Kushner

## Improve your little one's rhyming skills

Enhance your child's language skills by encouraging her to find rhymes wherever she can. Here are a few ways to get her rhyming all the time:

- **Point out common items in your home.** Choose things with simple names like *chair* and *hat*. Ask your child to name a few words that rhyme with each object.
- **Read familiar nursery rhymes together.** While reading, pause before a rhyming word comes up. See if your child can guess the word.
- **Play Rhyme Time when you're on the go.** Think of a word and challenge your child to think of another word that rhymes. This is a great game to play while doing chores or taking a walk.

## Songs can teach language skills

Songs aren't just fun to sing—they can also be important learning tools. Listening to music together is one more way to expose your child to words and language.



To help your child enjoy and learn from songs:

- **Move** to music.
- **Invent** silly lyrics together.
- **Share** some of your favorite songs from your childhood.

## It's time to celebrate reading

Want to have some family fun and nurture your child's language-learning skills? Start new holiday traditions this month:

- **Read** holiday books as a family.
- **Give** books as gifts.
- **Play** literacy games (such as letter and word hunts) during travel time.



## Review when to use 'me' and 'I'

Have you ever secretly wondered if you're giving the right advice when correcting your child's grammar when he says, "You and me went on a walk" instead of "You and I went on a walk"?

Double-check by taking "you and" out of the sentence. See how it sounds.

("Me went on a walk" or "I went on a walk.") Now you know "I" is the right choice in this case!



## Conversations strengthen language skills

The more kids talk and use language, the easier it is for them to learn to read. Open-ended questions (those that can't be answered with one word) are especially helpful for starting conversations.

To have more discussions with your child:

- **Narrate your day.** Let him hear you reflect on your activities. While making dinner, you might say, "I'm making my favorite salad. Tell me about your favorite foods."
- **Ask questions** while reading together, such as "What do you think will happen next?"
- **Give descriptions.** Mention what your child is doing: "That's a bright sun you're coloring. Tell me why you chose that color for your picture."
- **Affirm what your child says.** "Yes, it is getting cooler outside!" He'll see that what he has said is correct and relevant. Then he'll want to say more!



## Sock puppets add life to stories

Help your preschooler turn one of her favorite stories into a puppet show. Here's how:

- **Make a sock puppet** together. Help your child draw a face on the toe end of an old sock.
- **Have your child** retell the story and use the puppet to act it out.
- **Listen and cheer.** Say something like, "I love the way you acted out the character's emotions."



## Let family tales inspire your storytelling

Stumped about which kinds of stories to tell your child? Start in the most familiar place of all: your own family. Children love to hear tales about people they know—and especially about themselves.

To boost your storytelling:

- **Be confident.** Who cares if you're not a pro? Certainly not your child. Just be enthusiastic and engaged.
- **Think back.** What silly things have happened in your family's past? What do you remember from when you were a child? Use old photo albums for inspiration.
- **Make your child the star.** Young kids love recalling the crazy things they've done, so turn your child's happy exploits into a story.



## Books to delight your early reader

- ***The Biggest Snowman Ever*** by Steven Kroll (Cartwheel Books). When it's time for the town snowman contest, Clayton and Desmond each decide to enter. They soon realize that it's hard work building a snowman alone, and discover the value of teamwork.
- ***Yoo-Hoo, Ladybug!*** by Mem Fox (Beach Lane). "Yoo-hoo, Ladybug! Where are you?" Help your child build observation skills while searching for Ladybug in pictures full of colorful details.
- ***I Am Not a Copycat!*** by Ann Bonwill (Atheneum). Hugo the Hippo wants to be unique. But how can he be one-of-a-kind when Bella the bird keeps copying him?



**Q:** I haven't really pushed my child to read. But now that he's in preschool, is it time to buckle down?

**A:** Learning to read is a process, and it takes time. Still, you can do some things now to get the ball rolling. Point out familiar words, like *stop*, *the* and *end*, your child's name, and the words in the title

of his favorite book. Expose him to different types of reading material and be sure to read together every day.

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# Reading At Home...

## Can Make A HUGE Difference!



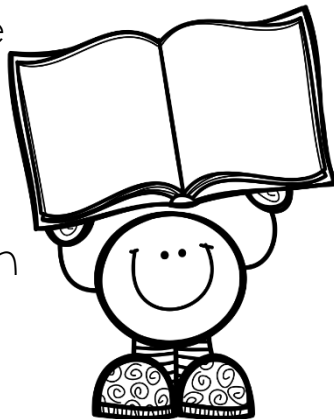
### Choose Books That Are At An Appropriate Reading Level For Your Child

- 📖 Use the five finger rule. Open the book to any page and ask your child to read. Put up a finger every time your child does not know a word. If you have put up more than five fingers before the end of the page, this book is too hard for your child.
- 📖 Choose books that match your child's likes and interests.

### Make Reading A Part Of Your Family Time!

Family time is so important... Why not make reading part of this valuable time with your kids? Here are some tips for integrating reading into our daily family activities:

- Read bedtime stories
- Play a board game
- Visit your local library
- Read a recipe and cook something yummy together!
- Create a comfy reading space in your home.
- Put your child in charge of reading the grocery list at the store.



Keep plenty of reading materials in your home: books, magazines, newspapers, and comic books. Children enjoy having a variety of reading materials!

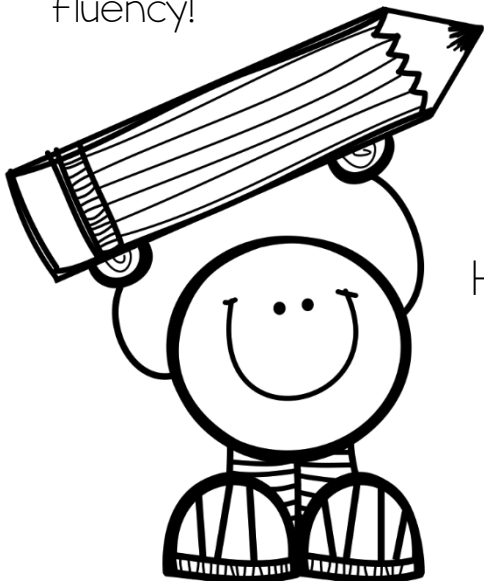


15-20  
minutes is  
plenty for  
a beginning  
reader!



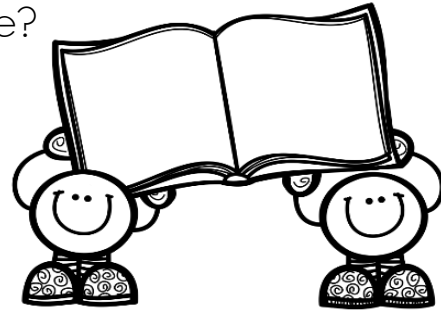
## How To Read With A Beginning Reader:

- Encourage your child to use his/her finger to point to each word.
- Read a sentence and have your child repeat it.
- Take turns reading a sentence each or a page each.
- Talk about the story as you read it. What do you think will happen next? What does this story remind you of? How do you think this character feels?
- Don't be afraid to read the same book again! Repeated reading helps build reading fluency!



## Check For Understanding

- ✓ Start the book by making predictions. What do you think will happen in this story?
- ✓ Ask questions and make comments during the reading process.
- ✓ After reading a book, have your child tell you the events from the story in the correct order.
- ✓ What was the problem in this story?
- ✓ How did the character feel when...?
- ✓ Encourage your child to make connections. Does this story remind you of another book you read, an event in your life, a movie?



## Read Books Online!

There are many fun and interactive websites for literacy.

Here are a few FREE online resources:

[www.starfall.com](http://www.starfall.com)

[www.speakaboos.com](http://www.speakaboos.com)

[www.spellingcity.com](http://www.spellingcity.com)

[www.wegivebooks.org](http://www.wegivebooks.org)

<http://interactivsites.weebly.com>