

Dennis-Yarmouth Title I

SPECIAL POINTS OF IN- TEREST:

If you have any further questions, please contact me, Cookie Stewart, at 508-778-7599 or at stewartv@dy-region-al.k12.ma.us

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VOLUME 1 ISSUE V

JANUARY 2020

From the Title I Coordinator:

I hope that you all had a wonderful Holiday Season. And welcome to 2020!

Now is the time for some real hard work for the Title I children. Holidays are out of the way, and we now have a large block of time to use to get all the children onto the right track.

I would hope that you as parents are reading with your children for at least 1/2 hour each evening, and working on their mathematics facts for at least 20 minutes per day. Establishing a homework time is a wonderful way to accomplish this. If you establish this time when your children are young, you will save yourself a lot of problems when they are older.

The time you establish should always be the homework time. If your

child comes home and says, "I have no homework," then you simply tell them to read a book, or write in a journal. By doing this, you establish this time as sacred homework time. When they become teenagers, they will be in the habit of doing homework at the established time, and your life will be much easier.

Stress these three C's to build your child's self-esteem

All children, no matter how hard we try to protect them, will face challenges in their lives. A strong sense of who they are can help them stand up to those challenges. How can you create that sense of self-esteem? Consider these 3 C's"

1. **Competence.** Kids who feel that they are able to master one challenging task are more willing to try something else that's difficult. So when your child is struggling to learn something new, don't rush in to do it for him. Instead, let him work things

out.

2. **Confidence.** Even when kids master a new task or skill, they don't always see why they were successful. You can help by pointing out your child's positive qualities. "You were persistent in math, and it paid off." The next time s/he faces a challenge, s/he might say, "I'm persistent. I can do this."

3. **Control.** There's a lot that kids can't control. But your job as a parent is to help your child see how his/her actions do give him/her some control over his/her life. "You studied every day this week, and your spelling grade showed it."

Source: B. McClain, "Building Resilience in Children," Healthy Children



Of Note:

There will be no school on Jan. 17th and January 20th.

There will be a Title I Board of Director's meeting on Wednesday January 22 at 2:00p.m. at Central Office at 296 Station Ave. South Yarmouth.

Home & School

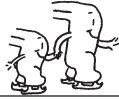
Working Together for School Success

CONNECTION®

January 2020

Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program

SHORT NOTES



Snow day plan

Make sure you have a plan in place for weather-related school closings and delays. You might ask a coworker to swap shifts or see if you could telework when school is canceled. If you can't get home in time for an early closing, find a relative or neighbor to pick up your child from school or meet him at the bus stop.

What's that sound?

Play this game to sharpen your youngster's listening skills. Have her close her eyes while you make a noise. Can she identify the jingle of the dog's leash or the "pop" of the toaster? Trade roles, and let her create a sound for you to figure out.

Support for grandfamilies

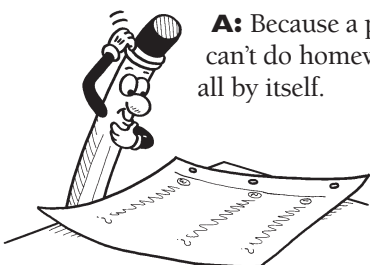
If you're raising a grandchild, ask the school counselor about "grandfamily" support groups. You'll meet other grandparents to swap advice and discuss the joys and challenges of parenting the second time around. Some may even offer grandparent-grandchild activities where your youngster can meet other kids with families like his.

Worth quoting

"If you see a friend without a smile, give him one of yours." *Proverb*

JUST FOR FUN

Q: Why do you do homework with a pencil?



A: Because a pencil can't do homework all by itself.

Goal setting: A recipe for success

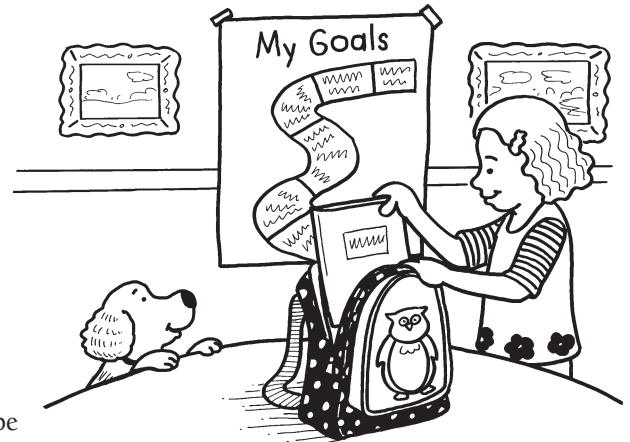
Reaching a goal involves more than just hoping and dreaming. Here's how your child can practice setting, tracking, and achieving goals—skills that will serve her well now and in the future.

Be specific

What would your youngster like to accomplish? Maybe she wants to earn higher grades or become a better gymnast. Suggest that she narrow down the goal so it's more targeted. Her goal might be "I will turn in all of my assignments on time" or "I will move up one level in gymnastics this year."

Map it out

Breaking a goal into small steps makes it feel more manageable. Your child could draw a winding road on paper, add lines to divide it into segments, and write a step in each one. *Examples:* "Put my planner in my



backpack when school ends" or "Do my beam routine five times in a row without falling off." She can color each step as she completes it.

Check in

Support your child in sticking to her plan. Say she falls behind on a long-term project. Together, look at her planner and find slots of time where she can catch up. Or if she has to miss gymnastics class one day, offer ways to practice at home like using a strip of duct tape as a balance beam.♥

Parent helpers

School volunteer opportunities come in all shapes and sizes to fit anyone's schedule. Consider these ways you might help your youngster's school.

● **Contribute supplies.** Offer to save recyclables to use in the classroom. Ask the teacher what he needs—perhaps plastic bottle caps for math games or baby-food jars for snow globes. *Note:* If you have clothes your child has outgrown, find out whether the school nurse could use them.

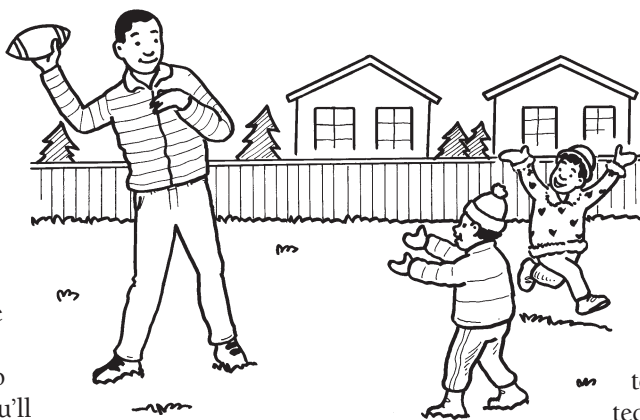
● **Share a talent.** See if you can help with an after-school or evening activity. Love music? Maybe you could tune students' instruments before a concert. If you're a runner, you might help coach a running club. Or if you enjoy arts and crafts, volunteer to make scenery or sew costumes for a play.♥



Screen-free play

Studies show that kids who spend less time in front of screens tend to be healthier and earn higher test scores. Encourage your youngster to enjoy “unplugged” play with these ideas.

Nature time. Electronics don’t grow on trees—so going outside to play is one of the easiest ways to avoid screen time. You and your child can bundle up and go for a walk or throw a football around. You’ll both enjoy being outdoors and spending special time together.



A screen-free corner.

Create a spot for your youngster to store his favorite non-electronic items like jigsaw puzzles, board games, and play dough. He could put them on shelves or in bins and hang up a sign that says “Screen-free zone.” He’ll have an inviting place to exercise his brain without technology.♥

ACTIVITY CORNER

A dancing snake

Air currents make a paper “snake” wiggle and dance with this simple science experiment.

Materials: crayons, paper plate, scissors, yarn, lamp



Have your youngster use a crayon to draw a spiral on the paper plate. She can decorate the snake with patterns, then cut it out. Poke a small hole in the snake’s head, and tie on a piece of yarn.

Turn on the lamp, and let your child hold her snake by the yarn at least 1 foot above (not touching) the warm light-bulb. Her snake will dance and spin.

What’s going on? As warm air created by the lamp rises, cooler air moves in to replace it. This constant motion creates air currents that move the snake around.♥

Write organized reports

This three-step strategy will set your youngster up to write a clear, well-organized report.

1. Choose your topic

Say your child is supposed to write about an animal. The process will be more fun if she picks an animal she finds interesting—and her enthusiasm is likely to come through in her writing.

2. Brainstorm questions

What does your youngster want to know about her topic? If she chose penguins, she might decide to research what they eat or how many eggs they lay at a time. She could write each question on a separate index card.

3. Collect facts

Your child can read about penguins in library books and online. As she researches, she should fill each card with facts. She might write information about a penguin’s diet on one card and offspring on another. *Tip:* She can use each card to write one paragraph in her report.♥



Q & A Keep an eye out for bullying

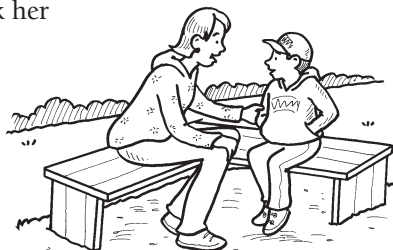
Q: My son has been coming home from school with bruises. He keeps saying he fell at recess, but I worry he’s being bullied. What should I do?

A: Start by talking to his teacher. Tell her what you’ve noticed, and ask if she’s aware of any recess accidents. If she isn’t, let her know you’re concerned about bullying, and ask her to keep an eye out.

Then, ask your son if he has ever felt unsafe in school or if he has seen anyone being hurt or being teased repeatedly.

Also, explain that he should always get adult help right away if anyone is hurting him or someone else. After all, bullying isn’t a problem he’s expected to handle alone, and it can get worse if adults don’t step in.

Once you get the ball rolling, he might open up. If he admits to being bullied, meet with the teacher to make a plan for putting an end to it. And if he doesn’t, the teacher will be aware of the situation and can alert you if she observes bullying.♥



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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

January 2020

Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program

TOOLS & TIDBITS

Twinkle, twinkle

Stargaze together—no telescope necessary!

Share this hint with your youngster to tell if he's viewing a star or a planet: Stars appear to twinkle, but planets usually don't. Can he spot a planet (or two)? *Tip:* Get a sky guide from the library or use a free app so he learns the names of stars, constellations, and planets.

Odd and even addresses

On many streets, houses or shops on one side have odd numbers, and those on the other side have even numbers. Look for streets like this when you and your child are out. She could read the numbers and figure out whether they're odd or even. *Hint:* A number is odd if the digit in the ones place is odd and even if the digit in the ones place is even.



Book picks

❑ Cute little animals decide the best way to divide into equal teams in *Equal Shmequal* (Virginia Kroll).

❑ The average snowflake has 180 billion water molecules! Fascinating facts like that are sprinkled throughout *Curious About Snow* (Gina Shaw).

Just for fun

Q: Who was the first animal in space?

A: The cow that jumped over the moon!



Survey says: Graphs are fun!

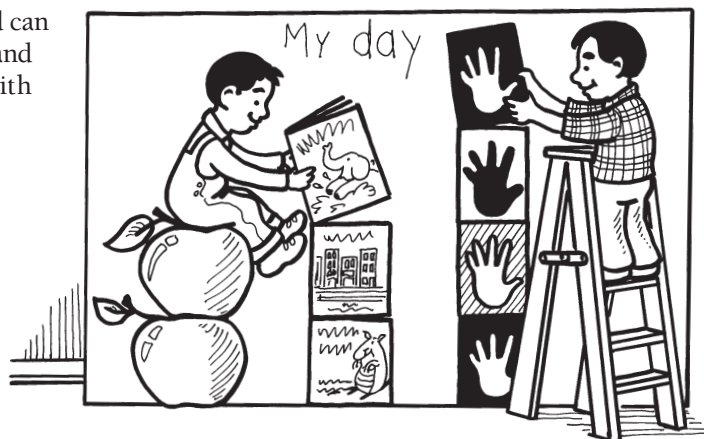
Graphs are packed with information. Your child can practice reading them and then make his own with these ideas.

Be a detective

Encourage your youngster to learn facts from graphs. Perhaps he'll notice a graph in the doctor's office showing how much sleep kids need. Help him find his age group to see how long he should sleep. Or maybe he'll spot a graph in school about a fundraiser. How many rolls of wrapping paper did his grade sell—and which grade sold the most?

Tell a story

Have your child make a graph based on a book. For instance, he could create a bar graph comparing the elements in a fairy tale (castles, dragons, knights). Invite him to use his graph to tell you a story. ("Once upon a time, 3 knights



lived in 1 castle. There were 6 dragons, so each knight got 2.")

Graph your day

Keeping track of everyday activities is easy with a picture graph. Your youngster might draw an apple to stand for a meal or snack, a book to represent reading, and a hand for each time he washes his hands. At the end of the day, ask questions about his graph. ("How many times did you eat?" "How many more times did you wash your hands than read?")

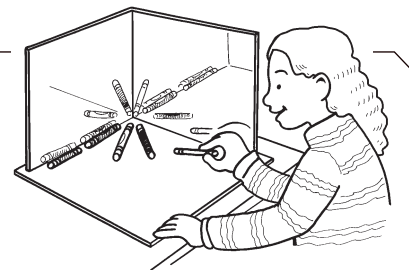
Mirror science

Mirror, mirror, on the wall, how do you reflect it all? Here's how your youngster can explore the science behind this fascinating everyday object.

Let your child form a right angle (like an L) with two mirrors, then lay down several crayons so their tips point toward the angle. The reflections create a colorful pattern!

When light hits a mirror, everything in front of the mirror is reflected back. When two or more mirrors are placed at an angle to each other, they reflect light back and forth, creating multiple reflections—this is how a kaleidoscope works.

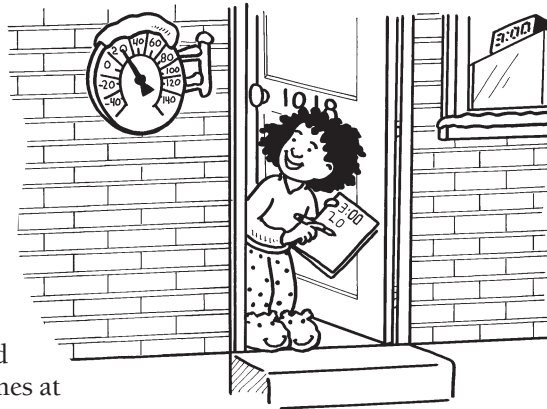
Idea: Encourage your youngster to experiment with other objects (googly eyes, pipe cleaners, building blocks). What patterns and shapes can she make?



A zero's job

Poor little zero...it's often treated like "nothing." But it's just as important as any other number! Your youngster will discover what zero does with these activities.

Add and subtract. Take turns making up real-life story problems with zero. Your child could say, "I went down the slide 8 times at recess. The teacher said it was time to go



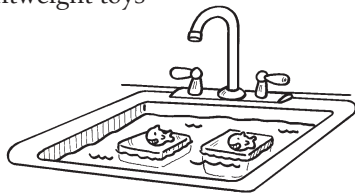
inside, so I went down zero more times. How many times did I slide?" You say the number sentence for her problem: " $8 + 0 = 8$, so you went down the slide 8 times." Your problem might be, "I packed 12 grapes in my lunch. I ate 12 grapes. How many were left?" Your youngster should answer "Zero, because $12 - 12 = 0$."

Search. Get notebooks and pencils, set a timer for 5 minutes, and race to find zeros around the house. Write down the numbers and where you found them. Your child might spot page 102 in a book or 20 degrees on the thermometer. What would happen without zeros? (You'd have page 12 and 2 degrees.) She'll see that zero can show there are no tens in the tens place or no ones in the ones place. 🐛

SCIENCE LAB Floating on ice

Try this experiment where toys float on "icebergs." Your child will discover how an iceberg's mass can affect how long it floats.

You'll need: ruler, water, two identical small plastic containers, two identical lightweight toys



Here's how: Help your youngster use a ruler to measure 2 inches of water into one container and 4 inches of water into the other. Freeze 4–5 hours, until solid. Fill a sink with cold water, and have your child carefully flip over the containers and tap on the bottoms to remove the icebergs. Now he can float them in the water, put a toy on each one, and check back every few minutes.

What happens? The thinner iceberg melts faster, so the toy on that one winds up in the water first.

Why? The thinner iceberg has less mass—there is less ice to melt, so it melts before the thicker iceberg does. 🐛

PARENT TO PARENT

Domino math

My parents were coming to visit, and I wanted to think of math games my son Aaron could play with them. I asked them what games they might enjoy, and they said they both had fond memories of playing dominoes with their grandparents.

So I got a set at the dollar store and showed Aaron how to match the dots to play. We turned the tiles facedown and each drew seven. Then, we turned our dominoes faceup. Aaron put out the first tile—it had three dots on one half and four dots on the other. I made a match with a tile that had four dots on one half and one dot on the other. He looked at his tiles until he found a half with one dot.

By the time we finished, Aaron was able to quickly recognize the number of dots on each domino without counting them. And he was more than ready to play dominoes with Grandma and Grandpa when they came to town! 🐛



MATH CORNER

Above or below?

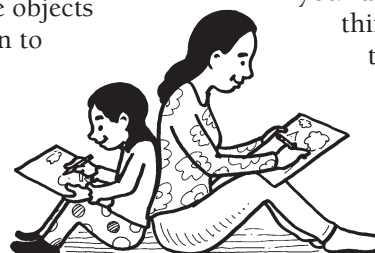
Is the cat *in* the hat? Or is the hat *on* the cat? Describing relative positions is an early geometry skill that your youngster can work on with this challenge.

1. Make a list. Together, brainstorm words that tell where objects are located in relation to other objects. *Examples: beside, next to, in front of, behind.*

2. Draw and describe. Sit back-to-back

with paper and crayons. Draw two objects on your paper (say, a house and a tree). Using words from the list, give your child instructions to draw the same items in the same positions. ("Draw a tree *beside* a house.") After she follows your directions, she draws something and gives you instructions. ("Draw a cloud *above* the house.")

3. Compare your pictures. Are the objects in the same places relative to each other? 🐛



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BUILDING READERS®

How Families Can Help Children Get Ready to Read

Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District
Title 1

Resolve to review and revamp your family reading routines in the new year

January is the perfect time to think about your family's reading routines. Are you making the most of story time, or do you need a few ideas to liven things up?

For a fresh approach:

- **Stockpile story starters.** Tear the fronts off leftover holiday cards and put them in a box. Have your child pick one during story time. Together, invent a tale based on the picture.
- **Create a reading clubhouse.** Throw a blanket over the kitchen table or make a cave in your child's closet. Just find a snuggly spot to read together during your daily reading time.
- **Look for new materials.** Expand your child's horizons by moving beyond books. Some days, spend story time browsing through catalogs, magazines or newspapers.



*"Reading gives us someplace to go
when we have to stay where we are."*

—Mason Cooley

Create new books with old magazines

Do you have stacks of old magazines and catalogs around the house that just seem to take up space? Put them to good use. Show your child how to use them to create her own book. Help her:

1. **Staple several sheets of construction paper** together to make a booklet.
2. **Flip through magazines**, select a few pictures and cut them out.
3. **Paste one or two pictures** on each page of the booklet.
4. **Think up a story** to go with the pictures and encourage your child to "read" it to family and friends!

Build thinking skills by comparing and contrasting different stories

Boost your child's cognitive skills by finding similarities and differences in two fairy tales. Read two stories together, such as *The Three Little Pigs* and *Little Red Riding Hood*.

After you read, make a list with your child of the elements in the stories that are the same or different. Think about characters, setting and plot.

You can also compare and contrast different versions of the same story.



Rotate reading materials

If your child seems to be bored with certain books, don't get rid of them. Instead, put them away for a month or so. When you pull the books back out, your child may realize they aren't so ho-hum after all!



Send your child on a letter-sound search around your home

Write a few letters on index cards or pieces of paper. (Each card should have just one letter written on it.) Turn the cards over and ask your child to choose one.

Together, see how many objects you can find around your home that begin with that letter sound. When you've found all that you can, have your child choose another letter card and start again!



Literacy and listening go hand in hand

Listening is an important part of literacy and reading comprehension. To help your child strengthen his listening skills, have him:

- **Help out at home.** Choose tasks that interest your child. Then give specific directions. If he likes watering plants, say, “Fill the watering can. Touch the plant’s soil. If it feels dry, water the plant.” If he likes setting the table, say, “Place three bowls and three spoons on the table.”
- **Fill in story details.** Read or tell your child a detailed story several times. Make it one he enjoys. Then pretend you can’t remember part of it. Ask him to finish the story for you.
- **Play Simon Says.** Young kids love listening to “Simon’s” instructions (Simon says, “Raise your right hand!”) and doing what he says. When Simon doesn’t give his permission (“Raise your left hand!”)—kids can ignore the instruction.



Why phonemic awareness matters

Phonemic awareness is the understanding that words are made up of sounds. Preschoolers need this awareness to learn how to read and how to spell.



To boost your child’s phonemic awareness:

- **Play** rhyming games together.
- **Talk** about the different sounds that letters make.
- **Ask** him to identify beginning and ending sounds of words.

Review library rules with your preschooler

With an abundance of reading materials to enjoy and fun activities to participate in, the public library provides plenty of opportunities to build your child’s love of reading.

Remind her about these basic rules so that she—and the library’s other patrons—will be able to enjoy the library:

- **Treat library books** with respect. It’s important to take care of them so that everyone can enjoy them.
- **Use quiet voices.** Speak softly so that others won’t be disturbed.
- **Return books on time.** Keep library books in a special place so they don’t get lost.



Books to delight your early reader

- **Flabbersmashed About You** by Rachel Vail. When Katie’s best friend chooses to line up with someone else at recess, Katie is more than angry—she’s *flabbersmashed*. That is, until she finds someone new to play with.
- **Rocket Writes a Story** by Tad Hills. In this sequel to *How Rocket Learned to Read*, the book-loving pup uses his nose to sniff out wonderful words like *feather*, *cloud* and *leaf*. But can he really spin them into a tale of his own?
- **There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed Some Books!** by Lucille Colandro. This lady doesn’t stop at books, though. She eats pens, chalk and a ruler, too! Suddenly, swallowing a fly seems not so bad!



Q: My preschooler loves scary stories. But isn’t he too young for these “dark” tales?

A: As long as the stories are age-appropriate, they are perfectly fine to read. Preschoolers have many fears, and experts agree that kids can benefit from reading about characters who have similar fears—and overcome them. It helps them understand that it’s normal to be scared sometimes. So go ahead and share spooky tales with him occasionally!

Building Readers®

How Families Can Help Children Get Ready to Read

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Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

January 2020

Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program

Book Picks

Read-aloud favorites

■ *Spend It!* (Cinders McLeod)

Sonny Bunny has a big list of things to buy. But his allowance doesn't stretch very far—especially when he wants a bouncy castle that costs 100 carrots. With a little help from his mom, Sonny learns a lesson about money. This is the first book in the Moneybunny series.



■ *The World Is Not a Rectangle: A Portrait of Architect Zaha Hadid* (Jeanette Winter)

Young Zaha Hadid loved designing clothes, furniture, and buildings. When she grew up, she wanted to be an architect, but her designs were so unusual that no one wanted to build them. This biography tells how Hadid's persistence helped her realize her dreams.

■ *Moldylocks and the Three Beards* (Noah Z. Jones)

The Three Beards aren't home when Moldylocks and her friend Princess drop by for a visit. So the girls enjoy some chili, test the chairs, and jump on the beds. What will happen when the Three Beards return? Book one in the Princess Pink series. (Also available in Spanish.)



■ *Book of Bones: 10 Record-Breaking Animals* (Gabrielle Balkan)

This award-winning nonfiction book invites your child to explore animal skeletons. He'll get answers to questions like "Which creature has the most bones?" and "What has a skeleton but no bones?"



The give and take of conversation

A good conversation is a two-way street that includes speaking and listening—two skills your child needs to succeed in school. Use these ideas to help her practice.

Take turns

Sit on the floor facing your youngster, and roll a ball back and forth as you carry on a conversation. The person with the ball is the speaker, and the other is the listener. Your child will learn to listen and wait for you to roll the ball before it's her turn to talk.

Ask questions

Let your youngster see how questions keep a conversation going and show interest in what the other person said. Make a statement and ask a question. *Example:* "I like cookie dough ice cream. What's your favorite flavor?" Then your child answers your question and asks a related one: "Strawberry. What's your favorite topping?"



Build on

Create a block tower to show your youngster that a conversation involves building on each other's ideas. Lay down a block, and start a discussion. ("Monopoly is a fun game.") Your child puts a block on yours and adds to what you said. ("It is fun, but it takes a long time.") Keep talking and adding to your tower until you run out of things to say. Now your youngster gets to start a new tower—and a new conversation.♥

Throw a book party

Celebrate reading with a party based on a book of your youngster's choice. You'll improve his comprehension by giving him fun ways to connect with the story. Here's how.

● **Play.** Let your child plan an activity inspired by the story. For *Harold and the Purple Crayon* (Crockett Johnson), everyone might draw with purple crayons. Have your youngster imagine he's Harold—what might he draw that wasn't in the book?

● **Eat.** What party snacks would go well with *Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs* (Judi Barrett), for example? Ask your child to think of foods mentioned in the story, like meatballs, dill pickles, and cherry tomatoes. If he lived in the town of Chewand-swallow, what other foods would he want to rain down?♥



Winter at the library

Imagine a cold winter afternoon. You and your youngster are at the library. It's warm and cozy, and there are books everywhere!

Sound magical? Try these suggestions for making library visits special.

Explore different sections. Have your child name a topic that interests him, such as polar animals or engineering, and find related materials in various parts of the library. Your youngster might get a picture book about a seal family, a magazine with an article on



jellyfish, or a biography of an oceanographer.

Enjoy family reading time. Walk around the library to select a perfect reading spot. Perhaps your child will pick a table by a window or a corner with beanbag chairs. You could each read your own book silently, or read aloud quietly to your child.

Attend special events. Ask a librarian or check the library's website for a calendar of events.

Then, plan to attend one as a family.

Maybe a children's author is coming to share her latest book or there's a family book club you could join.♥



Move and spell

With this activity, your youngster will "spell" words by doing a series of movements—one for each letter.

Ask your child to write the alphabet down the left side of a piece of paper, one letter per line. Together, think of a different action for each letter. *Examples:* A = act like a chicken, H = hop on one foot, T = touch your toes.



Secretly choose a word from your youngster's spelling list or the dictionary. Spell it for her using the movements instead of the letters. For instance, spell *hat* by hopping on one foot, flapping your arms while squawking, and touching your toes. Can she figure out your word? Now she acts out a word for you to identify.♥

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Writing + board games = fun!

When my daughter Sonja needed to work on handwriting, we looked for ways to make it fun. Our favorite was adding writing to our weekly family game night.

Some nights, we play games that have writing built in, like Hangman or Scattergories Jr. Other times, we have to use a little creativity. For example, we write down our guesses in Clue Jr., our answers to questions in trivia games, and our requests for cards in Go Fish. We've also made Sonja our official scorekeeper—she gets to write our names and the numbers for our scores.

This has been a great way to improve Sonja's handwriting, and it feels more like play than practice!♥



Choose specific words

Q My son is learning to pick more specific words when he writes stories. How can I help him with this at home?

A Specific words create pictures in the reader's mind. For example, there are many ways to say *run* (*jog, sprint, scamper, race*). Each has a slightly different meaning, bringing to mind a different image.



After your son writes a rough draft, suggest that he use a highlighter to mark words to replace. If he can't decide, ask questions like "Which breed of dog is that?" or "What kind of house does the family live in?" He could replace *dog* with *poodle* or *mutt*, and *house* with *townhouse* or *cottage*.

Tip: If he can't think of a replacement, look in a thesaurus together. He can read his sentence aloud, substituting each new word to see which one sounds best.♥

BUILDING READERS®

How Families Can Help Children Become Better Readers

Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District
Title 1

Don't forget about reading when making family New Year's resolutions

A new calendar year offers an opportunity to think about the past and set goals for the future. This includes family reading goals.

Take time to talk with your child about books or stories you've enjoyed together in the past year. If the books are nearby, look through them. Have your child choose his three favorites. Ask, "What was the best part of this story? Why?" Or, "What is your favorite picture in this book?"

Next, discuss future reading plans. Are there ways you can refresh or improve your reading habits? Could you read more often? Could you read new things together, such as children's magazines? Could you listen to some audiobooks in the car?

Build daily reading time into your family's schedule and make 2020 your family's best year ever for reading exciting materials!



"Reading brings us unknown friends."

—Honoré de Balzac

Take time to talk about prefixes and suffixes with your child

Help your child learn to look for easily recognizable parts of a word. Teach her that when a word starts with a certain prefix or ends with a particular suffix, she will get a clue to the word's meaning.

- **A prefix is at the beginning** of the word. Adding a prefix to a word changes its meaning. Common prefixes are *bi-*, *hemi-*, *un-* and *in-*. Together, learn what they mean.
- **A suffix is found at the end** of the word. It often tells the part of speech, which will help your child understand how that word is being used. Common suffixes are *-tion*, *-ize*, *-able* and *-er*.

Read and write about science experiments

Hands-on learning is a fun way for your child to strengthen his reading and writing skills.

Look online for simple science experiments you and your child can do at home. Then, read the directions, gather materials, write predictions and conduct the experiment together. Have your child take notes on the outcome.



Encourage your child to use a dictionary

When your child isn't sure of what a word means or how to spell it, help her look it up! She can use a dictionary online or one in book form.

Show your child how the dictionary includes the word's definitions, its part of speech and other forms of the word.



Enjoy the benefits of the library as a family

Libraries are wonderful places for children to learn. To enjoy everything the library has to offer:

- **Help your child** get his own library card.
- **Schedule regular visits.** Try to go at least once every two weeks.
- **Explore a new section** of the library each time you visit.
- **Sign up** for fun children's activities.



Thinking aloud improves comprehension

One major factor in understanding what you read is *thinking* about what you read. When your child thinks as he reads, he's more likely to connect the story to other things he knows.

Help your child strengthen his comprehension skills by modeling these "think-aloud" strategies:

- **Discuss the book.** Connect it to an experience your child understands. "This story reminds me of the time when"
- **Talk about books** with similar settings, characters or themes. "What other books that we've read does this story remind you of?"
- **Help your child** make a connection between the story and something similar that may be happening in the real world. By talking about your thoughts on the book, you're helping your child learn to make these important connections himself.



Challenge your child to be a book critic

Suggest that your child keep a list of all the books that she has read. She should include the title of each book and its author. She can also create a rating system. Encourage her to write a short review of each book, as well.

Offer your child sentence starters to help with her reviews, such as:

- **I really liked this book** because
- **My favorite part** of this story was
- **I wish the author** would have

Help your child compile her reviews into a "Book Reviews" notebook. Keeping track of completed books will give your child a sense of accomplishment.



Q: My child gets frustrated when he struggles to read a word. How can I help?

A: Suggest that he become a reading detective. He can look for clues, such as chunks of the word that he recognizes or nearby pictures. You can also discuss similar words he knows. Sometimes it helps to reread the sentence or to skip the troublesome word and keep reading. Then say, "What word would make sense there?"

Use magazines to create poems

Encourage your child to create a collage poem. Follow these steps:

1. **Help her cut** out a variety of words and phrases from old magazines.
2. **Have her arrange** the words into a poem and glue them onto a piece of construction paper. Remind her that poems don't always need to rhyme.



For lower elementary readers:

- **Stalling** by Alan Katz. Even though it's time for bed, Dan has plenty of things to do. He devises several ways to stall bedtime for just a few more minutes.

- **Stars** by Mary Lyn Ray. It's easy to forget the beauty of stars. But this book inspires readers to imagine and appreciate them.



For upper elementary readers:

- **Moon Runner** by Carolyn Marsden. Mina is nervous when she must start track at school, until she discovers that she loves it—and excels.
- **Stars in the Shadows** by Charles R. Smith, Jr. In 1934, the Negro League's All-Star East-West Game was played. This book provides all the fascinating details.

Building Readers®

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INTERMEDIATE EDITION

Working Together for Learning Success

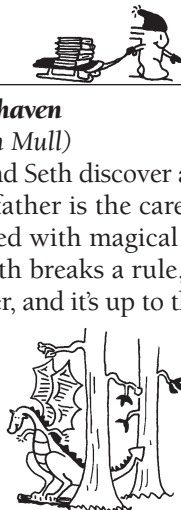
January 2020

Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program

Book Picks

■ *Fablehaven* (Brandon Mull)

Kendra and Seth discover a secret: Their grandfather is the caretaker of a forest filled with magical creatures. When Seth breaks a rule, everyone is in danger, and it's up to the children to save everyone. Book one in the Fablehaven series. (Also available in Spanish.)



■ *The Poetry of US*

(Edited by J. Patrick Lewis)

Organized by regions of the United States, this collection includes poems by Langston Hughes, Robert Frost, Maya Angelou, and many others. The poems highlight things found in America, from plants and animals to songs and food. Where will the next poem take you?

■ *Crow Smarts: Inside the Brain of the World's Brightest Bird*

(Pamela S. Turner)

In this nonfiction book, your youngster will find facts about brilliant birds who can solve puzzles and build and use tools. Includes photographs and an "Ask the author" section. Part of the Scientists in the Field series.



■ *It's Raining Cupcakes*

(Lisa Schroeder)

Winning a trip to New York City in a cupcake-baking contest is Isabel's only hope for summer travel. But she'll need to beat her best friend, Sophie, and avoid upsetting her mom, who has her own ideas about the contest. A story about following your dreams.



Write around the house

How does writing make your child's life easier and more fun? Show him with these ideas for building writing into your family's routine.

Weekly calendar

Place a calendar in a central spot, and have family members write their activities on it. This encourages your youngster to take responsibility for his schedule and helps everyone plan ahead.

Idea: Have each person use a different ink color for their calendar entries—you'll be able to tell who has what at a glance!



Grocery list

Post a sheet of notebook paper on the refrigerator where your child can keep a running grocery list. He could list things you're getting low on like whole-wheat pita bread, hummus, or clementines. Before going grocery shopping, see how many items he remembers from the list without looking at it. He'll realize that a written list is a handy tool.

Jokes

Ask your youngster to write down jokes or riddles he comes across. He might look for them on cereal boxes, in joke books, or online. Or he might write his own! Suggest that he read his jokes at dinner or hide them around the house (behind a picture frame, under a pillow) for people to uncover and get a good laugh. 📖

Reading symbols on a map

Symbols are everywhere, from your youngster's math and science textbooks to street signs and electronics. Here are ways your youngster can use maps to practice reading symbols:

- Cover up the key on a map. Point to a symbol, and ask your child to figure out what it represents. *Example:* star = capital city. She can check the key to see if she was right and then pick a symbol for you to identify.

- Suggest that your youngster draw a map of a familiar place (your neighborhood, her school). She could include a key to show what each symbol means, perhaps a slide for a playground and a desk for a classroom.

Idea: Ask your child to read symbols when you're out together. For instance, at the airport, she might see a fork and knife to represent a restaurant or a suitcase for baggage claim. 📖



Tackling longer books

Books with lots of pages stretch your youngster's reading skills—and can teach her about perseverance. Try these tips to motivate her to choose and stick with longer books.

Look for breaks. Help your child find books with short chapters. When each chapter is just a few pages long, the task won't seem so big. Plus, she'll feel a sense of accomplishment with each chapter she finishes.



Follow interests. Check the library for more challenging titles on a subject your youngster loves. If she has some background knowledge about the topic, she may be more likely to try a longer book.

Read together. Read the same book your youngster is reading. Decide on stopping places (maybe every two or three chapters), and discuss what's happened so far. Sharing a book with you will motivate her to read on.

Give it a chance. Suggest that your child read 30 pages of a longer book to give it a solid chance. If she reads that far and doesn't like the book, she can move on to another one. 📖

Parent & Parent Snapshot stories

My daughter Lara loves photography. She'd rather take pictures than do almost anything else. And she likes to show us her photos and tell the stories behind them, which gave me an idea for encouraging her to write more.



When she took a picture of her brother playing football, I suggested that she write about the game. She liked that idea, so she wrote a true story describing the suspense of the winning touchdown run and how the team went out for milkshakes to celebrate.

Later, I surprised Lara by framing her story alongside the photo to give to her brother. Now she often chooses pictures to write about and frame. Her new hobby has turned into a great way to practice writing—and decorate the walls! 📖



Fun with Words

Backward spelling

Your child can practice spelling and creative thinking by playing these two “backward” games.

1. Write a word in reverse order on a piece of paper. For example, *freezer* would be *rezeerf*. Ask your youngster to sound out the backward word, then give it a silly definition. *Example:* “rezeerf: The sound screeching tires make.” Next, let him write a backward word, and you make up a definition.

2. Take turns secretly thinking of a word, writing it backward, and saying it aloud. Can the other person figure out your word? *Tip:* Write down the sounds you hear, then reverse the letters to discover what the word is. 📖



Q&A

A thinking reader

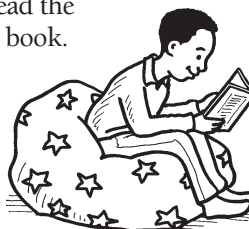
Q When my son has assigned reading, he rushes through and can't always answer the comprehension questions. How can I encourage him to think more about what he is reading?

A Suggest that your child read the questions before he starts the book. He'll get an idea of what he should be thinking about as he reads.

Also, get in the habit of asking him about his reading assignments—and

about books he reads just for fun. One way is to have him describe some of a book's themes, or “big ideas.” For example, he might say that *Tuck Everlasting* (Natalie Babbitt) is about doing the right thing.

Or you could ask your son about the characters. What traits made the hero a hero? What did the main character do that surprised him? *Tip:* Look for discussion questions in the back of the book or on the author's website. 📖



OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ways to promote their children's reading, writing, and language skills.

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Recipes for Success

Practical Activities to Help Your Child Succeed

JANUARY 2020

READING

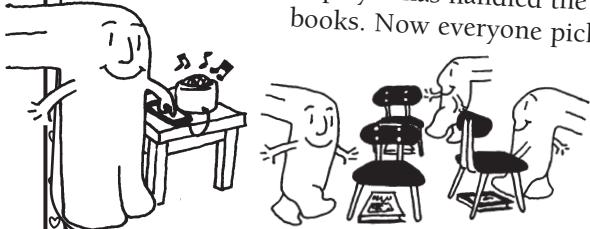
Musical books

Everyone wins in this twist on musical chairs that encourages your child to read for fun.

Ingredients: chairs, books, music player

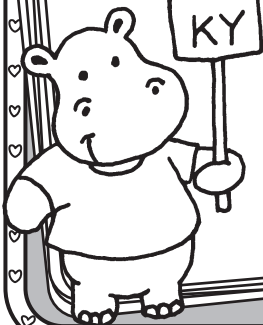
Let your youngster put chairs in a circle, one for every player, and place a book underneath each chair. Designate one person to start and stop the music while the others walk around the circle. When the music stops, players sit in the closest chair and read the first page of the book under that seat. Then, someone else controls the music for the next round.

Continue until each player has handled the music and sampled several books. Now everyone picks a book to finish. If two people want the same book, they might read it aloud together, alternating pages as they go!



GEOGRAPHY

Read a state map with your youngster to find unusual city and town names, such as Graw Bone, Indiana, and Hippo, Kentucky. She could make a list of the ones you find and go online to research how they got their names.



SCIENCE

Show your child how light refracts, or bends, when it passes through water. Have him draw two arrows on two separate sticky notes, one on top pointing right and the other underneath it pointing left, and hang the notes on a wall. When he slowly moves a glass of water back and forth across the sticky notes, the arrows appear to switch directions!



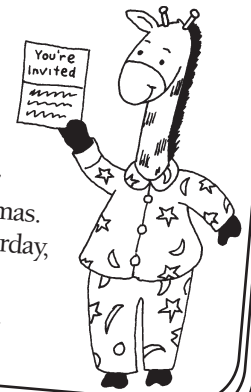
WRITING

You're invited

An invitation includes important information like the date, time, and location of an event. Your youngster can practice writing those details by making his own invitations.

Ingredients: paper, pencils

Ask your child to create invitations for a family activity like a movie night, board game night, or Sunday brunch. He should list details and make the event sound fun. For example, "What: Board game night! Wear your coziest pajamas. Bring a board game to play and a snack to share. When: Saturday, January 18, 2020, 7-9 p.m. Where: Living room." Suggest that your youngster post the invitation on a bulletin board or make a copy for everyone.



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."

MATH

Raid the refrigerator

Look no farther than your refrigerator and pantry to encourage your youngster to measure and compare weights.

Ingredients: food packages, masking tape, pencil, paper

Set out a few packaged foods, such as salsa, pasta, and beans, and use tape to cover up how much each one weighs.



Now invite your child to choose one item and remove the tape hiding its weight. For instance, maybe the can of beans weighs 14.5 oz. She can pick up each of the other packages and estimate how much they weigh based on how heavy the beans feel. Perhaps the bag of rice feels heavier and the cornstarch feels lighter. She should write down her estimates.

Finally, peel off all the tape to see how close your youngster came to the real weights.

Recipes for Success

Practical Activities to Help Your Child Succeed

JANUARY 2020

Character Corner

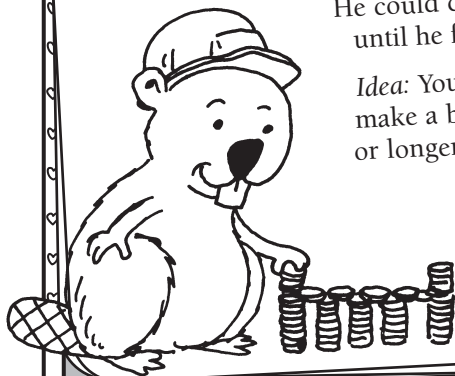
ENGINEERING Penny bridge

Building a bridge with nothing but pennies will teach your youngster logical thinking and design skills.

Ingredients: 50 pennies

Challenge your child to use all 50 pennies to create a bridge that will stand on its own for at least 10 seconds. As he experiments, encourage him to think about what is working and what may work better. Does his bridge need more supports? Should the pennies overlap more or less? He could combine successful ideas until he finds a solution.

Idea: Your youngster might try to make a bridge that is longer, taller, or longer-lasting.



MUSIC

January 27 is Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's birthday. Celebrate together by listening to his music on a CD, a classical radio station, or online.

Ask your child how the music makes him feel (happy, calm). Does he recognize any familiar tunes in Mozart's works?



COUNTING

Your youngster can interview others to practice recording and counting data. Encourage her to ask you, siblings, friends, or teachers a few questions like "What's your favorite food?" She could create a chart for each question in a notebook, tally responses, and count the results to learn which answers are most common.



SOCIAL STUDIES

If your child built her own city, what would people need to live there? She can use materials from around the house and create a model of her city. Maybe she'll pick a shoebox for a hospital, a toothpaste box for a bus stop, and a circle of aluminum foil for a lake.



CITIZENSHIP

Being a good citizen includes showing consideration for people in your community. Suggest that your child look for ways to do this. For example, at the grocery store, let her



help you return your cart to the corral so it doesn't damage anyone's car.

EMPATHY

Explain to your child that having empathy means being able to put yourself in someone else's shoes.



When someone is upset (say, his sister had an argument with her best friend), ask him to think about how he'd feel in that situation. Then, he could try to cheer her up.

INDEPENDENCE

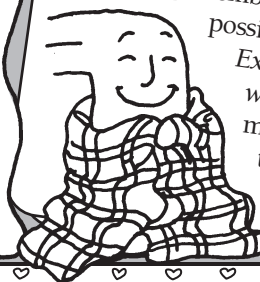
Have your child make her own to-do lists. Let her write down things she needs to accomplish today, such as finishing homework and feeding her fish. She can put it in a visible spot like on her nightstand. When she completes each item, she gets to check it off her list.



PARTS OF SPEECH

Ask your child to choose a household item (say, a blanket). Set a timer for one minute while family members list as many adjectives as possible to describe the object.

Examples: colorful, fuzzy, warm. The person with the most adjectives no one else thought of gets to pick the next object.



Congratulations!

We finished _____ activities together on this poster.

Signed (parent or adult family member)

Signed (child)