

# Dennis-Yarmouth Title I

## From the Title I Coordinator

Volume 1, Issue ix

May 2019

It seems to me to be almost impossible that May is here already. This year has sped by so rapidly!

Reading is the foundation of success in school and in life. As parents, I am sure that you are well aware of this, and as parents, you have an important role to play in helping your children become better readers. You can offer encouragement and support. Below are some points for you to remember when reading with your child:

1: Reading is a skill and it gets much better with a lot of practice.

2: Help your child get the library habit. Set aside time each week to visit the library.

3: Make reading easy. Keep books within reach of your child.

4: Read aloud to your child. **Research shows that this is the most important thing you can do to encourage your child's reading success.**

5: Give your child a wide range of experiences, which are the foundation for understanding what s/he reads.

6: Look for unusual places for your daily reading time with your child.

7: Have a family contest to determine "the most unusual place I've ever read."

8: In addition to read-aloud time, some families schedule a time when everyone says, "Oh, DEAR." No, that does not mean something is wrong. It means they've agreed to

**Drop Everything And Read.** During this time, the TV is off. The telephone goes unanswered. Everyone sits down for some uninterrupted reading time.

9: Start a family library so your child's favorite books can be enjoyed again and again.

10: Limit TV time. Studies show that kids who watch more than 10 hours/week do worse in reading than those who watch less.



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](mailto:stewartv@dy-regional.k12.ma.us) Or at M.E. Small 440 Higgins Crowell Rd West Yarmouth, MA 02673



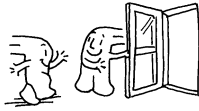
# Home & School

## Working Together for School Success

### CONNECTION®

May 2019

Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program



#### SHORT NOTES

##### Being neighborly

Show your child how neighbors can depend on each other. If a package is delivered on a rainy day and the family isn't home, she could write a note saying she's holding it for them. Or if someone leaves headlights on, knock on their door together to let the person know.

##### Everyday research

Sharpen your youngster's research skills by challenging him to use them for practical purposes. Say he wants a pet or wonders why he needs to go to bed on time. Ask him to look into what being a pet owner would require or how sleep affects kids.

##### Growing up

As your child approaches puberty, she might compare herself to others. Explain that everyone develops at their own pace. The tallest person in her class right now may not be tallest in a few months. Good hygiene can boost confidence, so discuss routines like showering and using deodorant.

##### Worth quoting

"It's not what you look at that matters. It's what you see." *Henry David Thoreau*

#### JUST FOR FUN

**Q:** Why do bees hum?

**A:** Because they forget the words!



## Summer learning traditions

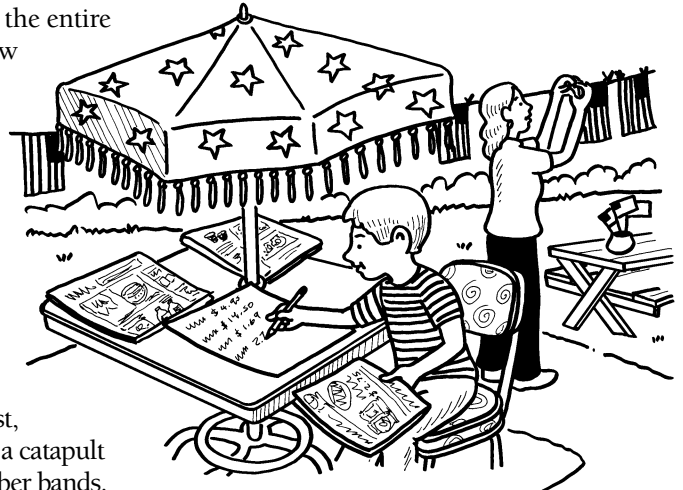
Your child has spent the entire school year learning new things. Help him hang onto that knowledge, and learn even more, by starting summer traditions like these.

##### STEM Olympics

Boost your youngster's STEM skills with a series of household engineering competitions. For the first contest, each person could build a catapult with craft sticks and rubber bands. See whose catapult can launch a ball the farthest. Next, maybe family members will compete to engineer a boat that carries the most pennies without sinking.

##### Family celebrations

Have your child use math to plan special events, such as an Independence Day cookout. Give him a budget, and let him look through grocery and dollar store flyers for the best prices on ingredients and supplies. He should list items and prices, and add up the total. Next, perhaps he'll host a National Ice Cream Day party



on July 21 or a back-to-school celebration the last weekend of summer break.

##### Reading pals

For a fun way to stay in touch—and practice reading—help your youngster find a relative to be his reading pal. Maybe he and his grandfather will take turns reading chapters of a novel via video chat. Or record a video of your youngster reading a book to send to a younger cousin. The little one can do the same to show her big cousin how she's learning to read.♥

#### Let's limit screen time

For a healthier body *and* mind, your youngster needs to fill her days with something other than screen time. Here's how to encourage physical activity and real-life interactions:

- Decide on a daily screen time limit that is right for your family. Then, create rules to enforce the limit, such as "Play outside every day" and "Screen time ends at least one hour before bedtime."
- Be a role model by putting away devices yourself. For example, avoid using your phone when you're talking to or playing with your youngster. Or turn off the TV, and announce that it's time for a walk together.♥



## Beyond please and thank you

Whether your child is at home, in public, or at someone else's house, using good manners shows respect for others. Consider these tips.

**Acknowledge visitors.** Explain how to welcome guests. If your youngster is playing a game and people visit, she should stop and chat.

### ACTIVITY CORNER

#### What's in the newspaper?

A newspaper brings plenty of learning opportunities to your youngster's doorstep. Take advantage of the paper with these activities.

#### Alphabet grab bag

Let your child cut out individual letters from headlines and use them to spell as many words as possible. He might also make sentences using uppercase and lowercase letters.

#### Comic relief

Your youngster can put events in a logical sequence with this idea. Cut out comic strip panels, mix them up, and ask him to arrange them in the right order. For a bigger challenge, mix up panels from several comic strips for him to sort and put in order.



#### Picture this

Have your child practice critical thinking. Cut out a newspaper photograph and show it to him without the caption or article. Can he figure out what the article is about? He could write a caption for the photo, then read the article to see if his caption makes sense. ♥

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Likewise, let her know to acknowledge when they leave by walking them to the door and saying goodbye.

#### Share public spaces.

When you use an escalator, you might say to your child, "We're standing on the right side. The left side is for walking." Or while waiting for the elevator, you could tell her, "Let's step back so people can get off before we get on."

#### Answer politely.

"Would you like pretzels or grapes?" When your child is offered options at someone else's home, she may think it's good manners to reply, "Either one." Point out that it's more helpful for the host if she says what she wants. ("I'd like grapes, thank you.") ♥

### Q & A

#### Musical experiences

**Q:** My daughter loves music class in school. She said she'll miss it this summer. Any ideas for "music class" at home?

**A:** It's great that your child likes music. In addition to bringing lifelong enjoyment, music can improve math and language skills by helping her recognize patterns and build vocabulary.

Luckily, music is everywhere. Explore styles by listening to different radio stations in the car. Or let her ask your smart speaker to play everything from rock and jazz to classical and bluegrass. Encourage your daughter to discover favorite genres and songs and to sing and clap along.

If your community has a summer concert series, plan to attend a few shows together. She'll get to see and hear a variety of instruments—not only guitars and drums, but perhaps banjos, bagpipes, or accordions.

Also, check the parks and recreation department for low-cost music classes. Maybe she'll learn to read music, sing harmonies, or even play the ukulele. ♥



### PARENT TO PARENT

#### Appreciating teachers

During a recent PTA meeting, parents were brainstorming low-cost gift ideas for Teacher Appreciation Week May 6–10. I wanted my son Aiden to recognize what his teachers do for him, so I wrote down the suggestions for him to choose from.

My son decided to put candy, pencils, and sticky notes into a jar for his classroom teacher. On the pad's

top note, he wrote, "Thank you for teaching me to write!" Since his art teacher's favorite color is yellow, he's making her a yellow-themed goody bag with dollar store items—including highlighters with a note saying, "You shine bright!"

Aiden is enjoying putting together the gifts. He can't wait to hand them out and express his appreciation. ♥



# Math+Science Connection

Beginning Edition

Building Excitement and Success for Young Children

May 2019

Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program

## TOOLS & TIDBITS

### How many outfits?

Ask your child to lay out three of his shirts and two pairs of his pants. How many different outfits can he make? Let him check his prediction by drawing possible combinations. He'll learn to estimate based on what he sees and to use problem-solving skills to reach a conclusion. (Answer: Six outfits.)

### Natural vs. human-made

Gather a dozen small objects. Some should be from nature (nut, leaf, rock) and others made by humans (eraser, bead, magnet). Can your youngster sort them according to whether they're natural or made by people? (Explain that natural objects come from the Earth.) When she's finished, she could collect more objects and sort again.

### Book picks

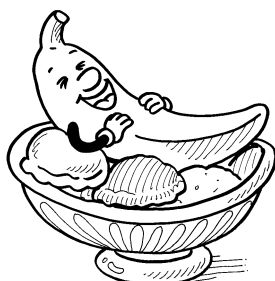
■ In *The Wishing Club: A Story About Fractions* (Donna Jo Napoli), your child will join four siblings as they discover fractions and, hopefully, get a pet pig.

■ Pictures and words tell the story of each animal's home in *Where Do I Sleep? A Pacific Northwest Lullaby* (Jennifer Blomgren). A nice bedtime read-aloud.

## Just for fun

**Q:** What did the banana do when it saw a monkey?

**A:** It split!



## Keep cool and do math

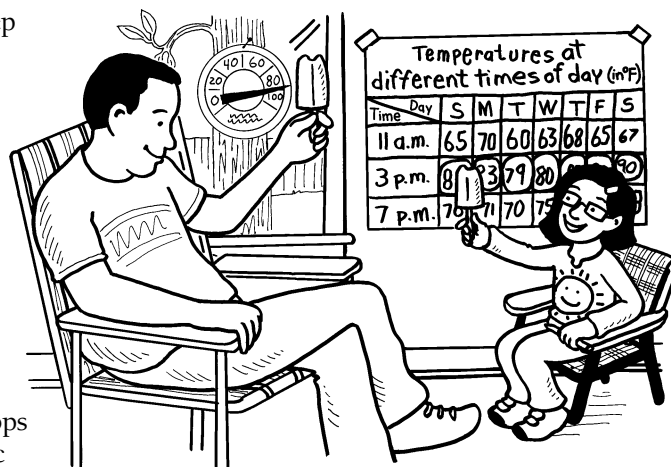
Your youngster can keep her math skills sharp and stay cool this summer by counting, comparing numbers, and practicing facts. Here's how.

### Ice cream parlor

Encourage your child to set up a pretend ice cream shop to use *ordinal numbers* like first, second, and third. Be her customer, and ask for scoops of ice cream—in a specific order. *Example:* "Please make the *first* scoop strawberry, the *second* chocolate, and the *third* vanilla." Then, she can scoop play dough into a cup in the correct order (pink, brown, white).

### Hot days

When is the hottest time of day? Help your youngster use a thermometer or weather app to check the temperature each day at 11 a.m., 3 p.m., and 7 p.m. She should record the temperatures on a chart and circle each day's high in red. Each week, she could count to see which



time has the most red circles—that might be the best time to cool off indoors!

### Solve and splash

Let your child work on math facts in the swimming pool. Have her use a permanent marker to write the numbers 0–20 on separate plastic plates. Float them in the water, and give each player a sponge. To play, one person says a problem like  $12 - 3 = \underline{\quad}$ , and the next player tosses her sponge onto the plate with the answer. If she hits the right plate (9), she gives the next person a problem. When everyone has had a turn, play again.

## A coding adventure

Don't step in the lava! With this unplugged activity, your child will venture into the world of coding while staying "safe" from imaginary lava.

**1.** Have your youngster arrange towels or washcloths on the floor to make a path across the room.

**2.** Armed with a notebook and pencil, he can navigate the path while writing code to instruct others on how he avoids the "lava." *Example:* "↑ 2, ↗ 1" for "Jump forward twice, jump diagonally to the right once."

**3.** Once your child has crossed the lava, he should read his code aloud to help you cross the room "safely."

**4.** Now he could rearrange the path and write a new code.



# Shapes: From 2-D to 3-D

What is made up of four rectangles and two squares? A *rectangular prism*! Your child can build geometry skills by matching flat, or 2-D, shapes with solid, or 3-D, shapes. Try these ideas.

**"Mail" a shape.** On separate index cards, have your youngster draw shapes (circle, square, triangle, rectangle, trapezoid, pentagon, hexagon). Pick a card (say, the circle), and "mail" it to your child by placing it in a shoebox. He searches the house for a solid



chose. He could test different blocks by matching their faces to the tracings. When he finds the right block, he can name its faces and its shape. Then, it's his turn to trace a block for you.

object with that flat shape as one or more of its faces (a soup can, or cylinder) and mails it back. Now he chooses a card for you. If he sends you a square, maybe you'll mail him a Rubik's Cube.

**Trace a block.** With your child not looking, pick a building block, and use a crayon to trace around each of its faces (sides) on a piece of paper. For a *triangular prism*, you'd trace around two triangles and three rectangles. Ask your child which block you

## Q & A Family math "field trips"

**Q:** My daughter's two favorite things about school are math and field trips. How can we turn our family's outings into math "field trips" this summer?

**A:** Field trips connect what your daughter learns in school with hands-on, real-life experiences. Luckily, just about any outing is a potential math field trip.



During a baseball game, have your child read the score after each inning and announce who's winning and by how many runs. If you attend a concert, she might count the musicians on stage and estimate how many people are in the audience.

At a county fair, your daughter could make up story problems. *Example:* "There are six spotted pigs and four pink pigs. How many more spotted pigs are there than pink pigs?" (Answer:  $6 - 4 = 2$ .) Or she might figure out how many tickets she needs if the Ferris wheel requires three tickets and the merry-go-round takes two ( $3 + 2 = 5$ ).

## SCIENCE LAB

### Thick as molasses

This experiment shows your child how the thickness of a liquid affects how fast it moves.

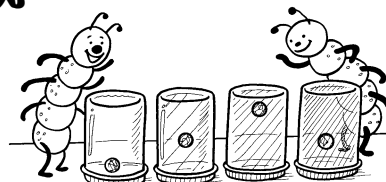
**You'll need:** four same-size empty jars with lids, four same-size clean marbles, four liquids of different thicknesses (examples: water, cooking oil, honey, molasses)

**Here's how:** Let your youngster put a marble in each jar and fill each jar with a different liquid. Have her screw the lids on tightly. Turn all four jars over at the same time (this will take two people), and watch the marbles drop. Which one hits bottom first? Last?

**What happens?** The thicker the liquid, the longer it takes the marble to fall.

**Why?** Thicker liquids have higher *viscosity*, or resistance to flow. If two marbles fall in about the same amount of time, the two liquids they're in have similar viscosity.

**Idea:** Talk about how viscosity is important in foods. Would gravy or spaghetti sauce be good if it were as thin as water? Is it easier to make chocolate milk with thin chocolate syrup or thick hot fudge?



## MATH CORNER

### Just a minute

"One Mississippi, two Mississippi..."

Your youngster will find out just how long a minute is with this homemade sand timer.

**Materials:** funnel, sand or sugar, measuring cup, two empty plastic water bottles (dried, caps removed), foil, sharpened pencil, duct tape, stopwatch

Hold the funnel while your child measures  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup sand into one bottle. He should tightly cover the openings of the bottles completely with foil. Use the pencil to poke a hole (about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch

wide) in the center of the foil on each bottle. Place the empty bottle upside down against the mouth of the bottle with sand, and duct-tape them together.

Now, he can flip his sand timer while you set a stopwatch for 1 minute. He should separate the bottles, add or remove sand, and re-cover and reattach until there's exactly 1 minute worth of sand in the timer.

What kinds of things can he do in one minute? He could use his new timer to find out. Maybe he'll tie his shoes, tell a joke, or pick up his toys!



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# BUILDING READERS®

How Families Can Help Children Get Ready to Read

Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District  
Title 1

## 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.

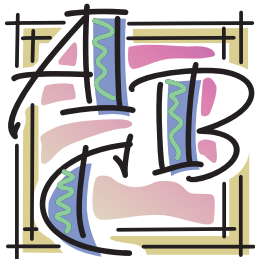
So get your child talking about everything from his favorite book to his silliest friend. You'll reach your destination before you know it.



## 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<sup>®</sup>

How Families Can Help Children Get Ready to Read

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# Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

May 2019

Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program

## Book Picks



### Read-aloud favorites

#### ■ *Same, Same but Different*

(Jenny Sue Kosteck-Shaw)

Two boys with an ocean between them become best friends in this story about similarities and differences. Pen pals Elliot and Kailash both like to climb trees—but Elliot's tree in America has a treehouse, while Kailash's tree in India is full of monkeys. What else will they discover as they exchange letters?

#### ■ *Sofia Martinez: My Family Adventure*

(Jacqueline Jules)

There's one adventure after another for seven-year-old Sofia. She goes to hilarious lengths to stand out from her older sisters, make a piñata for her grandmother's birthday, and find an escaped pet mouse. A glossary helps readers learn the Spanish words sprinkled throughout the story. Book one in the Sofia Martinez series.



#### ■ *Digger, Dozer, Dumper*

(Hope Vestergaard)

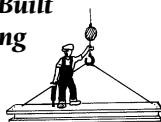
Trucks have many jobs! Your child can learn about their work as he reads this collection of 16 poems, each featuring a different vehicle. Colorful illustrations show everything from street sweepers to fire trucks, and rhyming verses describe their jobs—cleaning, rescuing, and more.



#### ■ *Sky Boys: How They Built the Empire State Building*

(Deborah Hopkinson)

This true story offers amazing facts about the New York City landmark. For example, steel columns were sunk 55 feet underground to support the 365,000-ton tower, and the builders took lunch breaks on beams dozens of stories high.



## Be a nonfiction explorer

Lemonade, swimming, the zoo... no matter what's on your child's agenda while school is out, he can read to learn more about it! Try these tips for nonfiction reading before or even during summertime activities.



### Learn how

Have your youngster think of something new he'd like to try, such as running a lemonade stand or putting on a magic show. Together, read books that might help him succeed. For instance, he could learn how to make change from a picture book about counting money. Or he could read a book of magic tricks to find out how to dazzle his audience.

Or if you're traveling on an airplane, pack a book for him to read about how planes fly.

### Go beyond books

Suggest that your youngster collect and explore other nonfiction materials. He might get a map of the zoo, a takeout menu at the pizza parlor, or a calendar of events at the park. Ask him to read words he recognizes (*tiger, cheese, hike*). He could circle his favorite animals or pizza toppings, or highlight park programs he wants to attend. ♥

### Discover facts

Take books along wherever you go. Maybe your child will read a book of world records at the pool and tell you who swam the fastest or the farthest ever.

## Revise and edit

How can your youngster make her writing shine? By polishing it! Here's how.

● **Revise.** Encourage your child to read her story aloud. What could she add or rearrange? To decide, she might think, "Did I leave out anything important?" or "Are the events in the right order?" Ask questions to help her add details or clear up confusion. ("Who is Chloe?")

● **Edit.** Now it's time to edit for capitalization, punctuation, and spelling. Have your child read her story once to check for each type of error. If you spot a mistake she overlooks (say, a word that should be capitalized), help her figure it out. ("What should the first word in a sentence start with?") ♥





# Writing “on location”

Inspire your youngster to practice writing vivid descriptions whether she’s outdoors or at home. She’ll have fun using *adjectives*, or descriptive words, with these ideas.

**Nature on the playground.** Take pencils and paper outside, and try this activity. Each of you secretly spots something



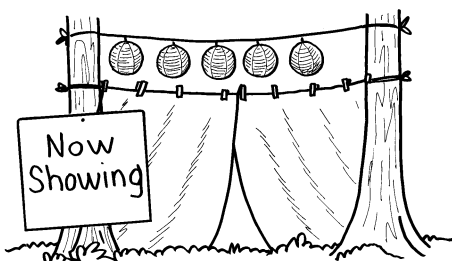
in nature and writes a description that includes at least two adjectives—but doesn’t name the object. Your child could write, “I see something *big*, *white*, and *fluffy*,” and you might write, “I see something *short*, *yellow*, and *green*.” Trade papers, then take a look around, and try to guess what the other person is describing (cloud, dandelion).

**Scenes from afar.** Your child can write descriptions of faraway places without

ever leaving home! Have her cut out pictures of different types of scenery from old magazines. *Examples:* tropical beach, snowy mountain, the surface of Mars. She could glue each photo on a separate page of a notebook and write about it, using adjectives to bring her sentences to life. (“Mars looks *red* and *dusty*. Some parts are *rocky*, and others are *smooth*.”)♥

## Neighborhood theater

Lights, camera, action! Let your youngster put on a play based on a favorite storybook, and she’ll work on reading, writing, and speaking.



First, help your child turn the book into a script by writing the dialogue on a sheet of paper. Then, make a copy for each character. Your youngster and friends and family can choose roles.

Suggest that actors read their lines aloud a few times to rehearse. Encourage them to ham it up, using voices that might sound like their characters. They could also make scenery on poster board and use household items as props.

Now it’s show time! Invite neighbors to be the audience, and videotape the performance. Finally, hold a film premiere where the cast can watch the tape.♥



## Active spelling games

Your child can balance and hop his way to better spelling with these games.

### Balance like an acrobat

Make a duct tape “tightrope.” Your youngster can spell words, taking one step for each letter. If you say *block*, he’d take five careful steps. If he spells it correctly without stepping off, give him another word. If not, his turn ends. Once he reaches the end of the tightrope, he scores one point for each word he got right. Then, he gives you words. After five rounds, the person with the most points wins.



### Hop like a bunny

Let your child use chalk to write the alphabet in big letters scattered across a driveway, sidewalk, or blacktop. Then, call out a word (say, *hat*). He spells it as he hops to each letter—if he gets the word right, he earns one point per letter. Now he says a word, and you spell and hop. The first player with 10 points wins.♥



## A reading campout

My sister recently reminded me about how much we loved making tents and reading in them when we were little. She said she felt grown-up helping me read, and I remembered how I wanted to practice reading so I’d sound just like her.

I decided to try a “reading campout” with my kids, Molly and Liam. We checked out library books and pitched a tent in the backyard. Then, my

husband and I sat in lawn chairs with our own books while the kids read. We heard Molly helping Liam sound out words. When it was her turn to read, we listened to her explain the meanings of words to her little brother.

Since that night, our kids have asked for more reading campouts. Now we’re planning a real camping trip—and Molly and Liam are already deciding which books they want to take and read to each other!♥



### OUR PURPOSE

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

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# BUILDING READERS®

How Families Can Help Children Become Better Readers

Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District  
Title 1

## 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®

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# Reading Connection

INTERMEDIATE EDITION

Working Together for Learning Success

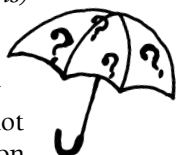
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Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program

## Book Picks

### ■ *Samantha Spinner and the Super-Secret Plans* (Russell Ginns)

When Samantha's uncle disappears, he leaves her with a rusty red umbrella—and a lot of questions. Join her on a worldwide adventure where she must solve puzzles to figure out what the umbrella is for and save her uncle.



### ■ *Cricket in the Thicket: Poems about Bugs* (Carol Murray)

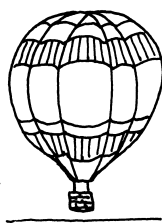


In this book of nonfiction poetry, readers explore many types of bugs. Each page includes a short poem, interesting facts, and realistic graphics. Your

child will learn about cicadas, ants, daddy longlegs, and more!

### ■ *The Twenty-One Balloons* (William Pène du Bois)

While flying his hot-air balloon, Professor Sherman lands unexpectedly on a volcanic island full of diamonds and spectacular inventions. But once the professor learns the wealthy residents' secrets, he finds himself unable to leave.



### ■ *Two Truths and a Lie: It's Alive!* (Ammi-Joan Paquette and Laurie Ann Thompson)

Each chapter of this book includes three sections—two are true and one is false. It's up to readers to use their research skills to figure out which part is made up. Includes an answer guide and research tips. Book one in the Two Truths and a Lie series.

## A summer full of books

Children who read for fun build background knowledge, learn new vocabulary, and become better writers. Here are ways to make reading an everyday part of your youngster's summer.

### Keep reading materials available

When reading is convenient, your child will be more likely to read for pleasure. Leave a pile of magazines on the coffee table, keep graphic novels on the nightstand, put the newspaper on the kitchen table, and stash books in the car.

### Try a reading challenge

Have your youngster check libraries, bookstores, or parks and recreation departments for free summer reading programs. Many sponsor contests or book clubs, too. Help her stick with the plan by setting a goal, perhaps to read a certain number of pages per week or books per month. *Tip:* She might even

start her own challenge and invite friends to join.

### Tie books to activities

Summer outings can be a springboard for reading. After a fair, concert, or carnival, your child can visit the library to find related books. A trip to a state fair could encourage her to check out books about raising rabbits. Watching a fireworks display may lead her to read about the science of colors. ■



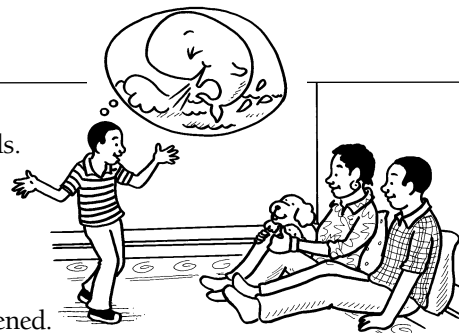
## Storytelling tips

Family storytelling night boosts your child's imagination and his speaking skills. It's also a great way to bond. These tips can help you get started.

● **Tall tales.** Ask each person to name a family memory. Then, take turns telling a story that exaggerates what actually happened.

("The road trip took so long, everyone had a birthday before we got home.")

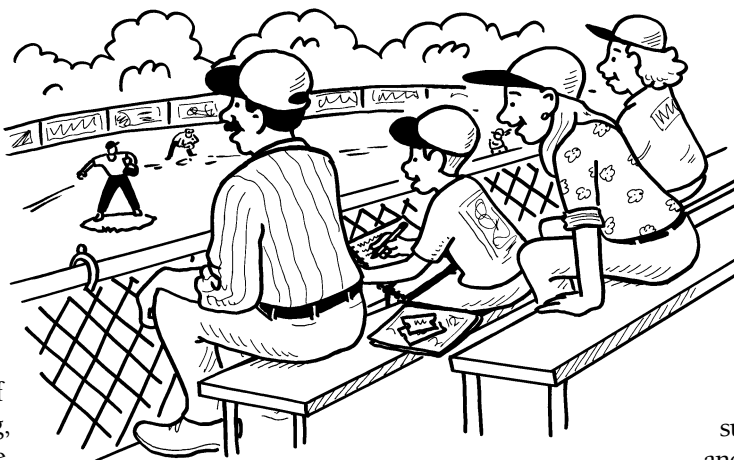
● **Myths.** Encourage your youngster to think of a weather event (flood, volcano), and work together to invent an explanation for how it came about. ("Many years ago, a great blue whale got a very bad cold. He passed it to other whales around the world. Now when they sneeze, there's a flood.") ■



## Put memories in writing

Your child can make a book of summer memories—and practice writing all summer long. Start with a three-ring binder, and consider these suggestions.

**Journal.** Have your youngster create a separate page for each of his summer activities (stargazing, baseball, fishing). He could write brief diary entries with the dates and a few sentences telling what happened. *Example:* “June 25. Took a night hike with Dad. I counted 50 fireflies!”



**Memorabilia.** Encourage him to paste ticket stubs, maps, and programs from special events into his memory book. He can write a caption for each one. (“These tickets are from a baseball game we went to. Our team hit two home runs!”)

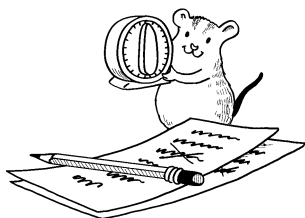
**Objects.** Have your child fill zipper bags with summer treasures, such as seashells, pebbles, and leaves. Suggest that he include

an index card describing the items. For instance, he might write, “These are seashells I found at Myrtle Beach with Grandma.” Then, he could tape each bag to a page in the binder. ■

### Fun with Words

## 3, 2, 1 vowels

This three-minute game will stretch your child’s vocabulary and improve her spelling.



Get a timer, or use a watch with a second hand, to time each one-minute round. In round one, each player lists all the words she can think of that have three different vowels (the same vowels may occur more than once). *Examples:* *reaching, capitol, information.* For round two, write words that use just two different vowels (*classmate, separate, text-book*). And in the final round, list words that repeat the same vowel (*September, Alabama, tiring*). *Note:* Each word must contain at least two syllables.

When time runs out, compare lists, and cross off duplicate and misspelled words. Score one point for each word left on your list. The player with the most points wins. ■

### OUR PURPOSE

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

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## Be a tour guide

If you travel this summer or you’re expecting visitors, make your child the official family tour guide. These ideas will let her do research and read for information:

- Get brochures from a hotel lobby. She can learn about tourist sites (museums, factories that offer tours) and activities (miniature golf, parks). Suggest that she make a list or spreadsheet with columns for prices, hours, and other details.
- Have your youngster read the extended forecast on a site like *weather.com*. She could recommend a packing list of clothes that are appropriate for the weather.
- Encourage her to check newspapers, local magazines, and the visitor center website for coupons. She might find discounted tickets for theme parks, shows, or other attractions. ■

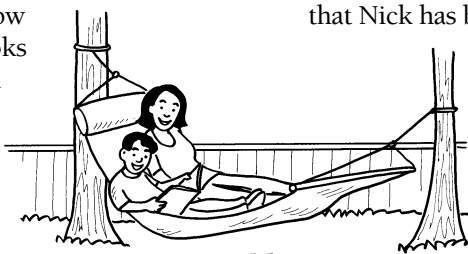


### Parent & Parent

## Improving comprehension

When my son Nick struggled with reading comprehension tests, I met with his reading specialist to learn how I could help him at home.

Mr. Stephens suggested “Hi-Lo Books,” which Nick can check out from the school library. He said these “high interest–low vocabulary” books have stories that older children enjoy and are written at a lower reading level.



The reading specialist also suggested that we play vocabulary games at home—he said a big vocabulary helps with comprehension. In our favorite game, I say a word like *home*, and Nick names synonyms, or words with similar meanings, such as *house* and *apartment*.

Mr. Stephens’s ideas are working. Now that Nick has books he can understand

and enjoy, he reads more often on his own. And his grades improved this quarter—not only in reading, but in social studies and science, too. ■



# Recipes for Success

Practical Activities to Help Your Child Succeed

MAY 2019

## MATH

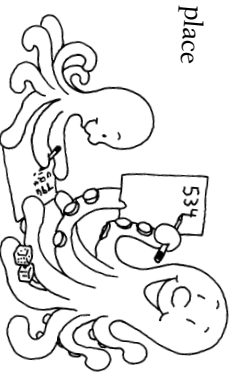
### A number finds its place

This game helps your youngster understand the connection between digits and their place values.

**Ingredients:** two dice, masking tape, pencil and paper for each player

Have your child turn one die into a "place value die." She should cover it with squares of masking tape and label two sides "1s," two "10s," and two "100s."

Take turns rolling both dice three times to create a three-digit number. The regular die tells what digit to write on your paper, and the place value die tells where to put it (100s, 10s, or 1s place). *Example:* Roll 5 and 100s, 3 and 10s, value more than once.) Add your numbers again if you get the same place value more than once.) Add your numbers as you go. The player with the highest total after 10 rounds wins.



## 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."

## READING

### Mixed messages

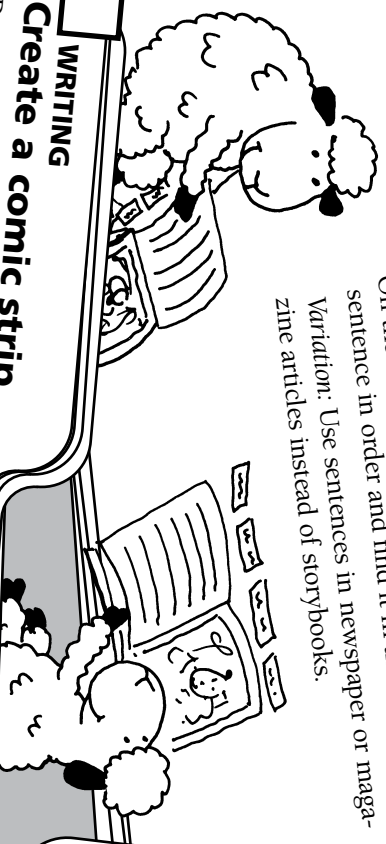
As your child races you in this activity, he will build reading and logic skills.

**Ingredients:** storybooks, pencils, paper, scissors

Each person should choose a book. Look through your book, and secretly pick a sentence with at least five words. Write the sentence, and cut the paper apart so each piece has two or more words. Swap books and sentence pieces.

On the count of three, race to see who can put the sentence in order and find it in the book first.

**Variation:** Use sentences in newspaper or magazine articles instead of storybooks.



## WRITING

### Create a comic strip

Drawing a comic strip is a fun way to practice writing dialogue.

**Ingredients:** comic books or newspaper comic strips, crayons or markers, paper

Let your child pick a comic for the two of you to read aloud. Each of you could choose characters and use different voices to read the speech bubbles. Then, encourage your child to draw and write his own comic featuring himself and family or friends. It might be about something that happened that day, or he can make up a story. What will his characters say to each other? When he finishes, read his comic strip together.



## SOCIAL STUDIES

Ask your youngster to name ways people get from one place to another (cars, walking, camels). How many can he think of? For older children, limit the list to a single category of transportation, such as animals or things with wheels.



## FITNESS

Turn cleanup time into fitness time. Place a box at one end of a room. When you say "Go," start a timer, and your child races to pick up scattered toys and put them in the box. Check her time. Can she beat it at cleanup time tomorrow?



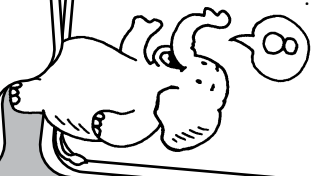
# Recipes for Success

Practical Activities to Help Your Child Succeed

MAY 2019

## MEMORY

Boost memory skills with this interview game. Write 10 simple questions. Ask the first two ("How old are you?" "What's your favorite color?"). Have your child answer only the first one ("8"). When you ask the *third*, she'll answer the *second* ("blue"), and so on. Can she remember what you asked?



## GOAL-SETTING

Talking about your goals can be a powerful way to stay accountable for them. Share a personal or job-related goal, and invite your child to tell you one of hers. Then, pick a regular time (say, during dinner) to discuss your progress.



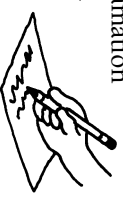
## RESPECT FOR THE EARTH

Together, make your own environmentally friendly cleaning supplies. Your youngster could mix  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup each of water and white vinegar in a spray bottle to make a toy cleaner. Or he might cut old T-shirts into reusable cleaning rags.



## CONTROLLING ANGER

When your child gets angry, have her write a "mad memo." She can "lose her cool" — on paper only — by writing how she feels in capital letters and with exclamation points. Once she's calm, talk about what made her angry.



## SYMMETRY

Let your child fold a piece of paper in half lengthwise and then open it. He can paint a design on one half. Before the paint dries, he should fold the paper back in half, pressing the sides together carefully. When he opens it, he'll see a *symmetrical* design, each half a mirror image of the other!



## SCIENCE

### Camouflaged creatures

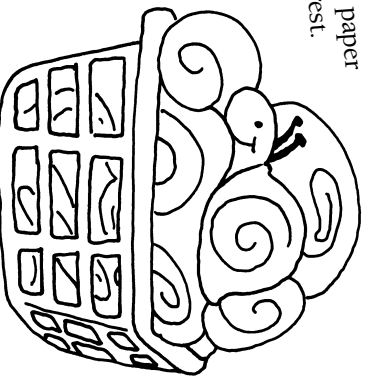
How do animals protect themselves? Your child can see for himself how patterns and colors help creatures blend into their surroundings and stay safe from predators.

**Ingredients:** clothes, dish towels, blankets, construction or scrapbook paper, toy animals

Have your youngster lay out fabric and pieces of paper that remind him of colors and patterns found in nature. A blue shirt might look like the ocean, for instance. Brown paper could resemble the ground in a forest.

Now he should match animals with the fabric or paper where they'll be most camouflaged and hide them around the house. Can you spot the animals?

Next, camouflage and hide animals for him to find. The better camouflaged the animals are, the harder it is to see them.



## Congratulations!

We finished \_\_\_\_\_ activities together on this poster.

Signed (parent or adult family member)

Signed (child)

## PUNCTUATION

What a difference a comma makes! Show your youngster these two sentences: "I love baking, my toys, and my guitar" and "I love baking my toys and my guitar." How does the meaning change? Now let her think of sentences that turn silly without commas.

