



Dennis-Yarmouth Title I

From the Title I Coordinator

Are you worried about your child's mathematics, and your ability to help your child with their mathematics? Zearn Math is a digitalized, personalized group of lessons just like they are being taught in school through the Eureka Math Curriculum.

It is designed to teach children that making mistakes is a critical part of the learning process and that with effort, they can learn anything. When a student struggles with a concept on Zearn, they work through personalized remediation paths that provide precise feedback and opportunities to try again.

Parents are welcome to create a free account and have their children use Zearn at home even if they're not using it in their classroom. Check with your child's teacher to see if your child has a Zearn account, if go to:

www.zearn.org

Students are not allowed to create an account so, as the parent you'll need to create your own account first. Although we don't have specific parent account, the Teacher Account works just as well! Once you have an account, just create a "class" and add your "student" and you are ready to go.

To Use Zearn at home, your child will need:

A computer with Internet access

Headphone or speaker so your child can hear the audio instruction

A pencil and addition scratch paper.

For some lessons, students may need other physical materials (like scissors or ruler). Zearn lets your child know at the beginning of the lesson, so he/she can grab it before starting to Zearn! We hope you and your child enjoy Zearning together!



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

Materials:

1. 8 1/2 by 11 heavy paper or cardboard for the cover.
2. 10 pieces of 8 1/2 by 11 paper
3. Glue
4. Stapler

Method:

1. Cut the cover and paper into a large oval.
2. Have the child draw his or her face on the cover.
3. Print the words "I promise" on a separate piece of paper and cut out in the shape of a cartoon dialogue bubble.
4. On each of the interior pages have the child draw a picture of a chore or activity that they will willingly do when asked. These become the "I promise" coupons.
(Examples include: set the table, take care of a pet, dry the dishes, clean the table, make the bed, help with the laundry, sing a song or tell a story, write a note to a relative, help put away the groceries, give a parent a hug or kiss before going to school, help clean the car, etc.)
5. Glue the words "I Promise" onto the face picture
6. Staple the packet together.

Volume 1, Issue iii

December, 2016

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



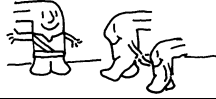
Home & School

Working Together for School Success

CONNECTION®

December 2016

Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program



SHORT NOTES

Weather emergency kit

Let your youngster help you prepare for winter emergencies. Brainstorm what you might need if the power goes out or if you're stuck inside during a snowstorm. *Examples:* Flashlights, batteries, bottled water, canned goods, first aid kit. Together, put the items in a box and find a safe place to keep it.

Thinking games

Stretch your child's thinking skills by playing Fortunately, Unfortunately. One person states a good event ("Fortunately, all the stoplights have been green"). The next player says a silly, but related, "bad" event ("Unfortunately, the law changed, and green means Stop"). Continue until you get stuck—then start over.

Your child's digital footprint

It's tempting to post cute pictures of your youngster or tell funny parenting stories on social media—but first consider his feelings. And since his online trail will stick with him forever, think about how he'll feel when he's older. Get his permission before posting, or let him decide who will be able to see it (say, only relatives).

Worth quoting

"Wishing to be friends is quick work, but friendship is a slow-ripening fruit." *Aristotle*

JUST FOR FUN

Q: Why did the girl wear one mitten and one boot?

A: Because she heard there was a 50 percent chance of snow.



Connect reading and writing

Reading will make your child a better writer—and vice versa. That's good news, because both will help her do well in every subject. Here are ways she can explore the link between reading and writing.

Try genres

Introduce your youngster to a wide variety of books, from fairy tales and science fiction to graphic novels and biographies. Reading different genres will give her more options to think about—suggest that she branch out and try writing in one of those new genres.

Collect "gems"

Have your child keep a notebook of her favorite parts of stories. She could choose interesting words or lines. She'll get in the habit of paying close attention



to the language that writers use, which will give her ideas for her own writing.

Review books

Your youngster could be a budding book critic and write reviews about what she reads. She'll practice opinion writing and deepen her reading comprehension as she summarizes the plot. Encourage her to include details and quotes from the book to back up her opinions. ("The main character showed empathy when he said, 'I know what it's like to be the new kid in school.'")♥

Volunteer success

Whether you're volunteering in your youngster's school or from home, consider these tips.

Contact the teacher. Let him know you'd like to help, tell him when you're available, and find out what he needs.

Follow the rules. Ask questions if you're not sure what's expected. For instance, are home-baked goods acceptable, or do treats have to be store-bought and sealed, with ingredients listed? Are younger siblings allowed to come along? What are the guidelines for keeping student information confidential?

Enjoy the experience! Volunteering is rewarding for parents, teachers, and students. Know that you're making a difference, and talk to your child about how you're helping out.♥



A dependable child

Kyle's parents count on him to walk his little sister home from school. And Jamal's parents know he'll remember to set the table without being asked. These parents are raising dependable youngsters—and you can, too, with these suggestions:

- Talk to your child about who depends on you. You could say, "My company relies on me to be on time, so I have to leave for work now." Your youngster will see that being dependable is a part of life.



- When you need your child to do something, let him know you're counting on him. He'll be likely to meet your expectations if you say something like "I know I can depend on you to feed the dog."

- Show your youngster how good it feels to follow through when someone is relying on him. You might have him sign up to

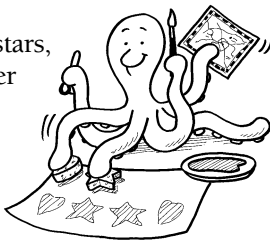
work with a student who is learning English or who needs extra help with math. Use encouraging comments such as, "I know Julian looks forward to seeing you every day," or "I bet David is learning a lot from you."♥

ACTIVITY CORNER

DIY wrapping paper

Let your child design homemade wrapping paper—and show thoughtfulness by personalizing each person's package. Try these ideas.

Sponge stamps. Help your youngster cut apart large brown paper bags. Then, she could cut sponges into stars, hearts, or other shapes, and dip them into paint. Suggest that she stamp them onto the paper in a pattern (heart, star, star, heart, star, star).



"Mapping" paper. Have an old atlas? Your child might cut out maps and tape them together to make sheets of wrapping paper. If she's sending a gift to a relative in another state or country, she could select a map of that place.

Artwork. Who wouldn't love to receive your youngster's original artwork? Ask her to wrap a few gifts in her own paintings or sketches.♥

Navigating group projects

Learning to work on assignments as a group is an important part of school. Share this advice for helping your youngster succeed with projects and presentations.

Get input

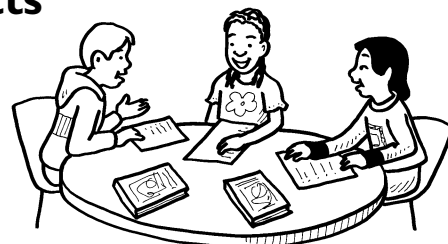
Everyone in the group should give input. Your child might get quieter members to express their opinions by asking, "Which format do you like for our presentation?"

List duties

At the first meeting, one person can write and distribute a list of responsibilities, including due dates for each task. That way, everyone will remember what they're supposed to do.

Update each other

During follow-up meetings, group members should give updates on their progress and brainstorm solutions to any problems. If anyone is falling behind, other members could offer support or ideas.♥



Q & A Be your own "CEO"

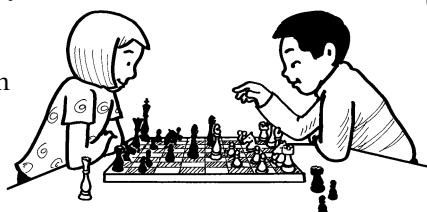
Q: I've been hearing a lot lately about executive function skills. What are they, and should I be helping my son work on them?

A: These skills let your child manage himself, like an executive overseeing the operations of a company or an air-traffic controller directing flights for landing. A student with good executive function skills is able to juggle tasks, plan

ahead, stay organized, and make decisions about his actions.

You could help your son sharpen these skills with strategy games. For example, chess is ideal because players must plan several moves in advance and consider multiple possibilities. Or try 20

Questions, since players have to keep in mind answers to all previous questions as they decide what to ask next.♥



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128 N. Royal Avenue • Front Royal, VA 22630
540-636-4280 • rfeustomer@wolterskluwer.com
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Math+Science Connection

Beginning Edition

Building Excitement and Success for Young Children

December 2016

Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program

TOOLS & TIDBITS

Compute creatively

Give your child a few math problems, and encourage her to use household objects to act them out. Let her be



creative with what she chooses! She might solve $5 - 2 = 3$ with pickles or $7 + 4 = 11$ with cookie cutters. Using what teachers call *manipulatives* (objects you can move around) will boost her understanding because they're hands-on.

Be a little chemist

For an early introduction to chemistry, suggest that your youngster squish together a few colors of play dough. Now, can he separate them back out? Nope, because he just bound them together. That's the same thing that happens when elements bond. They become something new—a compound!

Web picks

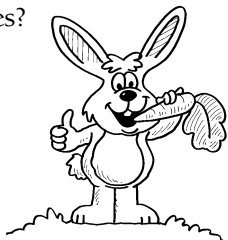
With a click and a drag, your child will be able to visualize place value while having fun at learningbox.com/base10/BaseTen.html.

If your youngster has never seen an aye-aye or a regal horned lizard, she could check out those creatures, and more, at kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals.

Just for fun

Q: How can you tell that carrots are good for your eyes?

A: You never see rabbits wearing glasses!



Pair and add

Pairing numbers together to make 5, 10, or 100 will simplify addition for your little math learner. Here's how.

Flash 5

See how quickly your youngster can put together a match that equals 5. Hold up some fingers on one hand. Have him show you with his fingers what number is missing to equal 5. If you hold up 2 fingers, he should "flash" 3 fingers and say the addition sentence, " $2 + 3 = 5$." Take turns, and when he's got it down, use both hands and create matches to 10.

Fish for 10

Play Go Fish with a deck of cards (face cards and 10s removed, ace = 1). The object is to produce pairs equaling 10, such as 3 and 7. Deal 5 cards to each player, and stack the rest. Take turns asking for what you need. *Example:* If you have a 2, ask for an 8. If your opponent doesn't have it, draw a card. Lay



down pairs of 10 as you go. (If you run out of cards, draw 5 more.) When no more pairs can be made, the player with the most pairs wins.

Pass to 100

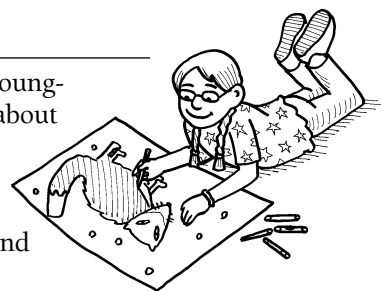
Try "passing" numbers back and forth to make 100. Start by saying a multiple of 10, like 30. Your child says a number back to you that would add to 100. (With 30, he'd pass back 70.) If he's right, he "tosses" a number to you. Keep at it until he correctly passes numbers back every time.

Winter's on its way

As colder weather sets in, encourage your youngster to help prepare for winter—and to think about what animals might be doing to prepare.

Ask her what clothing your family needs for cold weather (coats, boots, gloves). Then, she could help put away her summer clothes and pull out her winter gear.

What about animals? Together, brainstorm ways that animals get ready for winter, and let her illustrate her ideas. Perhaps she'll draw a picture of a fox growing thick fur, a bear finding a place to sleep, a squirrel storing food, or a bird flying south.

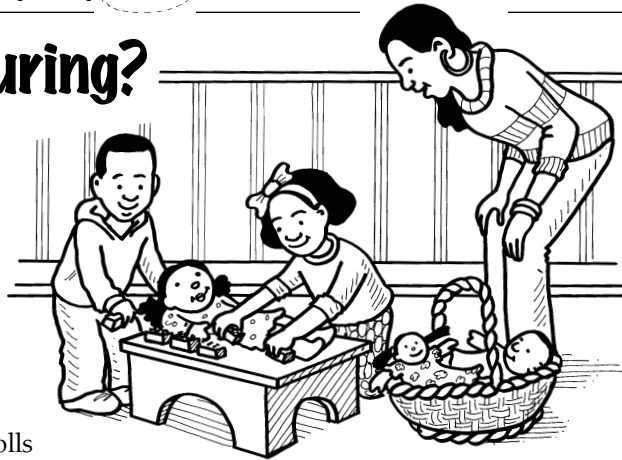


Why am I measuring?

Inches, ounces, and pounds... does your youngster know why we measure things? Use these ideas to explain.

Babies. Pull out pictures from when your child was a baby. You can tell her how the doctor checked her weight and length regularly to make sure she was growing properly.

- Help her measure and weigh her dolls or stuffed animals. She could compare to see which ones are *longer* and *shorter* or *heavier* and *lighter*.

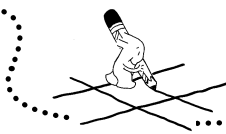


Shoes. When your youngster gets new shoes, the clerk measures her feet to see what size they are. That helps her find shoes that fit.

- Let your child measure your foot. She might line up Legos or paper clips, end to end, to see how many Legos-long or paper clips-long your foot is.

Produce. At the grocery store, point out the scale you use to weigh the fruits and vegetables, and explain how you pay for them by the pound.

- Have your youngster help you weigh the grapes or winter squash you're buying. Ask her to read the numbers on the scale to determine the ounces or pounds. 🦋



SCIENCE LAB

Glue will keep us together

Amaze your youngster with this engineering experiment where a single layer of glue makes two index cards stronger.

You'll need: 2 plastic cups, ruler, 4 index cards, glue, 30 pennies

Here's how:

Have your child glue 2 index cards together and let them dry.



Then, he can turn the cups upside down on a table (about 4 inches apart) and lay the two unglued cards on top, one over the other. Let him put pennies on the cards, counting one by one, until the cards tumble. How many pennies did they hold? Next, he should repeat his experiment with the glued cards.

What happens? The glued cards will hold more pennies.

Why? Gluing the cards together makes them sturdier. This same principle of layering materials together is used to make building materials stronger. 🦋

PARENT TO PARENT

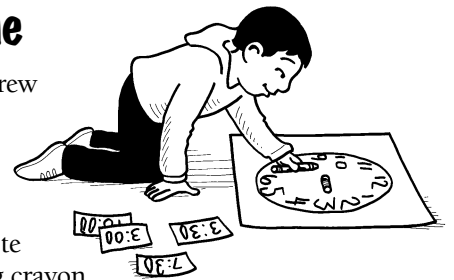
Time after time

In school, my son Andrew is learning about telling and writing time. His teacher suggested a fun way to work on this at home.

First, we needed to make a clock. So Andrew drew a circle on cardboard and wrote the numbers 1–12 around it. He used a long crayon as the minute hand and a broken crayon for the hour hand. Then on scrap paper, we wrote times like 3:30, 6:00, and 9:30.

To practice telling time, Andrew chooses 3 papers and moves his crayon “hands” to show those times. Or I show a time on the clock, and then Andrew finds the slip of paper that matches that time.

The more we do this, the better he's getting at telling time. Now he points at the kitchen clock when it's at an hour or a half-hour mark and tells me the time! 🦋



MATH CORNER

Putting shapes where they go

Where, oh, where did that little square go? Is it left, right, or in the middle? With this geometry activity, your youngster and a friend will enjoy using shape and position words.

Materials: construction paper, markers

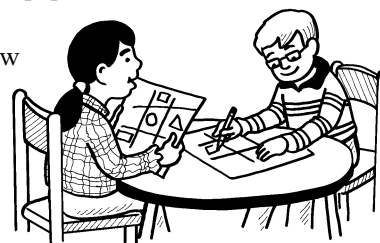
1. Have each person draw a tic-tac-toe board.
2. One player secretly adds a shape (square, circle, triangle, rectangle) into 3 or 4 spaces on her board.

3. She gives directions so her friend can match her board. *Examples:* “I have a square in the top middle space.” “I have a circle in the bottom row on the right.”

4. The other player uses the clues to draw the same shapes in the same places on his board.

5. When all the directions are given, compare boards. Are they the same?

6. Make new boards, and swap roles. 🦋



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128 N. Royal Avenue • Front Royal, VA 22630
540-636-4280 • rfeustomer@wolterskluwer.com
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Reading Connection

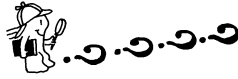
Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

December 2016

Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program

Book Picks



Read-aloud favorites

■ **Lou Caribou: Weekdays with Mom, Weekends with Dad** (Marie-Sabine Roger and Nathalie Choux)
Lou is a young caribou who has two homes, and both are filled with love. This cute rhyming story shows Lou having fun with his mom during the week, then packing his suitcase each weekend for more fun with his dad. A nice read-aloud for children whose parents live apart.

■ **The Squiggle** (Carole Lexa Schaefer)
During a walk to the park, a little girl sees a red “squiggle” on the sidewalk. She picks it up and begins to imagine all the things it could be—a trail of fireworks, ripples in water, or even part of a storm cloud. Your child will enjoy imagining what else a squiggle might be.



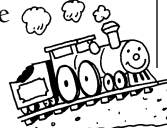
■ **Ice Cream: The Full Scoop** (Gail Gibbons)



Does your youngster know that the first ice cream recipe included snow? Combining history and science, this nonfiction book explains how the dessert has changed through the years. Readers will discover interesting ice cream trivia and learn about different ways the treat is served.

■ **The Little Engine That Could** (Watty Piper)

“I think I can. I think I can!” This classic story of perseverance tells of a little blue engine who believed in herself. When the big red engine breaks down, it’s up to the little engine to deliver toys and food to the children on the other side of the mountain. (Also available in Spanish.)



Read between the lines

If your child reads “The snowman looked smaller than it did yesterday,” can she figure out the snowman is melting? Making *inferences*, or understanding what’s happening when the author doesn’t come right out and say it, is an important comprehension skill. Try these strategies.



Make up riddles

Take turns thinking of a person, place, or thing and giving each other clues to guess it. *Example:* “Sometimes I am round, and sometimes I’m a crescent shape. You see me at night. What am I?” (The moon.) Then, pose “riddles” from stories you read together: “In the story, the girl frowned and stomped off. How do you think she feels?” Your youngster may answer, “I think she is angry.”

Solve mysteries

Read a mystery, and let your child pretend to be a detective. She might get a small notepad and a pencil to jot down or dictate clues. (“Jack was not at work

the day the vase was stolen.”) Her mission is to use the clues to solve the mystery before the book characters do.

Infer in real life

Get your youngster in the habit of making everyday inferences. If you put a skillet, a loaf of bread, and cheese slices on the kitchen counter, invite her to infer what you’re cooking (grilled cheese). Or if you place the cat carrier by the front door, ask her what inference the cat could make—he’s probably going to the vet!♥

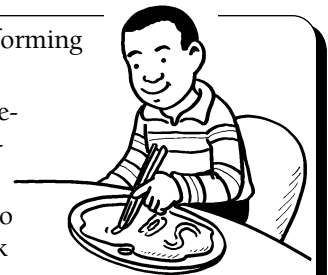
Playful printing activities

These hands-on ideas make it enjoyable to practice forming letters.

● **Disappearing letters.** Write letters or words on a whiteboard or chalkboard. Your child can trace over each letter with his finger or a cotton swab to make it vanish.

● **Toothpicks and clay.** Have your youngster roll clay into a large ball and flatten it. Then he could use a toothpick to “write” letters in the clay,

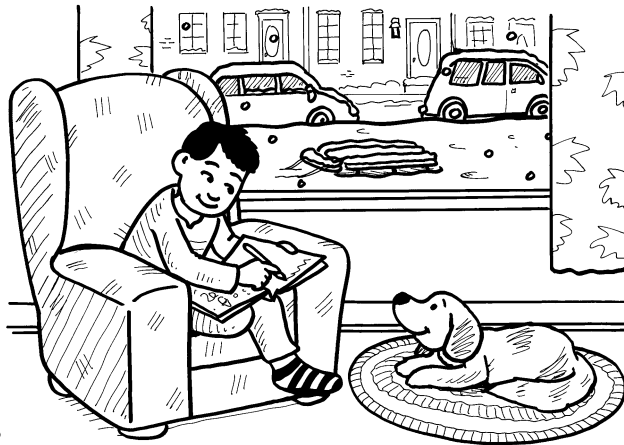
● **Snack-time writing.** Cover a plate with a thin layer of hummus. Let your child drag celery stalks or pretzel rods through it to write his name—and eat the dipped treats when he’s finished!♥



Winter writing

Winter brings plenty of opportunities to write. Whether your youngster is just starting to write words or can write complete paragraphs, keep his skills sharp with these suggestions.

Weather calendar. Draw or print out a blank calendar page. Before bed each night, your child could record the day's weather with a symbol (snowflake, raindrop, sun) and write the weather word.



Resolution list. Let your youngster interview family members about their New Year's resolutions. Help him list them on a sheet of paper. Then on New Year's Eve, invite him to read them to everyone.

Winter break journal. Help your child staple together paper—one sheet for each day of winter

vacation. Encourage him to write about what he does every day. When he goes back to school, he could share his journal with his teacher.♥



Q&A Catch the mistake

Q My daughter doesn't always notice if she makes a mistake while she's reading aloud. She'll just keep going even if a sentence doesn't make sense. What should I do?

A Strong readers learn to "self monitor," or catch their mistakes and try to correct them.

When your child makes an error that affects a story's meaning, wait, and give her a chance to correct herself. If she doesn't, encourage her to think about whether the word she said looks like the printed word or makes sense in the sentence. If she says *soft* instead of *sofa*, point out that the word looks like *soft*, but that a puppy wouldn't sleep on a *soft*.

Note: If your youngster often makes mistakes and doesn't seem to understand what she's reading, talk to her teacher.♥



Syllable shout-out

Who can spot something with two syllables? How about three?

With this game, your child will practice listening to separate syllables—a skill that will help her sound out words.

Materials: pencil, paper, picture book or magazine

Let your youngster write each player's name across the top of a piece of paper. Then, she flips to a random page in the book or magazine and says either "one," "two," or "three." Everyone looks at the open page for an item with that number of syllables. The first person to find one points to the object and says its name slowly, pronouncing each syllable separately. (For three, someone might spot a *car-ou-sel*.)

Help your child write the word and the number of syllables under the player's name. That person goes next and turns to a new page. After 10 rounds, add the scores, and the player with the highest total wins.♥



It's poetry night!

For a cozy family evening filled with reading and fun, try holding a poetry night. Check out children's poetry books from the library, and enjoy these activities.

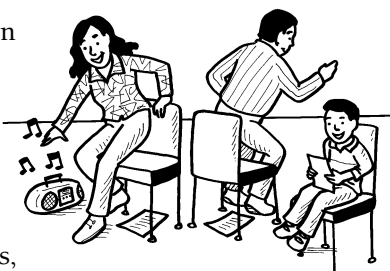
"Musical" verses

Line up a row of chairs, one for each player and a few extras. Each person chooses two short poems, writes them on pieces of paper, and places each sheet under a chair. Then, play music while everyone walks around the chairs. When the music stops,

sit on the closest chair, and read the poem underneath—no one is out. Keep going until everyone gets a chance to read every poem.

Poem-in-a-bag

Before poetry night, every family member picks a poem, puts related "props" into a brown bag, and writes the title on the bag. For a poem about lemonade, for example, your youngster might include a lemon, a sugar packet, and a cup. Pull out your props as you read your poem to everyone.♥



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BUILDING READERS®

How Families Can Help Children Get Ready to Read

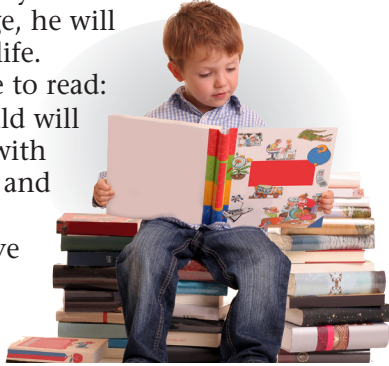
Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District
Title 1

Start now to inspire your child's love for books

Building your child's love of reading now will help him succeed in school and later in life. The sooner he learns to appreciate and learn from books, the better. If your child begins to love books at a young age, he will continue to do so throughout his life.

To encourage your child's desire to read:

- **Read together every day.** Your child will look forward to spending time with you and listening to new books and old favorites.
- **Write stories.** Children are creative storytellers, and your child will love reading a book he "wrote." Write down stories that he tells you and have him draw pictures to go along with them.
- **Show your own love of reading.** Let your child see you reading! When your child sees you get wrapped up in a book, he'll want to do the same.
- **Visit the library.** Make library visits a regular habit. Go to story hours or children's events whenever possible, and always check out a few books.



Source: I. Palmer, "How to Encourage a Love of Books and Reading in Preschoolers," Brightly, nswc.com/encourage_love_reading.

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

—Harold Kushner

Take tips from teachers for conversations

Just as conversations with the teacher at preschool build your child's literacy skills, the way you talk with your child at home can have a huge effect, too.

When teachers speak to students at preschool, they make it a point to:

- **Use complex language** and introduce new words.
- **Hold students' attention** while talking, teaching, and reading.
- **Spend lots of time** reading to the class.

You can use the same tips to build your child's literacy skills at home!

Source: J. Wetzel, "'Robust' Link between Preschool, Language and Literacy," Vanderbilt University, nswc.com/classroom_conversations.

Involve reading in family traditions

Start a new holiday tradition this year:

Pick one night during the month to read holiday books as a family. Your child will be thrilled—and you'll be able to spend time with her reading while nurturing her language-learning skills.



Songs can teach language skills

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

To help your child enjoy and learn from songs:

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



Sock puppets add life to stories

Help your child turn his best-loved story into a puppet show. Here's how:

- **Make a sock puppet.** Help your child draw a face on the toe end of an old sock.
- **Slide the puppet** onto your child's arm. Show him how to make it "talk" by opening and closing his finger and thumb.
- **Listen and cheer** as your child and his puppet act out the story.



Source: R.M. Giles and K.W. Tunks, "Puppet Play: Dramatic Benefits for Young Performers," Earlychildhood NEWS, nswc.com/puppet_play.

When reading together, consistency is key

Reading as a family is an effective tool for teaching your child that reading matters. After all, if the whole family is doing it, it must be a big deal!

To get the most from reading as a family:

- **Schedule it.** Make reading together part of your daily routine. Your child will begin to expect reading with you at the same time each day, and he'll look forward to it!
- **Share stories** with repeating word patterns or rhymes. It'll help your child learn to anticipate what's coming next in a tale.
- **Pause and discuss.** Every so often, stop reading and ask your child what he thinks might happen next in the story. Then you make a guess, too!



Source: B.B. Armbruster, Ph.D. and others, "A Child Becomes a Reader – Birth Through Preschool," Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health & Human Development, niscw.com/reading_continuity.

Create environments that support reading

In order for your child to enjoy reading, you want her to have a place where she wants to read. To make your home reading-friendly:

- **Expand your notion** of "reading." Reading books isn't the only way to build your child's literacy skills. Listening to recorded stories or inventing funny, entertaining tales together counts, too.
- **Create a place to read.** Having a comfortable place to read will make it more enticing. Help your child gather pillows and blankets to make a reading nook. She'll have a special place where she can invite you to read together!



Q: My child has suddenly become bored with her favorite stories! What should I do?

A: Give your child's bookshelf an overhaul! Head to the library, a yard sale or the bookstore and find new titles to pique her interest. Let her do most of the choosing. Don't expect to "pick a winner" each time—discovering that perfect needle-in-a-haystack story is half the fun.

Do you have a question about reading? Email readingadvisor@parent-institute.com.

Don't forget about nonfiction!

Silly stories are wonderful, but so is nonfiction. The next time you're at the library, explore the nonfiction section with your child, too. He may love looking at books with elaborate pictures of animals, outer space or foreign countries. See what new things you can learn together, too.



Books to delight your early reader

- ***The Recess Queen*** by Alexis O'Neill (Scholastic Press). Everyone at school feared Mean Jean the Recess Queen, who ruled the playground. All of the other students followed Mean Jean's rules for playing—that is, until a new student, tiny Katie Sue, came to school.
- ***Those Darn Squirrels!*** by Adam Rubin (HMH Books for Young Readers). An old man decides to put bird feeders in his backyard in hopes that the birds decide not to fly south for winter. But he soon learns that other animals like the bird feeders too.
- ***The Biggest Snowman Ever*** by Steven Kroll (Cartwheel Books). When it's time for the town snowman contest, Clayton and Desmond both decide to enter. However, they soon learn the value of teamwork as they realize that building a snowman alone is hard work!



Building Readers®

How Families Can Help Children Get Ready to Read

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Reading Connection

Working Together for Learning Success

December 2016

Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program



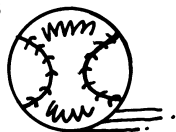
Book Picks

■ **Laugh-Out-Loud Jokes for Kids** (Rob Elliot)

Aspiring comedians can find hundreds of jokes packed into this volume. Youngsters will get plenty of giggles while sharing funny stories, silly poems, knock-knock jokes, and tongue twisters. The first book in the Laugh-Out-Loud series.

■ **Tortilla Sun** (Jennifer Cervantes)

All Izzy knows about her father is that he died before she was born. While spending the summer with her nana in New Mexico, Izzy is determined to learn more—especially why he wrote the words *because* and *magic* on a baseball.



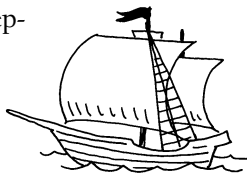
■ **Science on the Loose: Amazing Activities and Science Facts You'll Never Believe** (Helaine Becker)

Fooling the brain, making ice cream, and testing reflexes are just a few of the experiments your child can do using common household items. Interesting explanations, along with facts and trivia, add to the fun of exploring real-world science.



■ **Infinity Ring: Mutiny in Time** (James Dashner)

Fifth-grader Dak Smyth gets to see history firsthand after he and his friend Sera discover a time-traveling device. When Dak's parents are lost in time, the friends must travel back to 1492, while keeping the device a secret. Book 1 in the Infinity Ring series.



Be a word collector

Your child might collect stickers or coins, but how about collecting words? Starting a word collection will increase her vocabulary and make her a stronger reader and writer. Share these ideas.

Get artsy

When your youngster draws a picture, ask her to think of a creative way to add words to it. For instance, after drawing an elephant, she could read an article about the huge mammals. Then, she might write words she learned (*pachyderm*, *herbivore*, *endangered*) as a spray of water coming from the elephant's trunk.

Sprinkle on "spice"

Let your child turn empty spice containers (or any empty jars) into a collection of "zesty" words to use when she writes. Have her label each container with a common word like *pretty*, *great*, or *went*. She can hunt in books, a thesaurus, or a dictionary for replacements (*gorgeous*, *astounding*, *scurried*). Have her write each one on a slip of paper and



add them to the matching container. Encourage her to use these words to spice up her writing!

Play games

Suggest that your youngster write interesting words on index cards and play word games with them. She might play War where the longest word, or the word with the most vowels, wins. Or try this: Flip Scrabble tiles upside down. Each player picks a word card. Take turns drawing tiles—the first person to spell the word on her card is the winner. *Tip:* Have your child keep blank cards on hand for adding to her collection. ■

In a nutshell

Writing summaries helps your youngster remember and describe key ideas in a story. Foster this skill at home with these everyday activities:

- Suggest that your child keep a two-sentence diary. Every night he could think of details about his day that stand out and then summarize them in two sentences. "I finally saved enough money to buy a fish tank. Mom bought me my first two fish."
- Have your youngster secretly pick a movie and think about the plot by asking himself the questions *who*, *what*, *where*, *when*, and *why*. His challenge? To summarize the answers in one paragraph. *Your challenge?* To guess his movie! ■



Family winter reading fun

Winter break means a vacation from school—not a vacation from reading. Keep your youngster turning pages with family-friendly activities like these.

Season's readings. Hold family read-alouds with books that have a winter theme. Ask your child to bring home a selection from the school library, or check out books from your public library. Then, take turns reading chapters from fiction like



Snow Treasure (Marie McSwigan) or nonfiction about winter weather or animal habits, such as *DK Eyewitness Books: Arctic & Antarctic* (Barbara Taylor).

Silent party. Help everyone unwind with a silent reading party. Family members can each bring a book and a blanket and gather in the living room. Snuggling and reading is the best feeling!

Stories in motion. Turn a favorite tale into an evening's entertainment. As one person reads aloud, another acts out the story. At the end of each chapter, let a new reader and actor take over. ■

Fun with Words

Ready, set, punctuate

This editing game will strengthen your child's punctuation powers.

Materials:
newspapers or books, paper, pencils

Have each player write a random sentence from a newspaper or book, leaving out the punctuation marks. Count the number of deleted punctuation marks and jot it down at the end of the sentence. For this sentence—*Sally ate apples, bananas, and oatmeal.*—your child would remove the two commas and the period and then write 3.

Trade papers, and add the missing punctuation. Compare your corrected sentences with the originals. Score one point for each mark you missed. At the end of five rounds, the low score wins. ■



Q&A

Developing digital literacy

Q My son's teacher says he needs to be more thorough when he does online research. How can I help?

A It's common for kids—and adults—to do simple Google searches and rely on the first links that pop up. Show your son how digging deeper leads to better results.

Have him search online for something he is interested in, perhaps “most popular sport.” Then, brainstorm ways to change the search to get more targeted results. For example, he might type “most popular sport in Minnesota” or “most popular winter sport.” He'll see the difference a few words can make.

Also, help him evaluate which sites are more trustworthy. For instance, a site from a company that sells winter sports gear might be less reliable for the information he seeks than a site from a university or a government agency. ■



Parent 2 Parent

Bring characters to life

Our older daughter, Chloe, loves making up characters for stories she writes. So when our younger daughter, Emma, needed help dreaming up characters for a creative writing assignment, I asked Chloe for ideas. She invented a fun activity to do with her sister.

They each found a picture of a person in a magazine. Then, they imagined 10 things about that person. Is she funny? Does she like to dance? What kind of pet does she have?

Using their lists, they wrote a letter from their character introducing herself to them. Chloe showed Emma how she makes a character's language reflect that person's background. For instance, her cowgirl opened her letter with “Howdy” instead of “Hello.” Emma decided that her character would be French and begin with “Bonjour.”

Emma really enjoyed doing this. Now I'm looking forward to seeing what characters she comes up with for her stories. ■



OUR PURPOSE

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

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128 N. Royal Avenue • Front Royal, VA 22630
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BUILDING READERS®

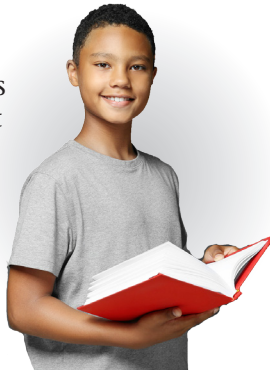
How Families Can Help Children Become Better Readers

Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District
Title 1

Share six strategies that will help your child read to learn

As your child progresses in school, he will begin to apply his reading skills in all of his classes. To help your child get the most out of his reading, you can encourage him to:

1. **Look through the reading**, noting interesting details, illustrations and charts.
2. **Describe what he reads** using his own words.
3. **Ask himself**, "What was the main idea?"
4. **Review key words** and any terms that might be confusing. He should pay special attention to words that are in bold or italics in his reading.
5. **Consider the purpose** of the reading. Why does your child think the author chose to write about this?
6. **Wonder aloud**. For example, does a plotline in a novel remind your child of a historical event he's learned about? What does your child think about what he learned?



Source: L. Healy, "Reading Across the Curriculum," Wisc-Online, Wisconsin Technical Colleges, nswc.com/reading_curriculum.

"To acquire the habit of reading is to construct for yourself a refuge from almost all the miseries of life."

—W. Somerset Maugham

Help your child develop important vocabulary and comprehension skills

Having a large vocabulary helps children understand what they read. It means they don't have to stop reading often to figure out a word's definition and lets them grasp the meaning of the entire passage. To build vocabulary:

- **Make definitions easier for your child to understand.** When defining *curious*, for instance, you might say, "A *curious* person is eager to learn more."
- **Give relatable examples.** "When the big box arrived from Grandma, you were *curious* about what was inside."
- **Ask your child to give examples.** "Can you think of someone who was *curious*?" "Fernando was *curious* about how Amy's book ended."
- **Keep using the new word.** "I'm *curious* about countries in South America. Let's do some research together."

Source: "Building Your Child's Vocabulary," Reading Rockets, nswc.com/comprehension_vocabulary.

Teach sight words through touch

As your child progresses as a reader, it is important for him to continue committing new and more difficult sight words to memory.



A fun way to practice sight words is to add texture when writing them. Have your child write the words in glue and then add glitter, yarn or other items. When the words dry, he can trace them with his finger as he reads.

Source: A. Logsdon, "Top 8 Ways to Teach Your Child Early Sight Word Skills at Home," Verywell, nswc.com/sight_word_touch.

Anytime is a good time to talk!

Is time with your child often spent in silence? Maybe you're busy with chores or traveling between places. Keep in mind that *any* time together is an opportunity to talk. It's good for your relationship—and your child's vocabulary.



Source: M.M. Kevorkian, "Communicating with Children: You Make the Difference," BlueSuitMom, nswc.com/anytime_conversations.

Graphic organizers can boost reading comprehension

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



Source: "Graphic Organizers," EnchantedLearning, nswc.com/star_graphic_organizer.

Get your child ready to read for success on standardized tests

Certain reading skills are especially useful for taking standardized tests. Help your child work on:

- **Comprehension.** Standardized tests often ask students to find the “main idea.” Help your child practice by reading news articles together. For each article, encourage him to summarize the article and name the main idea.
- **Speed.** Standardized tests are usually timed, so it’s important for your child to read at a reasonable pace. Reading every day will improve his reading speed naturally. Have your child read silently, since whispering or mouthing words silently slows reading.
- **Vocabulary.** Introduce your child to new words daily. Look them up together and use them often to commit them to memory.



Source: “Standardized Tests—Helping Children Succeed,” Newark Unified School District, niswc.com/reading_standardized_tests.

Make your child the family reporter

Writing is an important part of reading. When your child practices writing, she sees how authors put together their thoughts to come up with their stories.

Your child can find inspiration for her own stories in her regular life. Ask your child to become the family reporter. She can write stories such as:

- **A sports recap.** It could be about a sibling’s little league game or a professional game.
- **An interview** with a family member. Help your child think of questions to ask a relative.

After your child gathers her information, she is ready to write. Remind her to check



spelling and grammar. Print the articles in a family newsletter.



Q: My third grader has always loved to read, but lately she has begun to complain about books being “boring.” What can I do to make sure she doesn’t lose interest in reading?

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

Do you have a question about reading? Email readingadvisor@parent-institute.com.

Cook and read together!

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

- **Take turns** reading a recipe aloud.
- **Make a shopping list together** and use it at the store.
- **Cook and enjoy the meal you prepared.** Then, read a book related to the type of food you made.



Source: “Kids in the Kitchen,” Reading Is Fundamental, niswc.com/cook_read.

For lower elementary readers:

- ***Who Wants a Tortoise?*** by Dave Keane (Alfred A. Knopf). What do you do when you want a puppy for your birthday—and get a tortoise instead?
- ***Princess Easy Pleasy*** by Natasha Sharma (Karadi Tales Picturebooks). Princess Easy Pleasy has lots of demands, and she requires that everyone in the palace respond to her whims.



For upper elementary readers:

- ***Mr. Ferris and His Wheel*** by Kathryn Gibbs Davis (HMH Books for Young Readers). See the inspiration behind George Ferris’ magical creation, the Ferris wheel, which amazed audiences at the 1893 World’s Fair.
- ***Flat Stanley: His Original Adventure*** by Jeff Brown (HarperCollins). Stanley wakes up one morning and is shocked to see that he’s been flattened! Enjoy all of Stanley’s adventures in the fiftieth anniversary edition of this classic book.

Building Readers®

How Families Can Help Children Become Better Readers

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Recipes for Success

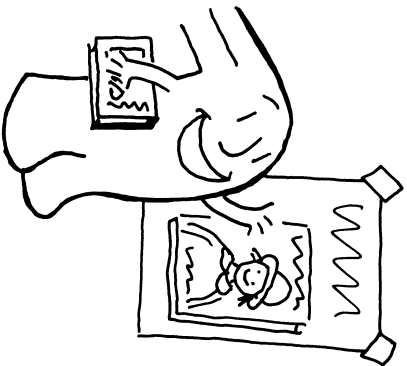
Practical Activities to Help Your Child Succeed

DECEMBER 2016

READING Book talk

Let your youngster share a favorite book by giving a "book talk" with details about the story's key elements.

Ingredients: book, index cards, pencil, poster board, crayons or markers



After reading the book, your child can identify the main points she wants to make. What is the plot? What's interesting about the characters? How did they change as the story progressed? She will have to think carefully about the book to pull out important details.

Your youngster could write her ideas on index cards and make a poster advertising her book to use during her talk. Now sit back and enjoy her presentation!

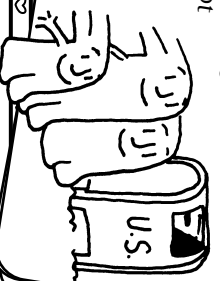
PHONICS

Practice phonics with a scavenger hunt. On small pieces of paper, enter hunt. On small pieces of paper, write letter combinations (tr, fl, ch, qu), and put them in a bowl. Let your child pick one and say it aloud. Next, challenge her to find an object with that combination (a quilt for qu). Take turns, or let her choose again.



SAFETY

Together, make a family fire-escape plan. Ask your youngster to sketch your home's floor plan on paper, labeling each room. He should draw an X over ways to escape (doors, windows). Then, help him draw a line showing the way from every exit to a safe meeting spot outside, like a mailbox down the block.



MATH

Prime time

Play this card game to help your child identify prime numbers.

Ingredients: deck of cards (face cards removed, ace = 1), paper, pencil

Deal six cards to each player, and stack the rest. The object is to find as many prime numbers as possible. *Note:* Primes are numbers that can be divided evenly only by 1 or themselves. Each round, players draw a card and lay down any primes in their hands. (They can use scratch paper to do the division and check.) One point is earned for each card used. Combine a 5 (prime) and a 6 (composite number) to make the prime number 11, and earn 2 points. The first person to get 50 points wins.



STUDY SKILLS

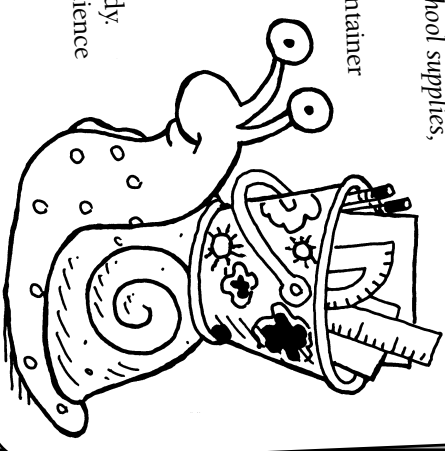
Brainy bucket

Your youngster can be study-ready by putting together a portable study kit.

Ingredients: bucket or other container, school supplies, art supplies

Suggest that your child decorate the container using paints, markers, crayons, or stickers. Then, he can stock it with supplies like pencils with erasers, paper, a highlighter, a ruler, crayons, markers, a protractor, a calculator, and flash cards.

Have him add a list of fun ways to study. *Examples:* Bounce a ball to spell out science words, one bounce per letter. Draw pictures to solve math problems.



Refrigerator Poster

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

Recipes for Success

Practical Activities to Help Your Child Succeed

DECEMBER 2016

Character Corner

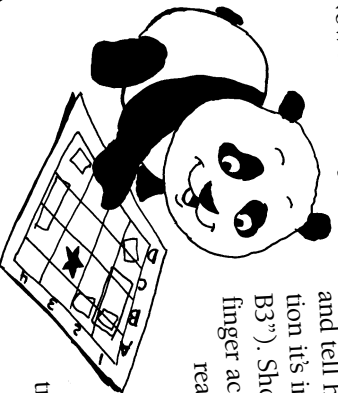
MAP SKILLS Find the object

A treasure hunt makes working with map coordinates an adventure.

Ingredients: paper, crayons, pencil, ruler

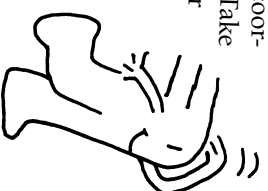
Help your youngster draw a map of his bedroom showing his bed, desk, chair, and other items. Using a pencil and a ruler, he can divide the map into four rows and four columns. Have him label the rows A, B, C, and D along the left side, and the columns 1, 2, 3, and 4 across the top.

Now hide an object somewhere in his room. Look at his map, and tell him which coordinate location it's in ("The stuffed panda is in B3"). Show him how to slide his finger across the "B" row until he reaches the "3" column—then he looks in the corresponding spot in his room for the item. When he finds it, he can hide a treasure for you.



FITNESS

Here's a playful way for your youngster to practice coordination and balance. Take turns asking each other to do two activities at once, such as stand on one leg while patting your head or rub your stomach while skipping. For an added challenge, try three motions.



STORYTELLING

Ask your child to think of two characters and begin to tell a story about them. The next person adds to it, then your youngster (or someone else) continues. Each person takes a few turns before your child ends the story. **Idea:** Use a tape recorder to capture the entire tale.



INITIATIVE

Have your youngster write "Job well done" on a piece of paper. Every time she takes care of something (like putting away her clean clothes) without being asked or reminded, she crosses out a letter. How quickly can she cross them all out?



PATIENCE

Doing activities that require patience will help your child learn to wait.



Together, plant seeds in a flower pot, water them, and place the pot near a sunny window. Suggest that he make tally marks on a sheet of paper to track how many days it takes for the seeds to sprout.

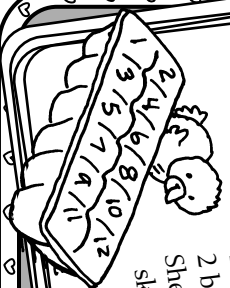
COURAGE

In a notebook, your youngster can draw pictures of brave people, perhaps an uncle who's a firefighter. When she needs courage (say, to try out for a sport or present an oral report), she can leaf through her notebook for inspiration.



COUNTING

Turn an empty egg carton into a math activity. Have your child label a math activity. Have your child label each egg cup, 1–12, and fill each spot with a matching number of "eggs" (beads, pebbles). The "1" cup gets 1 bead, the "2" cup 2 beads, and so on. She'll practice the skill of one-to-one correspondence.



Congratulations!

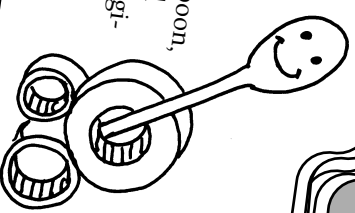
We finished _____ activities together on this poster.

Signed (parent or adult family member)

Signed (child)

IMAGINATION

Let your child gather small household objects and use them to put on a show for you. He might tape together a wooden spoon, napkin rings to make a magical giraffe that discovers a tree with special powers.



Cape Cod Family Resource Center



Monday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Tuesday-Thursday 10 a.m. - 7 p.m., Friday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
1st and 3rd Saturday of each month 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

29 Bassett Lane, Hyannis

www.CapeCodFamilyResourceCenter.org

508-815-5100

DECEMBER HAPPENINGS



In December

- Infant Massage
- Homework Help
- Lego Fun & Kids Crafts
- Grandparents Helping Grandparents Group
- Grandparents Advocacy Program Seminar
- Wednesday Coffee Chat
- Building You Group!
- American Sign Language Class
- Single Parenting Group
- Kind Kids
- Multi-Generational Adoption Workshop
- Music & Movement Class

All Programs and Classes are **FREE!**

For registration information or details about classes and programs, please see reverse side.

Please note, all children must be accompanied by an adult, if age 16+ parents must sign and fill out emergency contact information.

For more information, please call the Cape Cod Family Resource Center at 508-815-5100.

Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
			1 ASL Class 3:30-4:30 pm	2 Kind Kids 11:30 am - 12:30 pm	3 <i>Open 9-1</i>
5 Infant Massage <u>10-11 am</u> Homework <u>Help 4-5 pm</u> Lego Fun and Kids Crafts 4-5 pm	6	7 Coffee Chat <u>10-11 am</u> Building You! (closed group) 4-5 pm	8 ASL Class 3:30-4:30 pm	9 Kind Kids 11:30 am - 12:30 pm	10 <i>Closed</i>
12 Infant Massage <u>10-11 am</u> Homework <u>Help 4-5 pm</u> Lego Fun and Kids Crafts 4-5 pm	13 Grandparents Helping Grandparents Support Group 5:30-7 pm	14 Coffee Chat <u>10-11 am</u> Building You! (closed group) 4-5 pm	15 ASL Class <u>3:30-4:30 pm</u> Single Parenting 5:30-7 pm	16 Kind Kids 11:30 am - 12:30 pm	17 <i>Open 9-1</i>
19 Infant Massage <u>10-11 am</u> Homework <u>Help 4-5 pm</u> Lego Fun and Kids Crafts 4-5 pm	20 Grandparents Advocacy Program Seminar 5:30-7 pm	21 Coffee Chat <u>10-11 am</u> Building You! (closed group) 4-5 pm	22 ASL Class 3:30-4:30 pm	23	24 <i>Closed</i>
26 Lego Fun and Kids Crafts 4-5 pm	27 Music & Movement Class <u>10:30-11:30 am</u> Multi-Generational Adoption Workshop 1-4 pm Grandparents Support Group 5:30-7 pm	28 Coffee Chat <u>10-11 am</u> Multi-Generational Adoption Workshop 1-4 pm Building You! (closed group) 4-5 pm	29 Multi-Generational Adoption Workshop 1-4 pm ASL Class 3:30-4:30 pm	30 Multi-Generational Adoption Workshop 1-4 pm	31 <i>Closed</i>

Infant Massage

Join our **weekly** group and bring your baby (newborn to pre-walking) for this informative class facilitated by Amy Brigham, an infant massage professional. For more information or to register, please call 508-815-5100.



Homework Help

Join us for a free weekly homework group on **Mondays from 4:00-5:00 p.m.** provided by students from Sturgis. Elementary and middle school students are welcome to come to participate. Parents will need to remain at the Cape Cod Family Resource Center while your children receive assistance. Contact information regarding further questions or to register contact Terriann Pumbo 508-815-5074 or tpumbo@familycontinuity.org.

Lego Fun and Kids Crafts

Come join us every **Monday afternoon** from 4-5 p.m. and build Lego's or make something creative with Arts and Crafts. We provide the Lego's, or you can even bring your own. All arts and crafts supplies will be provided as well. All ages are welcome. **Registration is not required.** For more information, please call 508-815-5100.



Music & Movement Class

Join Amy Wyman from Tones in Motion on **Tuesday, December 27th from 10:30- 11:30 a.m.** for Music & Movement class. This interactive group will be held at the Cape Cod Family Resource Center. For parents and children of all ages! For more information or to register, please call 508-815-5100.

Grandparents Helping Grandparents

Our Grandparents Helping Grandparents Group meets on the **2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month** from 5:30-7 p.m. at the Cape Cod Family Resource Center with Cynthia Klopfer. This group provides a supportive environment for all grandparents who play a significant role in raising their grandchild(ren). Dinner and child care are provided. For more information or registration, please contact Cynthia Klopfer at cklopfer@familycontinuity.org or 508-815-5100.

Grandparents Advocacy Program

Join us on the **3rd Tuesday of each month from 5:30-7 p.m.** to learn more about a new, collaborative initiative called the Grandparents Advocacy Program (**GAP**). Kerry Bickford of the Mass. Commission on the Status of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, Attorney Kathleen Snow, and other Grandparent Service Providers will be available to answer questions about guardianship/custody, provide information and referral to local services and support. For more information, please contact Kerry Bickford at grandparents@capecoalition.com or call the Cape Cod Family Resource Center: 508-815-5100.

Multi-generational Adoption Workshop

Join Family Continuity staff in conjunction with the Cape Cod Family Resource Center for a **4-day Workshop beginning December 27th** from 1-4 p.m. Come share your experience, build community, and have fun! **Registration is required for this group.** For information or registration, contact Grant Pike at 508-844-4479.

Coffee Chat

Our delicious Coffee Chats are every **Wednesday** morning! Stop by the Cape Cod Family Resource Center from 10 to 11 a.m. every Wednesday to learn more about our programs, ask questions, meet our staff, and bring home some free baked goods! For more information, please call 508-815-5100. *Baked goods are provided by Day-End Dough-Nation from Panera Bread.*



Building You Group!

Join us at the Cape Cod Family Resource Center (29 Bassett Lane, Hyannis) on **Wednesday afternoons** from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. for a **FREE** six-week girls' group regarding improving self-esteem, positive thinking, and building healthy relationships! **Registration is required.** For information or registration contact, Terriann Pumbo at 508- 815-5074 or tpumbo@familycontinuity.org.

American Sign Language

Every **Thursday** afternoon, come and learn a new language at the Cape Cod Family Resource Center. Family Support Specialist, Rebecca Harrison, teaches a beginners class in American Sign Language.

Registration is required. For more information: 508-815-5100 or rharrison@familycontinuity.org.



Single Parenting

Join our **monthly group**, in a supportive environment for single moms and dads to share successes, challenges, and resources. All single parents are welcome at this non-therapeutic gathering, regardless of child(ren)'s age(s) and parenting situation. Dinner and child care are provided. Sponsored by the Cape Cod Family Resource Center in collaboration with Cape Cod Child Development's FUN Program. Supported by Not Your Average Joe's. **Registration is required.** For information or registration, contact Rebecca Harrison at 508-815-5100 or rharrison@familycontinuity.org.

Kind Kids

Join Pitter Patter Programs on **Friday mornings** for a walk-in group for 3-5 year olds. We'll build community awareness, empathy and generosity each week when we're given opportunities to create/do something for someone in our community that helps and inspires others. Brainstorming, creating and giving will all be included in this special experience. For more information or to register, please call Mary Wilson at 508-314-4776 or pitterpatterprograms@yahoo.com.

