



Dennis-Yarmouth Title I Newsletter

November

Volume 1 issue II

From the Title I Coordinator:

Can you believe it's November already?

If you're looking for a few budget friendly ways to get out and have some fall fun-- here are just a few family activities that you can do for free (or very, very cheap!) with the kids in your life. Have races or chase each other

Build and fly kites.

Hunt bugs.

Pick dandelions (or leaves)

Walk, run, skip & jump together.

Scavenger hunt.

Go play at the park.

Splash in the puddle after the rain.

Dig in the dirt or the sand

Build sandcastles

Create sidewalk chalk murals

Ride bikes, skateboards, roller skates or whatever you have

Go on a hayrack ride

Pick up sticks, flowers and leaves and make a collage

Fathers Play a Pivotal Role in Their Children's Early Educational Experiences

New America

Many research studies have shown that engaged fathers can have positive effects on children's well-being and brain development. For example, research indicates that infants with highly involved fathers are more cognitively competent at six months and score higher on the Bayley Scales of Infant Development. In a study of families in Early Head Start programs, a father's presence in the family led to positive cognitive and social developmental outcomes, such as children's ability to form more secure relationships with their fathers, a central aspect of social development. Despite these findings that show the importance of involving fathers early in their children's lives, fathers report receiving limited support from social services and early childhood programs.



- Parents on the Title I Board of Directors:
- MES: Darlene Johnson Morris
- MMS: Kathy Boltz
- EHBi: Leigh Ann DeVasto

- SAE: We need someone to volunteer

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Home & School

Working Together for School Success

CONNECTION®

November 2016

Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program

SHORT NOTES

Fall back

Does your youngster know why people in most states will turn their clocks back an hour on November 6? Help her read up on the history of Daylight Saving Time—she'll practice research skills for a real-life reason. Then, she could share what she discovers with your family and change your clocks.

Assistant chef

Let your child help you with Thanksgiving dinner and look for ways to make it more nutritious. For instance, use whole-wheat bread for stuffing or mash cauliflower instead of potatoes. Involve him in every step of the process, and he'll learn about planning healthy meals, shopping for ingredients, and cooking.

Put away cell phones

Whether or not your youngster uses a cell phone, she'll notice the phone habits of adults around her. Make a point of putting away your phone during meals and while talking or playing with her. Your example will show her that it's polite to give others your undivided attention—and more fun to talk to the person you're with.

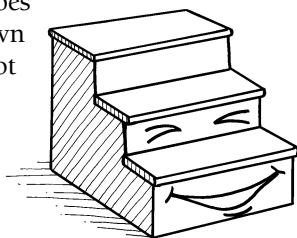
Worth quoting

"Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. Today is a gift. That's why we call it the present." *Eleanor Roosevelt*

JUST FOR FUN

Q: What goes up and down but does not move?

A: Stairs.



Secrets to better behavior

You know what they say: An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. That's true when it comes to effective discipline, too. Try these ideas for heading off problems, and then sit back and enjoy a more pleasant household.

Notice triggers

Being aware of what causes misbehavior goes a long way toward preventing it. Perhaps your youngster acts out when he's tired—make sure he's getting 9–11 hours of sleep. Or maybe he misbehaves when he's bored. Let him write a list of activities for when there's "nothing to do" (examples: play solitaire, finger paint, do crossword puzzles).

Offer choices

Give your child some control in situations where he struggles to behave. Does he typically grumble or whine while you're running errands? Consider letting him pick the order in which to do them. ("We need to go to the laundromat and the store. Which should we do first?") Is it hard to get him to dress



up for family events? He might like to choose the color of his shirt or pick out a pair of fun socks to wear.

Be a coach

Coaches demonstrate, encourage, and celebrate. Why not use this approach for behavior you want your youngster to change? If he should be putting dirty clothes in his hamper, for instance, "coach" him on tossing in his T-shirts. He'll see that it's more fun to "make a basket" than to drop clothes on the floor. When you find his floor free of dirty clothes the next time, give him a high five.♥

Questions for parent-teacher conferences

Parent-teacher conferences go by fast! Make the most of your time by writing a list of questions in advance. Consider these suggestions:

- "What are some of the most important things my child should learn this year?"
- "How does she get along with classmates when she works in a group?"
- "What subject do you think she enjoys the most?"
- "What are my youngster's strengths?"
- "What can we do at home to help her do her best in school?"♥



Household elections

An election lets a group of people make a decision, whether it involves citizens electing a mayor or children choosing student council officers. Show your youngster democracy in action by holding elections in your home.

1. Choose topic. Have your child pick an issue to vote on. It could be practical (“Should we paint the bathroom green or blue?”) or fun (“Should we get a fish or a hamster?”).

2. Campaign. Each person can campaign for her side, presenting reasons why others should



vote her way. You may decide to make posters or give speeches to persuade family members.

3. Create ballots. Let your youngster make a ballot for each family member and get an empty tissue box to put the ballots in.

4. Vote. Select an evening for your election. Cast your votes, and your child can tally them and announce a winner.

Tip: Use this activity as an opportunity to talk about the national elections this month. Take your youngster with you when you vote, explain the choices you make, and watch the results together on election night. ♥

ACTIVITY CORNER

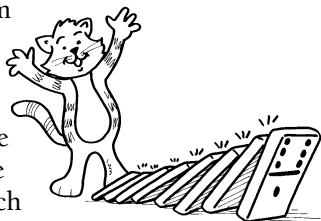
Create a chain reaction

Your youngster can watch a chain reaction before his very eyes—all he needs is a set of dominoes.

Have him stand the dominoes in a line, making sure the distance between each one is about the same. What happens when he knocks down the first domino? (It will topple the whole line of dominoes in turn.) Suggest that he try putting them closer together or farther apart, or even arranging them in a circle, U-shape, figure 8, or spiral. He could use a timer to find out which spacing or arrangement makes the dominoes fall fastest.

As he experiments, he'll learn about chain reactions, where energy is transferred from one object to another.

Idea: Encourage your child to look for examples of real-life chain reactions, such as how the pins fall when he bowls. ♥



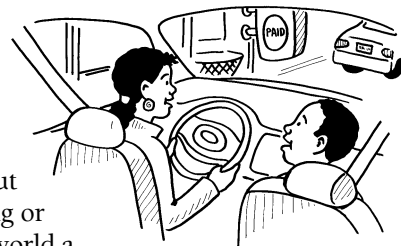
PARENT TO PARENT

It pays to be kind

We recently stopped to pay a toll, only to be told that the driver ahead of us had paid our way. My son John said, “But he doesn’t even *know* us!”

I explained that the driver had done a “random act of kindness”—something kind without being asked or expecting anything in return. Big or small, I told John, these good deeds make the world a better place. My son said he wanted to do a random act of kindness, too. So after raking the leaves in our yard, he secretly raked our next-door neighbor’s. He felt so good seeing her smile when she got home that he started looking for a way to be kind to someone else.

Now random acts of kindness have become a regular thing in our household. And John has discovered that when he does something for someone else, *he* is the one who feels good. ♥



Know your library

The local library is a great place for your child to discover books she will treasure, find information for school projects, or simply settle in and read. Help her establish a library habit with these ideas.

Get a card. Have your youngster sign up for her own library card. This will make her feel like she belongs at “her” library.

Become acquainted. Explore different sections of the library together. Encourage her to get to

know the librarians—they will recommend titles or help her locate resources.

Return books on time. Fines can add up and keep your family from checking out more books. Suggest that your child decorate a reusable bag to hold books and add a sticky note with the due date. Each time she checks out books, she could replace the note with a new one—and a new due date. ♥



OUR PURPOSE

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

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Math+Science Connection

Building Excitement and Success for Young Children

November 2016

Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program

TOOLS & TIDBITS

I'm thinking of a number

From a deck of cards, pull out 10 cards numbered 1–10 (ace = 1). Lay them face up. Secretly pick one, and have your youngster ask questions to find your number. *Examples:* “Is it even?” (If “yes,” he’ll remove 1, 3, 5, 7, 9.) “Is it greater than 5?” (If “no,” he’ll take away 6, 8, and 10.) When he figures out your number, switch roles.

Engineer a solution

Next time your child has a problem like tangled shoe-laces, suggest she think like an engineer to solve it. For instance, ask her to examine the laces and come up with a plan, such as loosening one loop. Did that work? If not, encourage her to rethink her approach. Soon her “knotty” problem will be solved!

Book picks

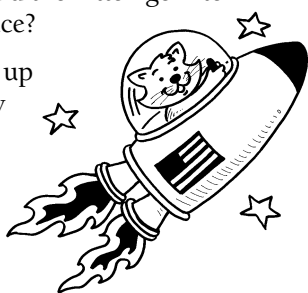
Read *Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons* (Eric Litwin) for a delightful subtraction tale that offers a lesson on letting go of “stuff.”

Your youngster can discover all the joys of trees and even learn to plant one with the Caldecott Medal-winning *A Tree Is Nice* (Janice May Udry).

Just for fun

Q: Why did the kitten go into outer space?

A: To lap up the Milky Way.



Graphing for answers

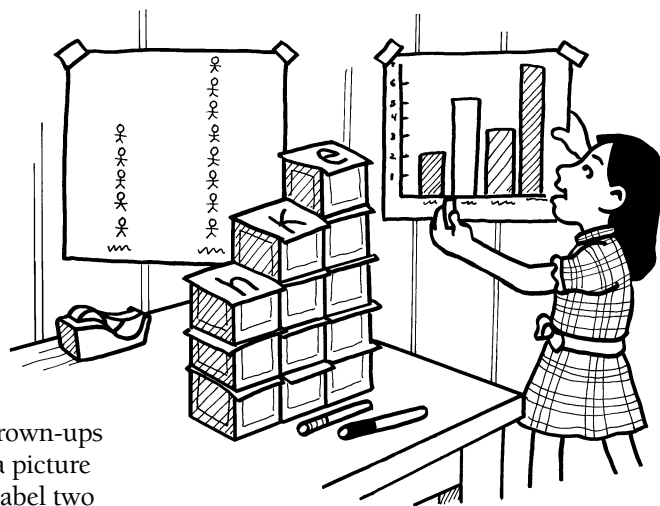
When your youngster organizes information and displays it in graphs, she can make interesting comparisons and answer lots of questions. Try these fun ideas.

Family picture

Suggest your child list all the relatives she knows—grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins included. Are there more grown-ups or children? Let her make a picture graph to find out. She can label two columns (“Grown-ups,” “Children”). Then, she should draw stick figures to match each person (lining up the figures evenly). She’ll see at a glance if the adults or kids “win.”


Most popular toy

Have your youngster survey friends to see which of four toys they like best. She can tally the results and turn them into a colorful bar graph. Have her draw a large L, write numbers up the left side, and label the toys across the bottom. If two friends vote for puzzles, for instance, she would color a bar above “Puzzles” up to 2. Ask questions, such as “How many



friends like balls the best?” or “Are dolls or puzzles more popular?”


Words of all lengths

Your child could make a 3-D graph comparing the number of letters in words. First, she should write a word (say, *hat*) on sticky notes, one letter per note, stick each note on a separate (same-size) block, and stack the blocks. Then, she can do the same thing with more words. Let her line up her “word stacks.” Which words are shortest or longest? What’s the difference between the smallest and largest number of letters? 

Leaf sort and match

Now that most leaves have fallen off the trees, invite your child to go on a leaf-collecting adventure.

Take along a zip-top bag, and let him fill it with assorted leaves from the ground. Then, take turns sorting the leaves and guessing each other’s sorting rule. You might sort by color, size, shape, or texture—or according to whether insects have nibbled on them or not.

Finally, walk around again, and see if he can match each leaf with the tree it came from. He could look for similar leaves on the ground or still clinging to branches. 



Are we there yet?

With a hop, skip, and jump, your child can quickly find his way from 0 to 20 or even from 0 to 1,000. It's all about skip-counting his way there.

Skip to 20

Have your youngster write the numbers 0–20 on scraps of paper and lay them out on the table in order. Then, using a toy figure, suggest he start counting by 2s (“2, 4, 6”) as he moves his toy to the 2, the 4, and so on. Next, have him try skip-counting by 5s and then 10s. He'll see that the toy gets to 20 faster with fewer, yet larger, jumps.



becomes 100, 20 becomes 200) —and he will “fly” while skip-counting by 100s all the way to 1,000. 🦋

Superhero skips

What if your child could make flying leaps like a superhero? On a strip of paper, have him write 10s up to 100 (10, 20, 30). He can jump his toy figure to each number while skip-counting out loud to 100. Now help him place a zero at the end of each number (10



Q & A Pizza party

Q: I thought it would be fun to use our next pizza night to play with fractions. What's appropriate for my daughter at this age?

A: You could definitely turn pizza night into a tasty lesson about dividing circles into equal shares—an early introduction to fractions. Here's how.



First, help your child carefully divide a round pizza into two equal pieces. Then, ask how she might make a new cut to divide it into four equal shares. Each time, let her count the halves ($\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{2}{2}$) and the quarters ($\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{2}{4}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, $\frac{4}{4}$). Another time, start with a square or rectangular pizza, and have her divide that into equal pieces. She'll see that halves and quarters can come in different sizes and shapes!

Variation: No pizza? Let your child draw pizzas on paper and cut her paper pies into equal pieces. 🦋

OUR PURPOSE

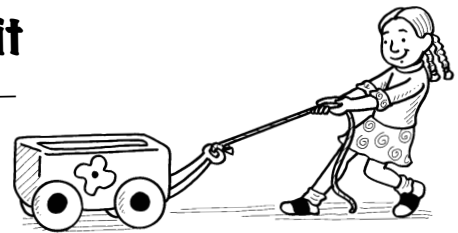
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SCIENCE LAB

Push it, pull it

How things move—fast or slow, left or right—is all about forces. Give your youngster the chance to be part of the forces at work in this experiment.



You'll need: wagon or something else with wheels, piece of rope or string

Here's how: Have your child place the wagon in front of her and push it. Then, help her tie the rope to the wagon. She can stretch out the rope and pull on it.

What happens? When she pushes the wagon, it will roll away from her. When she pulls on the rope, the wagon also moves, but this time toward her.

Why? Push and pull are both forces. When forces act on objects, those objects change their motion, in this case moving either away from or toward your youngster.

Idea: Add math to her experiment by helping her measure how far she pushes or pulls the wagon. 🦋

MATH CORNER

Show me the numbers!

This two-player game will help your child gain a sense of what numbers represent.

The setup: Gather 30 index cards or pieces of construction paper. Have your youngster make dots on 10 cards to represent the numbers 1–10 (● for 1, ●● for 2). On another 10 cards, help him write the numbers 1–10. Then, on the last 10 cards, he can put both dots and numbers (1 and ●, 2 and ●●).



The game: The object is to be the first to collect 1–10 in any combination. Shuffle all the cards together, and deal 10 cards to each player. Stack the rest. Take turns drawing the top card and discarding a card you don't need. (If you run out of cards, shuffle the ones in the discard pile, and start again.) The first player to get every number, 1–10, says, “I'll show you the numbers!” and lays down his cards in order. 🦋

Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

November 2016

Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program

Book Picks

Read-aloud favorites

■ **Nubs: The True Story of a Mutt, a Marine & a Miracle** (Brian Dennis, Kirby Larson, and Mary Nethery)

In Iraq, Marine Brian Dennis formed a bond with a wild dog, sharing rations and standing watch. This touching read-aloud tells of the pair's determination to be together against all odds.



■ **The Box of Holes** (Carmen Gil)

A child's imagination turns a cardboard box into an adventure. Andrea's mother scolds her for buying an empty box, but the little girl discovers that it's full of "holes" that lead to magical characters. (Also available in Spanish.)

■ **Alphabet Rescue**

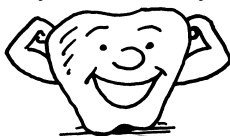
(Audrey and Bruce Wood)

Your youngster can learn uppercase and lowercase letters with this colorful ABC book. The lowercase letters want to help the capital letters on their fire truck, but the big ones say no. After the little ones fix a broken-down fire truck (little *p* gets paint, little *t* finds new tires), they prove they're big enough to perform rescues.



■ **The Tooth Book: A Guide to Healthy Teeth and Gums** (Edward Miller)

This colorful how-to book encourages youngsters to take good care of their teeth. Your child will see the parts of a tooth, find out why she loses baby teeth, and learn about what happens at the dentist's office.



I can use big words!

Many youngsters are familiar with big words like *stegosaurus* and *abracadabra*. If they're able to say those words, they can also learn long words like *investigate* and *summarize*. Try these ideas to help your child find and use big words.

Read new words

Reading is an ideal way to build vocabulary. Your youngster will hear bigger words when you read aloud to him from more challenging books. Encourage him to listen for unfamiliar words, and help him figure out their meanings. Because children need to hear the same word many times to really learn it, weave the words into conversations throughout the day.

What's in the category?

Each week, ask your child to post a category ("Animals," "Foods," "Things that are shiny") on the refrigerator. Everyone looks for words to add that match the category. For instance, watch a science program about animals to hear words like *orangutan* or *gazelle*. Or your youngster



could scan grocery ads for food words, such as *nutritious* or *gorgonzola*.

Make trading cards

Have your child make trading cards for new words he encounters. During a walk, you might say, "How many kinds of *transportation* can we spot?" At home, help him write *transportation* on an index card, and let him illustrate it (perhaps with a car and a bus that he saw). Suggest that he keep his cards in a zipper bag and practice using them. Friends or relatives can start their own decks and trade with him—your youngster will discover even more new words.♥

Read a book, write a math problem

Combine reading, writing, and math by having your child make up word problems based on her favorite books. Here's how.

If she reads *The Rainbow Fish* (Marcus Pfister), she could write (or dictate to you) a story problem like, "Rainbow Fish had 10 colorful scales. He gave 9 away. How many are left?" Or after reading *The Gingerbread Man* (Jim Aylesworth), your youngster might make up a word problem such as, "The gingerbread man ran from 3 people and 3 animals. How many chased him in all?"

Idea: Have your child read and act out the story problems. She could use household items like foil scraps for fish scales or toy people and animals.♥



Enjoy nonfiction

As your youngster gets older, she'll spend more time reading nonfiction in school. Consider these ideas for letting her discover the joy of learning new facts and exploring the interesting features in children's nonfiction books.

Know what's real. Some information books for kids blend fiction and nonfiction. For example, a talking animal might state real facts, or a mythical creature may narrate a true story. Help your child distinguish fact from fiction by asking how she knows a picture or an event is real or not real.



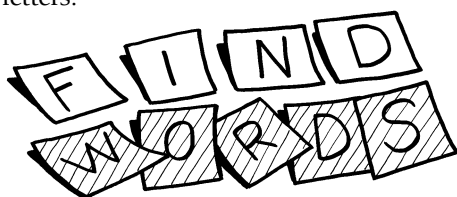
Take your time. Give your youngster a chance to explore all the features on a page. She may want to look at a time line or a diagram before you read the main text to her. Then, she could study the photos while you read the captions aloud. She'll become familiar with the features in nonfiction, which will prepare her to read textbooks in school.♥



Hide, seek, and spell

Combine hide-and-seek with spelling practice, and watch your child have fun learning his spelling words.

First, ask him to write each word on a strip of construction paper, using a different color paper for every word. Then, he should cut each strip into individual letters.



Choose one or two words, and hide the slips around the house. Tell your youngster how many to look for (say, five blue and four red), and send him hunting! His job is to find the letters and spell the words. He might wait until he has every letter, or he could spell as he goes.

Check to make sure he spelled his words correctly. Now he can hide letters for you.♥

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Q&A

Understanding reading levels

Q When I get my son's progress reports, they include his reading level in addition to his grade. What does the level indicate?

A Usually, a letter, number, or word (such as *emergent* or *novice*) on a progress report tells what level book a child can read independently. A parent-teacher conference is a great opportunity to find out more about your son's reading abilities and to see examples of books that are at his reading level.

In general, though, the important thing is that your child's reading level improves steadily over time. At home, focus on how much fun it is to read with him rather than on the level of the book he's reading. His excitement about books will motivate him to try hard—and he'll be likely to make progress.♥



Parent to Parent

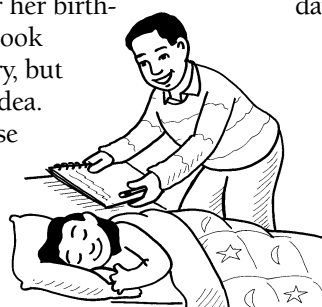
A parent-child notebook

My daughter Rebecca received a cute notebook and a pack of colored pens for her birthday. I thought the notebook would make a great diary, but she had an even better idea. She asked if we could use it to write notes to each other.

Sometimes I work late, and I love coming home to drawings

and notes from Rebecca. If she's asleep when I get in, I write a note for her to find in the morning. We write about our days and leave questions for each other to answer. And sometimes we'll put in a funny joke or an interesting tidbit we heard that day.

It has turned out to be a great way for Rebecca to practice writing—and for us to stay connected on our busy days.♥



BUILDING READERS®

How Families Can Help Children Get Ready to Read

Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District
Title 1

Connect with your child's teacher to monitor reading progress and goals

Your child will learn important reading readiness skills during preschool. Wouldn't you like to know more about them?

To keep tabs on your child's progress, check in with her teacher every few weeks. When you do, ask:

- **What is my child** working on right now to become reading ready?
- **How can I reinforce these skills** at home?
- **What skills** will the class tackle next?
- **Has my child's** language learning improved?
- **What reading skills** should she be working toward mastering?

Pay attention to the worksheets and drawings your child brings home from preschool. Look for signs of progress, such as her writing (even if it's scribbling) getting sharper.

Source: K. Stanberry, "Understanding Beginning Reading Development in Preschoolers," Get Ready to Read! niswc.com/questions_reading_readiness.



*"Until I feared I would lose it, I never loved to read.
One does not love breathing."*

—To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Puppet play leads to language learning

You can use puppets to boost your preschooler's storytelling skills. When your child tells stories with puppets, remind him to include a beginning, middle and end of his story. This will help him begin to understand the structure of a story—and he'll be using his imagination! Together, you can:

- **Make simple puppets** out of old socks or pieces of cloth. Encourage your child to decorate them using markers or felt. You can also use buttons and yarn.
- **Decide on a favorite story** to act out. Let him narrate the tale as you both use the puppets to act out the scenes. Don't feel like you have to stick to the script—if your child wants to add a new character or create a different ending, no problem!

All kinds of new experiences prepare your child to read

Engaging in creative activities builds skills your child will need for reading. Encourage him to play make-believe, to explore and learn, and to be creative. Give him old clothes to play dress up. Sing with him, tell him stories and answer all of his questions. All of these activities boost the language and creative skills necessary to read.



Source: T. Armstrong, "Early Childhood Education: Play," The Best Schools, ASCD, niswc.com/childhood_play.

Pay a visit to the library

Heading to your local library with your child for the first time? Ask the librarian for a tour—and for book suggestions! It's an excellent way for you and your child to discover what riches the library has to offer.



Source: "Visit Your Local Library!" ¡Colorín Colorado! niswc.com/library_visit.

Reading promotes word smarts

Reading aloud doesn't just build your child's vocabulary. It also teaches her that words can have more than one meaning.

For instance, you may read "the puppy likes to bark" on one page, and then come across a bird "pecking at the tree's bark" several pages later.

Point out that your child now knows two different meanings for the same word!



Source: R. Campbell, *Facilitating Preschool Literacy*, International Reading Association.

Engage in frequent discussions with your child



The more kids talk and use language, the easier it is for them to learn to read. Open-ended questions (those that can't be answered with one word) are especially helpful for starting conversations. For example, while you read with your child, stop and ask, "What do you think will happen next?" Here are some other ideas:

- **Narrate your day.** Let your child hear you reflect on your activities. While working a puzzle together, for example, you might say, "I'm looking for pieces with straight edges. Can you help me find a piece without any bumps?"
- **Give descriptions.** Mention what your child is doing: "That's a bright sun you're coloring." This helps her connect words to real things. It may also spark discussion now or later.
- **Affirm what your child says.** "Yes, it is getting cooler outside!" She'll see that what she has said is correct and relevant. Then she'll want to say more!

Practice patterns, matching and memory skills

Learning to read involves more than just learning letters and sounds. Your child develops useful reading skills when he:

- **Makes patterns.** Make a pattern by placing a red block, then a blue one, then red, etc., on the table. Ask your child to copy it. Add more colors as he improves.
- **Uses memory.** Put four items on a tray. Let your child look for about a minute, then take the tray away. See how many of the items he can remember.
- **Makes matches.** Draw three people. Make them all the same—but put a hat on one. See if your child can pick out



what is different. If this is too easy for him, try a more subtle difference, like an extra button on one person's shirt.

Source: J. Willis, M.D., M.Ed., "Play Brain Games to Help Your Child Learn to Read," Parent Toolkit, NBC News Education Nation, nswc.com/cognitive_skills_reading.



Q: My child falls asleep within a moment after I crack open his first bedtime story. Should I skip nighttime reading altogether?

A: Not at all. Sharing stories is a wonderful ritual to have any time of the day, so keep it up—you're building happy memories with books! If bedtime isn't the best time to read for a while, read together during the day, too, when he's more alert.

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

Reading aloud develops your child's mind—and body

Don't sit still when you read to your child—get involved! Point to the pictures that show what you are reading about. Mimic the action that is taking place. If the story mentions someone's toes, tickle your child's toes. Have your child move with you as you read together. It's a good way to develop her motor skills.



Books to delight your early reader

- ***Sally Goes to the Mountains*** by Stephen Huneck (Abrams Books for Young Readers). Sally, a dog, goes with her owner on a trip to the mountains. There she meets many animals with whom she wants to play.
- ***The Littlest Dinosaur*** by Michael Foreman (Walker & Company). A tiny dinosaur is born into a family where his size isn't appreciated. That is, until the tiny dinosaur's family is stuck in the mud and they need his help to get out.
- ***Chalk*** by Bill Thomson (Marshall Cavendish Children's Books). When three children find a bag of magical chalk, they start to draw intricate pictures—that suddenly all come to life!



Building Readers®

How Families Can Help Children Get Ready to Read

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BUILDING READERS®

How Families Can Help Children Become Better Readers

Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District
Title 1

Rereading and revising are critical steps in the writing process

Your child has finished writing an essay or book report. “I’m done!” he proclaims. Not so fast. Part of the writing process involves reading and editing. To help with these important steps:

- **Offer to read or listen to the report.**
Give lots of compliments—and a little constructive criticism, if necessary.
- **Encourage a new perspective.**
Challenge your child to look at his paper as if he were the teacher. What would he suggest be added, removed or changed? What would he leave just as it is?
- **Supervise revisions.** Encourage your child to improve the report. Watch—and celebrate—as it goes from rough draft to final version!



Source: S. Peha, “The Writing Process Notebook,” Teaching That Makes Sense, niswc.com/revising_writing.

“She read books as one would breathe air, to fill up and live.”

—Annie Dillard

Enjoy synonyms, antonyms and family time

Here’s a way to work on *synonyms* (words with the same meaning) and *antonyms* (words with opposite meanings) with your child while spending quality time together. You and your child should each take a piece of paper divided into three columns. Then:

1. **In the first column,** describe yourselves in positive terms. For example, “I am ... kind, generous.”
2. **In the second column,** write a synonym for each word. “I am ... nice, giving.”
3. **In the third column,** write antonyms for each word in the first column. “I am not ... mean, stingy.”
4. **Exchange pages.** Read about each other. Then play the game again—this time describing the other person. What similarities are there in the way you and your child describe each other? How does your child see herself? How many different synonyms can you each think of for various traits?

Literature circles enhance reading

If your child takes part in a literature circle at school, you may wonder what that is. Literature circles are like book clubs. They give kids the opportunity to participate in group discussions about books.



To build on what your child is doing in his literature circle, read the same book and ask him questions to start a conversation, such as, “What do you think of that character’s decision?”

Old favorites provide hints for choosing new books

If you’re looking for a book your child will love, start thinking about her favorite things. Favorite author? Maybe he or she has written something new. Favorite hobby? Look for a how-to book. Favorite food? Read together about how to prepare it.



Be a fluency role model

You are building your child’s fluency just by reading together.

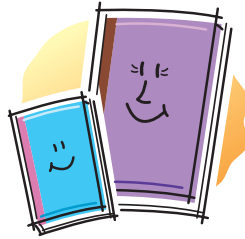
When you read smoothly—with emotion and enthusiasm—you show that effective reading is similar to talking. It flows with ease. Your child can also hear fluent reading on audio books or at story time at the library.



After you’ve modeled fluent reading, have your child practice by reading aloud to you.

Everyday conversations can boost your child's vocabulary

According to research, the conversations that children have with their parents have great influence on the children's vocabularies—and their reading skills. The more you talk with your child, the more new words she learns. When she is familiar with a word, she is more likely to recognize it when she reads.



For example, find something new to mention at the grocery store. "These mangoes are ripe." Then provide more details. "Mangoes are delicious. They're green or red on the outside and orange or yellow on the inside. Mangoes are sweet, juicy and even a little slimy. Where do you think mangoes grow? Let's try one at home." See if your child can find *mango* on the receipt. Chances are the word will become unforgettable!

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

Spice up your regular reading routines

Reading with your child every day is one of the most important things you can do to help her learn. But you don't have to always do it the same way! To build your child's excitement about reading:

- **Find new reading spots.** Pick unusual places to read, such as in a fort your child builds with pillows in the living room.
- **Read as a team.** Have your child follow words with her finger while you read aloud. Or take turns reading sentences or paragraphs.
- **Plan a performance.** Choose a favorite passage and help your child master reading it aloud. Gather an audience to admire her skills!



- **Celebrate reading success.** When you reach a goal (such as 100 reading minutes in a week), do something special!



Q: How can I tell if a book is too challenging for my child?

A: Stay in touch with the teacher about your child's reading level. This will help when choosing books to read. You can also try the "five-finger rule" to assess a book's difficulty. Have your child read a full page. Hold up one finger each time he struggles with a word. If all five fingers are up by the end of the page, save that book for later.

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

Challenge your child with analogies

Standardized tests sometimes examine how well kids understand *analogies* (comparisons of different, yet related, things). For example, *leg* is to *foot* as *arm* is to *hand*. Working on analogies builds important vocabulary and thinking skills. Try this example with your child: "House is to builder as pie is to what?" (Baker.)



Source: "Analogies," VocabularySpellingCity.com, nswc.com/practice_analogies.

For lower elementary readers:

- ***Zip, Zip ... Homework*** by Nancy Poydar (Holiday House). Violet can't wait to have homework. Finally, the day comes when she's given an assignment!
- ***Finding Wild*** by Megan Wagner Lloyd (Alfred A. Knopf). Wild can be found in all kinds of places, from deep in a forest to the side of a mountain.



For upper elementary readers:

- ***Girls Who Rocked the World: Heroines from Joan of Arc to Mother Teresa*** by Michelle Roehm McCann and Amelie Welden (Aladdin). Learn all about a number of remarkable women who have shaped the world's history.
- ***Because of Mr. Terupt*** by Rob Buyea (Yearling). Seven fifth-grade students start their school year, each bringing a unique perspective to Mr. Terupt's class.

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Reading Connection

INTERMEDIATE EDITION

Working Together for Learning Success

November 2016

Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program

Book Picks

■ *The Misadventures of Max Crumbly: Locker Hero* (Rachel Renée Russell)

If middle schooler Max Crumbly had superpowers, the school bully wouldn't stuff him into lockers, he wouldn't miss the bus, and he'd never feel anxious. But when Max uncovers a plot to steal the school's computers, he gets a chance to really be a hero!

■ *This is Washington, D.C.* (Miroslav Sasek)

Introduce your child to landmarks and the history of the nation's capital with this travel guide for kids. Explore monuments, museums, and parks, including the Lincoln Memorial, the White House, and the National Air and Space Museum. Part of the "This is" series.

■ *The Key to Extraordinary* (Natalie Lloyd)

In Blackbird Hollow, 12-year-old Emma discovers through a dream that she was meant to find a mysterious treasure and stop a developer from destroying her home. Will she get to the treasure in time?

■ *Mad About Monkeys* (Owen Davey)
This illustration-packed book is filled with information about monkeys—their habitats, what they eat, and how they play. Learn about funny facts, such as which monkey wins for "best facial hair," and about serious topics like the threats posed by deforestation. (Also available in Spanish.)



Dive in to read deeply!

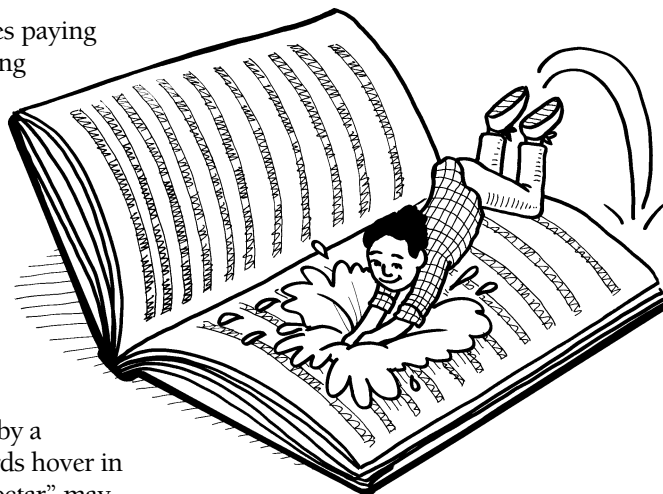
"Deep reading" includes paying attention to details, noticing characters' motivations, and making connections with what you read. Your child can dig beneath the surface with these suggestions.

Find the "big idea"

Small details often add up to a bigger theme. On the surface, sentences like "It's no fun to get sprayed by a skunk" and "Hummingbirds hover in midair while they drink nectar" may seem unrelated. But encourage your youngster to look for a link. He might realize, "Skunks spray to protect themselves, and hummingbirds hover to reach their food—this article is about animal survival."

Uncover the motive

One way to dig deeper is to consider a character's or an author's purpose. For example, why does Willy Wonka hold a contest in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (Roald Dahl)? (He needs to find out who he can trust to take over his



factory.) Or maybe a movie critic wants to convince people to see a film. What clues can your child find in the review that point to the writer's motivation? ("Don't miss this gem!")

Dare to compare

Making comparisons to his own life helps your youngster analyze reading material. If he reads a textbook chapter about the Dust Bowl, he could compare it to a natural disaster that happened in his lifetime. How did each disaster affect people and the environment? ■

Question of the week

What's the best sport to play on the moon? Use questions like that to encourage your child to write about her opinions and defend her answers.

Family members could take turns posting an open-ended question each week. Then, everyone writes a response and an explanation. For example, your youngster might write, "Gymnastics is a great sport for the moon because you could do lots of flips and go really high. It would be better than a game with a ball, because a ball would float away."

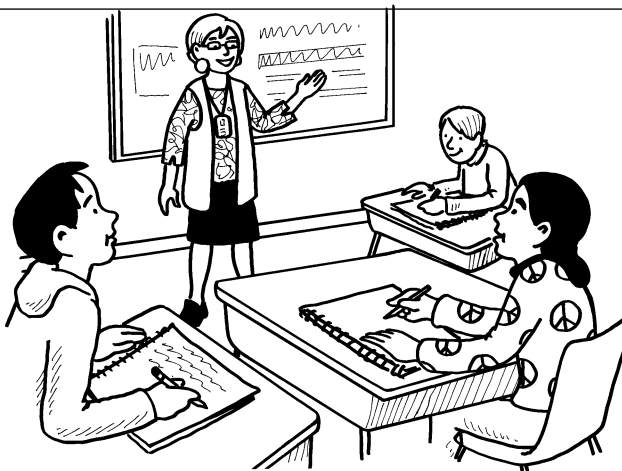
Put the responses in a box. At the end of the week, let your child read them aloud. You'll have fun discussing them over dinner! ■



Note-taking tips

Your youngster's notes are one of the best study tools she can use. Show her these strategies for writing down and keeping track of what she needs to know for tests and quizzes.

Be organized. Encourage your child to use a separate notebook or folder for each subject. She should write the date and the topic at the top of each page of notes so that later, she can easily find what she's looking for.



Zoom in. When her teacher talks, suggest that your youngster focus on clues that indicate she should write something down—such as when the teacher spells a person's name or repeats a date.

Abbreviate. Have your child think of ways to shorten words she writes frequently. She might use "frex" instead of "for example" or "b/c" for "because."

Add symbols. Your youngster could put a question mark beside anything that confuses her as a reminder to ask the teacher about it. Or she may add a star to indicate something that's really important. ■

Fun
with
Words

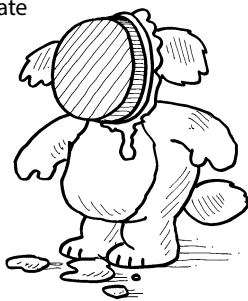
Word puzzles @ play

Get your child thinking about language in a fun and playful way by solving word puzzles together. Here's one to get you started:

What's ^{MAN}BOARD? (It's "man overboard!")

See how many of these 10 puzzles you and your youngster can figure out. (The answers are below.) Then, try your hands at creating new ones for each other to guess.

- KCAP
- ThePIeFace
- Read the print
- Little little late late
- +verb
- Hijklmno
- Somewhere the Rainbow
- | Read |
- NOONgood
- e
k
a
w



Answers:

- Backpack
- Pie in the face
- Read the fine print
- Too little, too late
- Adverb
- Water (H₂O)
- Somewhere Over the Rainbow
- Read between the lines
- Good afternoon
- Wake up

OUR PURPOSE

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

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Parent 2 Parent

Prepare for conferences

Last year at my parent-teacher conference, the teacher asked if I had questions about my son's reading progress. I couldn't think of any off the top of my head, but at home later, I came up with several I wished I had asked.

This year, I'm going to the conference more prepared. So far, I've listed questions about which reading group Anthony is in and whether he participates in discussions about books. I'm also going to ask if the teacher has recommendations for books that he can read at home.

Having a list makes me feel more confident about the conference, and I'm sure I'll walk away with information about how Anthony is doing with reading and how I can help him succeed. ■



Q&A

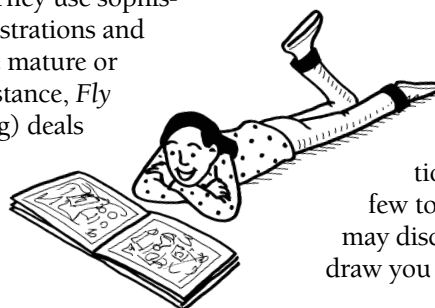
Get the picture (book)

Q My daughter recently brought home a picture book from the school library. Aren't these too easy for children her age?

A It might surprise you to learn that some picture books are written especially for older readers. They use sophisticated language and illustrations and sometimes address more mature or complex themes. For instance, *Fly Away Home* (Eve Bunting) deals with homelessness, and *Most Loved in All the World* (Tonya Cherie Hegamin) tells a story about slavery.

Ask your daughter what she likes about picture books. Maybe they remind her of when she was younger, or she likes being able to read an entire book in a single sitting. Or perhaps she uses them to understand science or history concepts—they're great for explaining complicated ideas.

Then, the next time you're at the library together, explore the picture book section and take home a few to read together. You may discover stories that draw you in, too! ■



Recipes for Success

Practical Activities to Help Your Child Succeed

NOVEMBER 2016



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."

WORD PROBLEMS

It's easy to see

Let your child put together her own "word problem kit" to make story problems easier to understand and solve.

Ingredients: small objects (buttons, coins), container, index cards, pencil

Have your youngster write symbols for math operations (+, -, x, ÷) on separate index cards and place them in the container along with the small objects. Now she can use the kit to solve homework problems or fun word problems that you give each other. *Example:* "Seven monkeys each had 1 banana. Two monkeys ate theirs. How many bananas were left?" Your child might make one group of 7 buttons, move 2 buttons into a separate group, and put the "-" card in between. By counting the number of buttons left, she will solve the problem: $7 - 2 = 5$.

READING

Connect with stories

Build your youngster's reading comprehension by encouraging her to connect books to her own life.

Ingredients: notebook, pen, books

Suggest your child start a Story Connections journal with one section for "Characters" and another for "Events." After she finishes reading a chapter or section, she can reflect on how the characters and events relate to her life.

For "Characters," she might imagine she's friends with someone in the story and write about what they have in common (they are both middle children, they like the same sports). Under "Events," she could mention happenings that mirror her experiences (starting a new school, adopting a dog). How many connections can she make for each book she reads?

STEM

Design a miniature fort

Your youngster can boost critical thinking and engineering skills by creating a mini-fort with household objects.

Ingredients: hole-punch, paper towel or toilet paper tubes, straws, cardboard, scissors, tape

Help your child use a hole-punch to make holes along empty paper towel or toilet paper tubes. Then, he could thread straws through the holes and tape on cardboard pieces to build his fort.

Suggest that he experiment with making a two- or three-floor fort. Have him test the "load," or weight, by placing objects on the floors until they collapse. How might he make them stronger? (*Examples:* Tape together cardboard pieces, or reinforce them with duct tape.)

POETRY

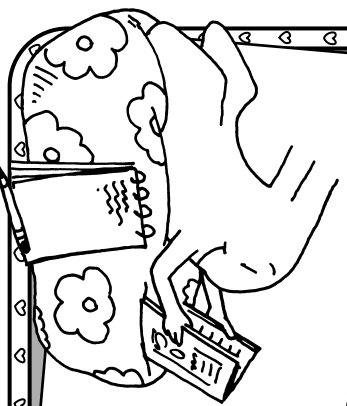
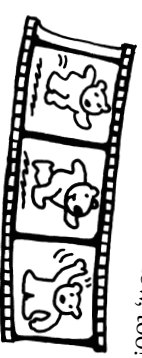
Enjoy poetry together with fun read-alouds. Take turns picking out favorite poems and reading them to each other.



Or read to your youngster while she acts out each line ("I'd rather kiss a frog...").

PATTERNS

Help your child work out his wiggles with patterns. Start with two movements—"jump, jog"—and have him do them over and over for 1 minute. Then, add another movement: "jump, jog, wave." He will enjoy creating patterns for you to follow, too!



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NOVEMBER 2016

Character Corner

□ HONESTY



Teach your child to give an honest response to a question—without hurting someone's feelings. If his

friend asks, "Do you like my sweater?" instead of saying, "No," he could say, "It looks comfortable." That way, he's being honest *and* kind.

□ DEPENDABILITY

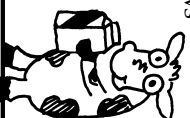


Being dependable means people can count on you to do what you say you will

do. Have your youngster keep a list of times she follows through on things, such as returning her brother's game when she promised. How long will her list grow?

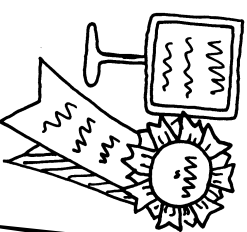
□ RESPECT FOR THE EARTH

Make it a family habit to point out food sources in everyday life, such as cows in a field or an apple tree in a yard. Knowing how the planet gives us what we need can help your child want to take care of it.



HISTORY

Help your youngster create a museum to celebrate his personal history. He might display the first tooth he lost, a specimen from his rock collection, or a ribbon from a gymnastics competition. He can add a card explaining each item—and then give you a tour!



SYMMETRY

Place a ruler on a table. Have your child use toothpicks or dry pasta to create a symmetrical design—each side should be a mirror image of the other. He could place one piece at a time on each side, making sure they're in the same position. Take a



picture so he can remember what symmetry looks like!

RESEARCH

Go on a bug hunt to look for stink bugs, spiders, or other insects. Suggest that your youngster take along paper and sketch the bugs. Then, have her use library books or look online to find out more about each insect.



GRAMMAR

Practice parts of speech with fill-in-the-blank stories. Together, create a tale, leaving blank spaces labeled with parts of speech (noun, verb, adjective, adverb). Say each

category, and write in the word your child supplies. Then, let her read the silly story aloud.

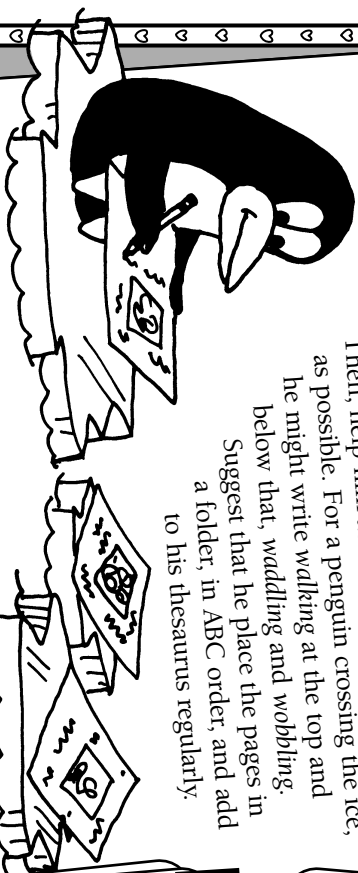
VOCABULARY That sounds familiar!

Here's a fun way for your child to learn about words with similar meanings by making his own thesaurus.

Ingredients: magazines, photographs, tape, paper, markers

Ask your youngster to gather family photos or cut out interesting pictures from magazines. He can choose one at a time, tape it to the top of a sheet of paper, and write one word describing it.

Then, help him add as many similar words as possible. For a penguin crossing the ice, he might write *walking* at the top and *below* that, *waddling* and *wobbling*. Suggest that he place the pages in a folder, in ABC order, and add to his thesaurus regularly.



Congratulations!

We finished _____ activities together on this poster.

Signed (parent or adult family member)

Signed (child)