



Dennis-Yarmouth Title I

From the Title I Coordinator

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March 2017

Wow, did March ever come in like a lion...here's hoping it will leave like a lamb and Spring will be on it's way!
Here are some tips for helping your child every day:

Set regular times to read with your child, such as every night before bedtime.

Take turns reading aloud with your child.

If your child is older, encourage him or her to read aloud to your younger children.

Have your child draw pictures of what s/he is reading.

Praise your child's reading. Offer support and consult your child's teacher if s/he is having trouble.

Let your child see you read. Point out and discuss new and interesting words.

Allow your child to reread books s/he likes.

Visit your local library. Let your child choose books that match his/her interests.

Help your child with writing, too. Writing improves reading skills.

Write poems, stories, and shopping lists together.

Ask your child's teacher how you can support school reading efforts.

Have your child read recipes, road signs, food labels and maps.

Create a home library. Keep a variety of materials on hand, such as fiction and nonfiction books. Make sure they're in easy reach. Also provide a comfortable, well-lit place to sit.



This month many of our students in grades 3-8 and grade 10 will be taking the MCAS test, and many more will be taking it next month. Here are some things you can do to help your child with the tests:

- Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep
- Provide a good breakfast with protein
- Have your child dress in layers- kids do better on tests if they do not have to think about how hot or cold they are
- Don't be anxious. Say, "This test is important. I know you will try hard and do your best." Your confidence will be contagious.

On the day of the test, give your child these tips:

- Skip a question and move on if you don't know the answer. You can come back later. Maybe you will be ready to answer the question then.
- Check your answers carefully. Make sure the numbers of your answers correspond to the numbers of the questions on the test.

Remember that a test is like a snapshot. It is a one-time look at a child's performance. All children have skills and knowledge that tests do not measure. A single test score does not tell you everything about your child.

For further information, please contact Cookie Stewart at 508-778-7599 , or e-mail stewartv@dy-regional.k12.ma.us

Also, a reminder that town meetings will be coming up in the next couple of months.

Please be sure that you have registered to vote.
Voting is not a privilege it is a responsibility!



Home & School

Working Together for School Success

CONNECTION®

March 2017

Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program



SHORT NOTES

Which way?

Improve your youngster's sense of direction by having her observe the sunset from a window in your home—that's west. Then, let her make north, south, east, and west signs to hang on the walls. Next, hide a toy, and give her directions to find it. ("Take two steps south and three steps east.") When you walk outdoors, she can try using the sun to figure out directions.

Use medicine safely

Teach your child about drug safety from an early age. If medicine is prescribed for him, read the label together, and explain that it's important to take it exactly as directed. Then, dispense doses yourself, and store it in a locked cabinet. Also, tell him he should never share medication—or accept medicine from a friend.



The first day of spring (March 20) is also World Storytelling Day.

Celebrate it by spending an evening telling family stories. Your youngster will probably enjoy hearing tales from your childhood—or the story of the day she was born.

Worth quoting

"Sunshine is delicious, rain is refreshing, wind braces us up, snow is exhilarating; there is really no such thing as bad weather, only different kinds of good weather." *John Ruskin*

JUST FOR FUN

Q: What was the farmer doing on the other side of the road?

A: Catching all the chickens!



The importance of helping others

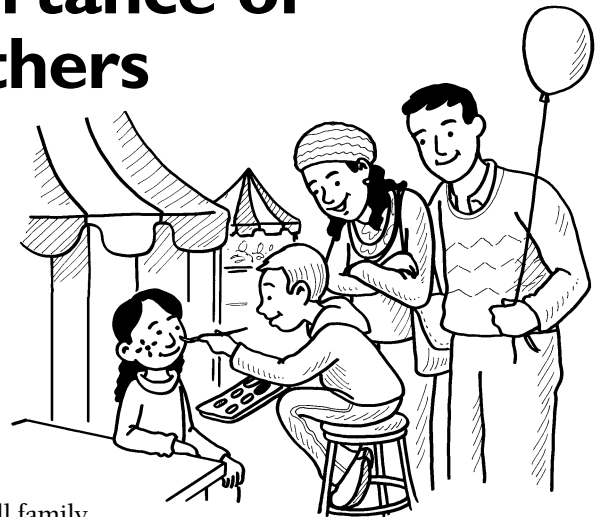
Your child will discover that the world is a better place when people help each other. Consider these ideas for raising a helpful youngster.

Take on chores

Helping starts at home, and regular chores are a good place to begin. Point out that your household runs more smoothly when all family members help take care of it. Get your child in the habit of everyday chores (washing dishes, folding laundry). Then, suggest that he look for other ways to help, perhaps cleaning the attic or weeding the garden.

Assist classmates

Let your youngster see that he has the power to help others. If he mentions someone who might need help (say, a classmate who is struggling with math facts), ask, "What could you do?" Your child could invite the student to study with him. Tell your youngster about



everyday ways you lend a hand, such as bringing morning coffee to a coworker who broke her ankle.

Volunteer together

Your child can be a community volunteer with your help. For ideas, contact the parks and recreation department, community centers, and service agencies like the United Way. Your family might take part in a park cleanup day, be a foster family for rescue dogs, or do face painting at a fund-raiser. When your youngster sees how good it feels to make a difference, he may want to make volunteering a habit! ♥

Tips for test day

Good news: Everyday strategies your youngster uses in reading and math will come in handy on standardized tests. Here's how:

- Help your child prepare for sections where she has to read paragraphs, answer questions, and give supporting details. When you read to her at home, talk about the book, and ask her to show you *evidence* to back up her ideas and opinions.
- Your youngster may be asked to show how she solves math problems during the test, just like she does on regular assignments. Tell her that it's better to write too much rather than not enough, especially if the test isn't timed. She might also include drawings, such as a sketch showing how she found the area of a trapezoid. ♥



It's cool to learn new words!

At home or on the go, your youngster can expand her vocabulary. Try these suggestions.

My word wall. Many classrooms have word walls—why not let your child make one at home? Her closet door, a side of the refrigerator, or any other open spot will do. She could write words she



is learning on index cards and arrange them by category. *Examples:* History words (*expansion, treaty*), science terms (*photosynthesis, mineral*). Each time she adds a word to her wall, ask her what it means. Then, she can refer to the wall as she does her homework or writes stories.

Games to go. In the car, let your youngster pick a random letter (say, G), and take turns calling out something you see that begins with

that letter (*grass, gazebo, girl*). If you say an unfamiliar word, point out the item so she learns it. When you reach the next block, someone else can pick a different letter. *Tip:* Later, help her remember the words by asking questions like “What was that round wooden structure that started with G?” (*gazebo*)♥

ACTIVITY CORNER

Structural engineering

Your child will have fun exploring engineering with homemade building blocks. Share these steps.

1. Make triangle blocks

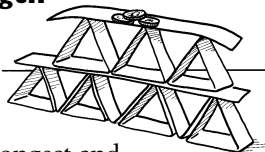
Let him cut poster board, file folders, or index cards into 24 strips, each about 1" x 5". Then, have him fold each strip into thirds, bend it into a triangle, and tape the ends together. (*Note:* He should save a few unfolded strips to use for building.)

2. Build a structure

Encourage your youngster to experiment with different designs. He can fit triangles together into rows with every other block pointing up, lay an unfolded strip on top, and continue alternating layers. Perhaps he'll make the rows all the same length or make them different lengths.

3. Test strength

Ask your child to check each structure to see which design is the strongest and most stable. He could put a strip of paper on top and add pennies, counting as he goes, until the structure topples. Which arrangement of blocks holds the most pennies?♥



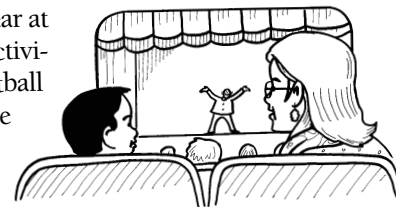
PARENT TO PARENT

Spring events: A family affair

The last quarter of the year at my son Andy's school is always filled with fun activities like plays, concerts, a student-teacher basketball game, the book fair, and curriculum nights. I like to attend or take Andy to as many as possible, but I'm a single mom with two jobs, so we usually end up missing some.

This year, I sent the calendar of events to my mom, my brother, and my cousin, and I asked whether they could each take Andy to one. They were happy to help! My mom took Andy to the school play, and my brother is going with him to the basketball game. My cousin, who's studying to become a teacher, is excited about literacy night.

I'm relieved that my son will attend so many evening activities. And Andy looks forward to sharing his school events with other family members.♥



Q & A

Encourage good school behavior

Q: My daughter has been misbehaving in school. The teacher sent home a note saying she's goofing off and not listening. What should I do?

A: First, contact your child's teacher. Find out when your daughter tends to act up, maybe during silent reading time, in the hallway, or at lunch. Together, you and the teacher might be able to figure out what triggers the behavior. Perhaps she

is struggling in a particular subject, or maybe sitting beside her best friend makes it a challenge for her to follow the rules.

Then, talk to your daughter about the importance of behaving well in school.

Discuss strategies for solving the problem like asking for help when an assignment is hard or sitting near different kids. Finally, plan to keep talking to your child and to stay in touch with the teacher to make sure her behavior improves.♥



OUR PURPOSE

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

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Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

March 2017

Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program

Book Picks

Read-aloud favorites

■ **Drum Dream Girl** (Margarita Engle)

A little girl dreams of playing the drums, but on her island, only boys are drummers. She plays in her imagination and practices on furniture. Finally her dad gets her drumming lessons. Based on the life of Millo Castro Zaldarriaga, who broke Cuba's male-only drumming barrier.

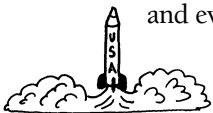


■ **Born to Read** (Judy Sierra)

The moment baby Sam opens his eyes, he knows how to read his name. From that point on, he never stops reading. As Sam grows up, reading helps him win a bike race and even saves his town from a baby giant named Grundaloon. A fun book about the love of reading.

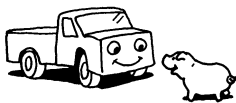
■ **The Best Book of Spaceships** (Ian Graham)

Space is the place in this nonfiction book! Your aspiring astronaut will learn about planets, rocket power, and even what it's like to work in space. Each page contains detailed photographs, so your child can see spacesuits and space stations. Includes a glossary of space words.



■ **Little Blue Truck** (Alice Shertle)

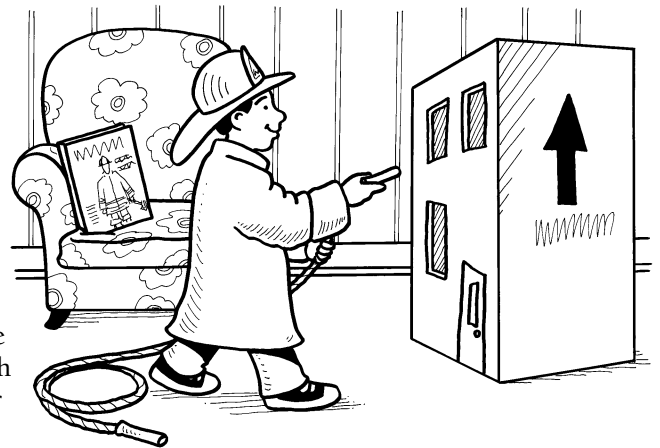
"Beep!" says the little blue truck as he greets all the farm animals. The animals respond with their own sounds like "Baa" and "Oink." When an unfriendly dump truck gets stuck in the mud, it's up to the blue truck and his animal friends to help. (Also available in Spanish.)



Book-inspired play

After reading a book on firefighters, Jonathan puts on his red hat and pretends to spray water from a jump rope. Lucy reads a story about trains, then lines up a row of kitchen chairs and climbs aboard.

Children's play is often inspired by books. Combine playtime and story time with these ideas that stretch your youngster's thinking.



Dress-up time

Veterinarian, chef, banker... it's fun for kids to try out grown-up roles. When you read to your child, point out jobs people do. Afterward, help him gather costumes and props (apron, cooking utensils). As he plays, encourage him to use vocabulary from the story. ("I'm kneading the dough like Baker Joe did.")

Building blocks

Place books near your youngster's blocks, and he can create buildings from the stories' settings like an igloo or airport. Ask him about his building's design.

("Why is there a tunnel in front of your igloo's door?") If he's not sure, he could look in the book (the tunnel blocks wind and cold when the door is open).

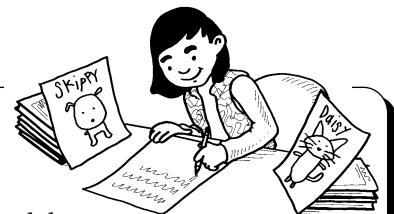
Treasure bin

Fill a plastic container with sand or dry rice or beans. Suggest that your child put in items related to a story he enjoyed and act it out. Maybe he'll get seashells and a mini beach bucket for a book about the ocean. Or he might bury coins when he reads a nonfiction book about money—he can dig them up, estimate the amount, then count to check.♥

Collect lessons from authors

Professional authors make great "mentors" for little ones who are just starting to write. Here are writing techniques your child can discover:

- Help your youngster read a book with a pattern and then write a repeating story. For example, on each page of *It Looked Like Spilt Milk*, Charles G. Shaw writes: "Sometimes it looked like (____), but it wasn't (____). It was (____)!" Have your child make up the pattern she will build her tale around.
- Let your youngster read multiple stories by the same author and try the plot structure in a story of her own. In both *Stellaluna* and *Verdi*, Janell Cannon tells of a little animal who overcomes a problem and makes new friends. What problem will the characters face in your child's story, and how will they solve it?♥



Read the signs

Your town is full of signs for your child to read. Help her practice using strategies to sound out words by looking for these three things.

1. Letter combinations. Your youngster is probably learning to recognize letter combinations like *th*, *str*, *ph*, and *qu*. Pick one to look for while you stroll—maybe you'll spot a "No hand-held *ph*ones" or "Quarry entrance ahead" sign. If she struggles, remind her of the sounds the combinations make ("Ph sounds like f").



2. Words within words. Bigger words are easier for your child to read if she finds smaller words inside them. Call out compound words you see, like *railroad* or *westbound*. Can your youngster read the words that make it up (*rail* and *road*, *west* and *bound*)?



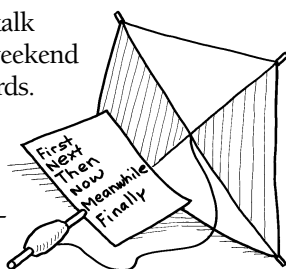
First, next, and last

Some words act like glue—they make sentences in a paragraph or story "stick" together. Let your youngster learn to use these types of words so his writing flows logically.

Down the left side of a sheet of paper, help him list words that show when events took place. He might think of *first*, *next*, and *last*. You could suggest others like *then*, *now*, *later*, *meanwhile*, and *finally*.

Together, talk about your weekend using the words. Take turns picking a word and starting a sentence with it. Maybe you'll say, "First, you ran across the field with your kite." Your child may add, "Then, it rose into the air." Continue until someone chooses *finally* to end the paragraph. ("Finally, the kite dove to the ground.")

Idea: Have your youngster keep the list so he can use it when he writes.♥



Q&A

Understanding written directions

Q When my second-grader takes a test or does a worksheet, he sometimes gets answers wrong because he didn't read the directions correctly. How can I help him?

A Suggest that your child read directions with a pencil in his hand. He could number the steps and underline important words or copy them onto scratch paper. Reading *actively* like this will help him pay attention to the instructions and understand them.

Practice at home when you play a board game or do a project. Help your son read the directions aloud and then go back and mark important parts with sticky notes (examples: "Play continues clockwise," "Win by exact count only"). You can also ask him to explain the instructions to you in his own words to be sure he's ready to follow them.

Note: If he tries these strategies and still doesn't understand a set of directions, encourage him to ask his teacher for help.♥



Guess the book by its cover

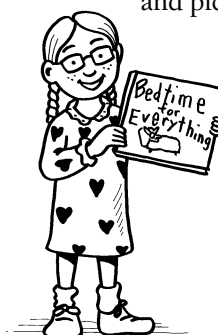
Book covers get a makeover with this activity, which strengthens your youngster's reading comprehension and creativity.

First, let each person secretly choose and read a picture book from the library or your family's bookcase. Then, wrap your book in brown paper, and decorate the new cover with a different title and illustration. The catch? You can't use any words or images from the original!

Your child will need to think carefully about the story to come up with a title and picture. For example, she might rename *Goodnight Moon*

(Margaret Wise Brown)
Bedtime for Everything.

Now, take turns reading your books aloud. Begin by presenting the cover and reading the title. Can anyone guess the real book before you open and read it?♥



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BUILDING READERS®

How Families Can Help Children Get Ready to Read

Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District
Title 1

Reading aloud builds skills that will benefit your child for years

Your child loves it when you read aloud to her. But sharing stories is more than just fun—it teaches her important lessons and builds language skills. When you read to your child, you:

- **Spark creativity.** It also increases her curiosity about new topics.
- **Boost her listening skills.**
- **Expand knowledge.** This knowledge provides context that helps her learn new things.
- **Build vocabulary.**
- **Increase observation skills.** To enhance them even more, pause while reading and ask your child to predict what might happen next.
- **Nurture analytic skills** when you talk about what is happening in the story.
- **Teach her to appreciate** and love books, stories and language.



Source: “Better Kid Care: Reading Aloud,” Pennsylvania State University Cooperative Extension, nswc.com/benefits_reading_aloud.

*“In the highest civilization,
the book is still the highest delight.”*

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

Use audiobooks to boost listening skills

Audiobooks do more than sharpen your child’s language skills. They may also turn him into a more careful listener.

The next time you and your child listen to an audiobook together:

- **Pause partway through.** Take a moment to see if he’s paying attention to the details. Say, “The kitten lost his balloon. Do you remember what color the balloon was?” If he’s unsure, go back and play that part again.
- **Review what he heard.** When the story ends, ask your child to retell it in his own words. If he can include lots of details, you’ll know he was listening closely.

Building vocabulary at home is as easy as A-B-C!

Here’s a version of the alphabet game that helps your child connect letter sounds to words. To play:

- 1. Take turns with your child** going through the letters of the alphabet (you take A, he gets B, etc.).
- 2. For each letter,** name a word that begins with that letter (*apple, banana, canteloupe* and so on).
- 3. Go through the alphabet** a second time. This time, avoid repeating any words from the last round!



Put your child in charge of the book

When you read with your child, have him hold the book and flip its pages while you read aloud. It’ll give him hands-on experience with the mechanics of books—like how they open, which direction the pages turn and that print flows from page to page.



Sharpen your child’s thinking skills with easy activities

Developing your child’s cognitive (thinking) skills can turn her into a stronger reader. To do it in a relaxed way:

- **Describe an object** in the refrigerator: “It’s round, red and has a stem.” Have her find it for you.
- **Test her memory.** Before bed, ask your child to describe what she did that day.



Source: D. Sullivan, “Learning Milestones: Cognitive skills (ages 3 and 4),” BabyCenter, nswc.com/cognitive_development_practice.

Spend some quality time playing with rhymes

Rhymes are a terrific tool for boosting your preschooler's language learning. So carve out some "rhyme time" each day by playing:

- **Change the Name.** Rattle off the names of everyone in your family, and then help your child invent silly rhymes for each one. You might invent new nicknames for each other!
- **What Do I See?** Think of an object in the room and give your child rhyming clues about it, even if they're nonsense words. If you want him to guess the word "table," you might say "I see a *nable* ... a *wable* ..."
- **Roses Are Red.** Use the classic verse as a jumping-off point for creating new rhymes together. "Roses are red, violets are blue" Instead of ending the rhyme with, "Sugar is sweet, and so are you," challenge your child to think of new endings!



Source: L.K. Rath, Ed.D. and L. Kennedy, *The Between the Lions Book for Parents*, HarperCollins.

A reading tree celebrates growing reading experience

Finishing a book is an accomplishment. You can help your child celebrate these milestones by making a reading tree. Together:

1. **Cut the shape of a tree** out of brown paper. Hang it in a visible spot.
2. **Add a leaf to the tree** for every new book you read. Write the name of the book on the leaf.
3. **Vary the leaf shape or color** each month. You can keep track of how many books you read each month.



Language learning is a drawing away

One way to get your child ready to read is to show him the connection between the written word and illustrations. To do it, give your child some paper and crayons and have him draw a story:

1. **Ask your child to invent** a story in his head. Then, have him draw pictures depicting it on the paper.
2. **Have your child tell** you his tale when he has finished drawing.
3. **Write your child's words** beneath each picture for him. He just created his own story! Help him think of a title for his book. Read it together during your next reading time.



Books to delight your early reader

- **Grumpy Gloria** by Anna Dewdney (Viking). Gloria, a dog, is in a horrible mood. Her owners try everything they can think of to cheer up their pouting pup.
- **Dear Yeti** by James Kwan (Farrar Straus Giroux). Two hikers start on a journey to find a Yeti. As they travel, they leave notes for the Yeti to update him on their adventure.
- **A Squiggly Story** by Andrew Larsen (Kids Can Press). A boy wants to write a story—but he doesn't know where to start! He looks to his sister for help, and she tells him that each story starts with a single letter.



Q: My child loves learning new words. How can I boost her vocabulary without seeming like I'm drilling her?

A: You can expose your child to new words in everyday ways. When you're running errands, point out names on billboards or signs. If you're in the checkout line at the grocery store, read the product labels around you aloud. At home, skim the newspaper headlines for new words to share with your child.

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

Building Readers®

How Families Can Help Children Get Ready to Read

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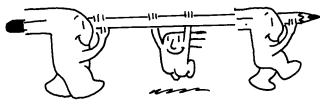
Reading Connection

INTERMEDIATE EDITION

Trabajando juntos para el éxito en los estudios

Marzo de 2017

Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program



Libros del mes

■ **Sebastian Darke: Prince of Fools** (Philip Caveney)

En esta cómica historia de fantasía, puede que el medio duende Sebastian Darke no sea divertido, pero sus aventuras sí lo son. Cuando se propone convertirse en un bufón de la corte, se encuentra con un guerrero diminuto, rescata a una princesa y termina siendo un enemigo del rey.

■ **Appleblossom the Possum** (Holly Goldberg Sloan)

La mamá de Appleblossom la advirtió de peligros como autos, perros y seres humanos. Pero cuando la pequeña zarigüeya se cae por una chimenea descubre que no todos los humanos son monstruos. Cuando sus hermanos intentan rescatarla, Appleblossom debe decidir si regresa con su familia o se queda con su nueva amiga.



■ **Amazon Rainforest** (William B. Rice)

Viajen por la jungla más extensa del mundo: la del Amazonas. Fotografías a todo color ayudan a los lectores a explorar la región desde el suelo de la selva hasta la copa de los árboles y a aprender sobre las plantas, los animales y la gente que vive allí. (Disponible en español.)



■ **Big Top Burning: The True Story of an Arsonist, a Missing Girl, and The Greatest Show On Earth** (Laura A. Woollett)

En 1944 la tienda del circo Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus se quemó por completo en 10 minutos. Una niña desapareció y murieron 167 personas. ¿Qué le ocurrió a la niña desaparecida? Se invita a los jóvenes detectives a que examinen relatos de testigos, fotos y otros tipos de evidencia sobre este misterio de la vida real.



Usar indicios del contexto

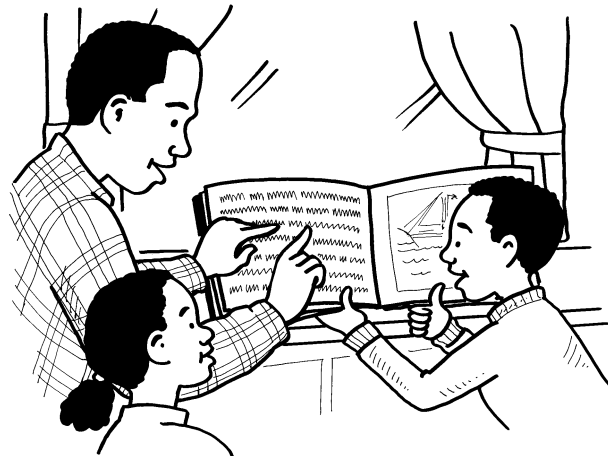
Puede que su hijo no entienda una palabra compleja cuando la vea sola. Pero cuando está en un libro, rodeada por otras palabras, frases y párrafos, puede usar el *contexto* para descifrarla. Sugiera estas estrategias.

■ **Buscar definiciones**

Puede que una palabra nueva se defina en la frase que está leyendo su hijo. Quizá tropiece con *campesinos* (“El rey obligaba a los *campesinos* a pagar impuestos...”). Anímelo a que termine la frase que quizá le lleve al significado de la palabra (“pero los *pobres agricultores* no podían pagarle al rey”).

■ **Completar los espacios en blanco**

Dígale a su hijo que lea la frase sin la palabra desconocida (por ejemplo, *venenosas*). Podría leer: “Las mordeduras de las serpientes _____ pueden ser mortales” y pensar: “¿Qué tendría sentido en ese sitio?” Si sabe que las mordeduras tóxicas



de serpientes son las mortales, puede entender que *venenosas* significa *tóxicas*.

■ **Volver atrás**

La información en el resto de un capítulo o de un libro puede explicar una palabra desconocida. Digamos que su hijo lee: “La compañía vende productos *genéricos*”. Podría anotar *genérico* y luego prestar atención a la información al proceder con la lectura. La siguiente sección podría proporcionar la información diciendo, por ejemplo, que “los productos genéricos son semejantes a los productos de marca pero menos caros”. ■

Ensayos organizados

Los ensayos de su hija serán mejores si empieza con una declaración contundente y la apoya con pruebas. Este método puede ayudarle con su plan.

1. Sugiera a su hija que escriba el borrador de la frase que abra su ensayo y que la emplee para hacer preguntas que su investigación conteste. *Ejemplo*: “El reciclaje reduce la polución, conserva recursos naturales y ahorra energía”.

2. Dígale que convierta cada parte de su declaración en una pregunta y que la escriba en la parte superior de una ficha de cartulina: “¿Cómo se reduce la polución con el reciclaje?”

3. Cuando su hija investigue puede añadir cada respuesta a la ficha correspondiente. (“El reciclaje contribuye a reducir la cantidad de desechos y de basura que va al vertedero.”) A continuación, cuando escriba su trabajo, la información de cada ficha puede ir a un párrafo distinto. ■



Escribir lo inesperado

“Creía que se había perdido el anillo, ¡pero no es lo que ocurrió!”

Las sorpresas que su hija entrelace en sus redacciones de escritura creativa mantendrán a sus lectores pendientes y ávidos de más. Comparta con ella estas ideas que puede poner a prueba.

✓ Crear un **giro inesperado** que lleve el argumento en una dirección impredecible. Por ejemplo, si en el cuento de su joven autora se menciona un anillo desaparecido, podría pensar en por qué no está el anillo. Tal vez se ha perdido, está escondido o ha sido robado por viajeros del tiempo. Su objetivo es llevar a los lectores en una dirección y luego despiarlos antes de darles



que su público se quede pendiente al final de una sección o de un capítulo. Puede que el protagonista se halle en apuros o que haga un descubrimiento importante. ¡Su hija podría terminar el capítulo en el momento en el que su personaje abre la puerta y entra en la aterradora mansión! 📖

la respuesta real. La sorpresa consigue que tanto la lectura como la escritura sean amenas.

✓ Igualmente entretenido es terminar un capítulo o una escena con una **situación de suspense**, una pausa en la historia para intrigar al lector sobre lo que viene a continuación. Su hija podría escribir “señuelos” para

Jugando con palabras

Cuenta un cuento

Contar cuentos en familia proporciona práctica a su hijo en hablar y en escuchar, y además es divertido emplear juntos la creatividad. Así pueden empezar.



Cada persona escribe los nombres de cinco objetos en tiras individuales de papel (ejemplos: pelota de béisbol, agarraollas, huevo). Mezclen las tiras en un tazón.

Su hijo saca una tira, la lee y empieza a contar una historia que incluya el objeto. (“Era un día perfecto para un partido de béisbol”). Ahora continúen la historia. Usted saca su tira y añade su objeto: “Sam había olvidado su guante y tuvo que usar en su lugar un agarraollas”. El siguiente narrador saca una tira y continúa: “Todo iba bien hasta que el lanzador cambió la pelota por un huevo”.

Sigan narrando por turnos hasta que desaparezcan todas las tiras. La persona que saque la última remata la historia. 📖

De padre a padre

¡Somos una familia lectora!

Cuando era pequeño a mi hijo Raúl le encantaba leer, pero últimamente no parecía tan interesado. De repente un día me vio añadir el título de un libro a una lista. Me preguntó qué estaba haciendo y le expliqué que me gusta llevar un registro de los libros que he leído.

Unos días después me sorprendió que Raúl me enseñara una lista que había empezado. Su objetivo era, me dijo, escribir el título de cada uno de los libros que recordaba haber leído. Incluso tenía un sistema de clasificación con estrellas. Le dije que era una idea excelente y que iba a empezar a hacerlo yo también.

La lista le recuerda a Raúl algunos de los estupendos libros que ha leído. Y nos gusta mirarnos las listas para hacernos una idea del tipo de lectores que somos. Por ejemplo, yo leo fundamentalmente ficción realista mientras que Raúl prefiere la prosa informativa y las novelas gráficas. Ahora está entusiasmado por empezar un nuevo libro que pueda añadir a su lista. 📖



Éxito con los test estandarizados

P & R Mi hija tomará pronto un test estandarizado que incluye una sección de lectura. ¿Qué estrategias la ayudarán a salir bien del test?

R He aquí una ingeniosa estrategia: Recuerde a su hija la regla de las “tres L”.

Lánzate. Leer con un objetivo en mente facilita encontrar las respuestas.

Cuando su hija tenga que leer un pasaje y contestar preguntas al respecto, podría saltarse el texto y leer primero las preguntas. Con las preguntas en mente

podrá encontrar las respuestas con más facilidad cuando lea.

Lee más despacio. Leer con demasiada rapidez puede producir que se omita información. Recuérdele a su hija que lea a una velocidad que le permita entender el material. Si se hace un lío, puede respirar hondo y reducir su velocidad y eso le ayudará a recobrar la concentración.

Lleva atrás la vista. Antes de marcar las respuestas, su hija podría releer pasajes seleccionados en lugar de contestar de memoria. Así es más probable que sus respuestas sean correctas. 📖



NUESTRA FINALIDAD

Proporcionar a los padres atareados ideas prácticas que promuevan la lectura, la escritura y la expresión oral de sus hijos.

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BUILDING READERS®

Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District
Title 1

How Families Can Help Children Become Better Readers

Have detailed conversations with your child to deepen reading comprehension

To help your child get the most out of books, talk about them *before, during and after* she reads:

- **Before reading**, look at the title and jacket description. Where does the story take place? Is there a conflict in it? What does your child think will happen in the story? Why?
- **While reading**, discuss the characters and plot. What are the main characters like? Does your child agree with their decisions? What does she think might happen next?
- **After finishing**, make conclusions. Did the story end the way your child expected? What alternate endings can she imagine? What does she think was the author's point in writing the story?



Source: "Appropriate Reading Discussions for Children," Math and Reading Help, niswc.com/reading_comprehension_questions.

"Reading is an act of civilization; it's one of the greatest acts of civilization because it takes the free raw material of the mind and builds castles of possibilities."

—Ben Okri

Reading is critical to success on tests

No matter what tests your child takes in school, reading skills will help him do his best. To help your child prepare for tests, suggest that he:

- **Read instructions carefully.** Your child should look for and underline key words. If the directions say, "Circle words with the same meaning," your child should underline *same*.
- **Answer easier questions first.** He should read each question and consider what he knows. Then he should cross out incorrect answers. If he doesn't know the answer, he should mark the problem and come back to it later.
- **Go back and answer the remaining questions.** Remind your child to reread the questions carefully before answering.

Source: "3 Test Taking Strategies for Elementary Students," Core Literacy, niswc.com/three_test_strategies.

Math involves reading, too

Math and reading may not seem alike, but they have plenty in common. Explain to your child that math and reading both use languages. To focus on both at once, read books about math, such as *The Smushy Bus* by Leslie Helakoski. Talk about the mathematical concepts in the book with your child. Connect what you read to real life.



Source: A.K. Balas, "The Mathematics and Reading Connection," ericdigests.org, niswc.com/math_and_reading.

Get organized with word webs

Word webs can help your child see how words and ideas are connected. Have your child put a concept, such as *space*, in the center, then he can draw lines to link to related words, like *galaxies* and *exploration*. Then your child can link those words to others to create a visual diagram of their relationships.



The library is full of answers to your child's questions

"Where do elephants live?" your child asks. Instead of answering right away, suggest a trip to the library. Look up *elephants* in the library catalog. Talk with the librarian. Find books together. Suggest that your child take notes on what she learns. "Let's write down some information about elephants. Then we'll tell Grandma all about them when we get home!"



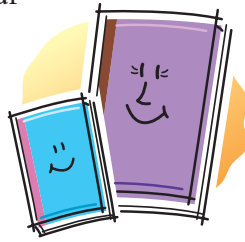
Help your child relax about reading

Learning to read—and maintaining reading skills—can be a challenge, so it's important to remind your child that reading is fun. Start by encouraging reading for pleasure at home. Look for books and magazines that:

- **Explore your child's interests.**
- **Satisfy her curiosity.**
- **Use skills she has mastered.**

To help her feel relaxed while she reads instead of feeling like she's "working," set up a special, cozy reading place. Show her that you love reading, too. Schedule a family reading time, such as half an hour before bedtime. If your child complains about her reading, look for different reading materials together. Ask a librarian or her teacher for help.

Source: B.B. Swanson, "How Can I Improve My Child's Reading?" KidSource OnLine, nswc.com/relax_reading_strategies.



Learn more about authors to promote reading

When your child reads a book, ask him who wrote it. What information is provided about the author? Learning about the author can increase your child's interest in the book. Help your child:

- **Research the author.** Have him learn about the writer's life. How does it relate to the book, if at all?
- **Write to the author.** Your child can choose to write a letter or send an email. Keep in mind that not all authors always respond.
- **Imitate the author's style.** Have your child write a story in the author's style—humor, short sentences or a certain point of view, for example.

Source: "10 Reasons to Do an Author Study," Reading Rockets, nswc.com/author_study.



Q: The teacher says my child needs to become a more **fluent** reader. How can I help her with this?

A: A **fluent** reader progresses through material with confidence and feeling. Fluency makes it easier for your child to read and understand material. To increase fluency, make sure your child reads often (even if it's the same material repeatedly). When you read aloud to her, model fluency by reading with clarity and expression.

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

Encourage your child to exchange reading suggestions

As children get older, their classmates become great sources of reading recommendations. Your child can ask his friends, "What's your favorite book?" or "Have you read any cool books lately?" He can also recommend books to others. When kids read the same books, they can discuss them, which builds reading comprehension skills.



For lower elementary readers:

- **Goldie and the Three Hares** by Margie Palatini (Katherine Tegen Books). After being chased by the Three Bears, Goldilocks shows up in the Three Hares' house!
- **The Bear Ate Your Sandwich** by Julia Sarcone-Roach (Knopf Books for Young Readers). When a bear finds a truck filled with berries, he eats them all—and falls asleep. See what surprise is in store after the bear wakes up!



For upper elementary readers:

- **Ratfink** by Marcia Thornton Jones (Dutton Children's Books). As Logan begins fifth grade, he's determined to have a different kind of year. But with so much changing in his life, that may be hard to achieve.
- **Almost Super** by Marion Jensen (Harper). All members of the Bailey family get a superpower when they are 12—and they are prepared to use their powers to save their world!

Building Readers®

How Families Can Help Children Become Better Readers

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Math+Science Connection

Beginning Edition

Building Excitement and Success for Young Children

March 2017

Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program

TOOLS & TIDBITS

Picture the data

Introduce your child to pictographs by having him take a survey and show his data with pictures. He could ask family members which fruit they like better, bananas or apples. To graph his results, he can draw the two fruits and put a smiley face next to each one to represent a vote. Which fruit has more smiley faces? How many more does it have?

I spy the wind



Your little one may not be able to see the wind, but you can ask her to *show* it to you anyway. Outside on a windy day, have her toss blades of grass into the air and watch them being carried away. Or she might hold up a flag or ribbon to flutter in the breeze.

Book picks

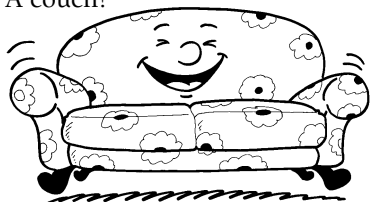
At Miss Bloom's boardinghouse, guests enjoy her yummy cake with a side of fractions in the rhyming story *Full House: An Invitation to Fractions* (Dayle Ann Dodds).

A little girl who loves the stars grows up to be America's first professional woman astronomer. Read the inspiring true story of Maria Mitchell in *Maria's Comet* (Deborah Hopkinson).

Just for fun

Q: What has arms but no hands?

A: A couch!



Ones, tens, and hundreds

What makes 21 different from 12? Swapping the placement of the 2 and the 1 turns them into totally different numbers! These suggestions let your youngster work on this concept of *place value*.

Hunt for numbers

Ask your child to point out two-digit numbers in your home (March 31 on the calendar, page 19 in her storybook). Can she tell you which number is in the tens place and which is in the ones? (For 31, the 3 is in the tens place, and the 1 is in the ones place.)

Collect tens and ones

Together, find household items to represent tens and ones (*examples*: pretzel sticks for tens, sunflower seeds for ones). Put a sticker on each side of a quarter—one labeled "tens," the other "ones." Take turns rolling a die and flipping the coin. If your youngster rolls a 5 and flips "tens," she gets 5 pretzels, equaling 50. If you roll a 6 and flip "ones," you get 6 seeds,

worth 6. She will see that tens are worth more than ones.

Stand in place

Let your child write "hundreds," "tens," and "ones" on separate paper plates and place them on the floor. Give her a three-digit number, say 231. Then ask, "Where would you stand for the 2?" (She would step on the hundreds plate, because the 2 is in the hundreds place in 231.) Next, have her give you a number. Challenge her by standing on the wrong plate to see if she corrects you! 🐛



Where did they go?

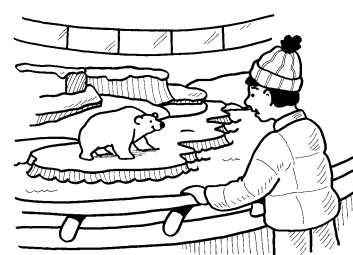
One way animals protect themselves from predators is by blending into their environment using *camouflage*. This simple activity will teach your child what camouflage is all about.

1. Have your youngster cut out squares of different-colored paper.

2. Hide the squares for him to find. Pick places where they will—and won't—be camouflaged.

A red square might go on a red bedspread or a white pillow, and a brown square could be on a wood dresser or a yellow cushion.

3. As your child finds each one, encourage him to notice the squares that blend in with the color it's sitting on, just like a polar bear blends into snow or a deer hides in the woods. The squares—and animals—that don't blend in are exposed for anyone to see. 🐛

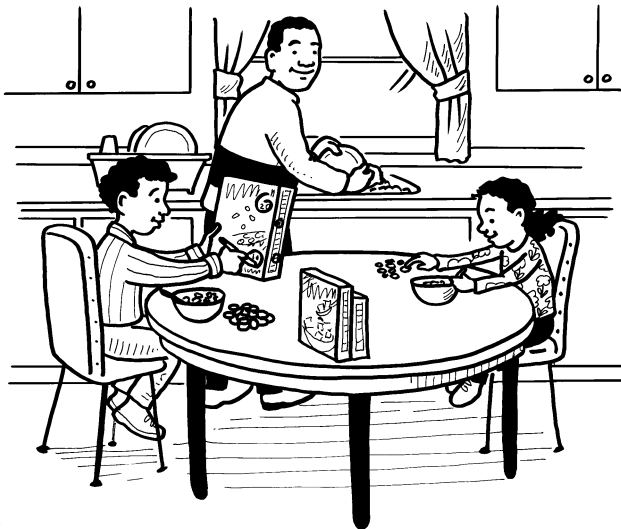


Breakfast of mathematicians

The kitchen table is a great place for morning math fun. Put out boxes of cereal, and try these ideas.


Counting. Ask your youngster to grab a handful of cereal and count the number of pieces. Perhaps he counted 14. How many pieces would he have if he adds 1 more (15) or takes 1 away (13)?

Number sense. Give your child a marker, and challenge him to find and circle all the



numbers he sees on the cereal box. He might find “Net weight 10 oz.” and “Sugar, 2 grams.” What’s the highest number he can locate?

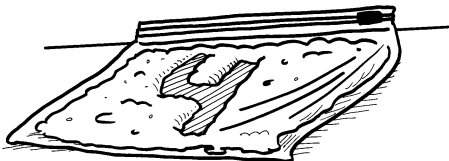
Geometry. Have him count the number of corners (8), edges (12), and faces (6) on the cereal box. Then, empty the cereal into another container, and help him unfold the box so it’s flat. What 2-D shapes can he

identify? Maybe he’ll see rectangles or squares. Finally, he’ll enjoy folding and gluing the cardboard back into a box! 


Q & A Writing my numbers

Q: My daughter is learning to write her numbers. Are there fun ways she can practice at home?

A: Definitely! Here’s a hands-on idea she is sure to love. Let your child mix food coloring into 2 cups shaving cream. Put the colorful shaving cream into a gallon-sized zipper bag, squeeze out the extra air, and seal it closed. Now say a



number—with her finger, she writes it on the squishy bag. The number will show up as the shaving cream is pushed aside. She can easily “erase” it to write the next number you give her.

Or try this: Write numbers on paper in yellow highlighter. Then, have your youngster trace over them in pencil or crayon. The more she practices forming numbers, the more comfortable she will get with writing them. 

OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ways to promote their children’s math and science skills.


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MATH CORNER

Fishy math

With your child, create a “tackle box” of math problems so she can fish for answers anywhere!

First, make a fishing rod. Cut a 12-inch piece of yarn, tie a pencil to one end, and tape a refrigerator magnet to the other end. Then, have her write 0–9 on separate index cards. On four more cards, she should write + or –. Now slide a paper clip on each card.

Let her keep the fishing rod and index cards in a shoebox. To play, your youngster fishes in the box until she “catches” two number cards and one operation card. Then, she gets to solve the problem. *Examples:* $3 + 6 = 9$, $5 - 2 = 3$. Older kids can fish for four number cards to create two-digit numbers and solve harder problems, such as $13 + 27 = 40$. 



SCIENCE LAB

Bobbing raisins

Your youngster may not know that he could use science to make raisins dance. Here’s how.

You’ll need: tall clear glass, seltzer, raisins


Here’s how: Have your child pour seltzer into the glass and drop in 6 raisins.

What happens? Tiny bubbles begin to form on the raisins. When they’re completely covered in bubbles, the raisins will float to the surface. Then the

bubbles will pop, and the raisins will float back down.

Why? The bubbles are carbon dioxide—the gas that makes soda fizzy. This gas makes the raisins bob up and down.

Variation: Instead of using seltzer, your youngster can create his own carbon dioxide reaction. Have him fill the glass halfway with water, stir in 1 tsp.

of baking soda, and drop in the raisins. Then, he should slowly pour in vinegar until the glass is $\frac{3}{4}$ full—the baking soda and vinegar combine to make carbon dioxide. Once again, the raisins will start bobbing! 



Recipes for Success

Practical Activities to Help Your Child Succeed

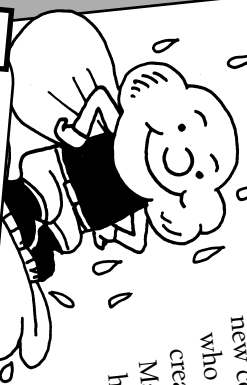
MARCH 2017

READING

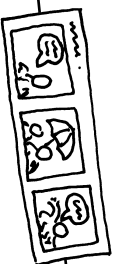
Create comic book characters

Encourage your child to dig for details in a book by drawing a comic strip featuring one of the characters.

Ingredients: book, paper, colored pencils



Your youngster will have to read the text closely for clues on how to turn a storybook character into his new comic book hero. Say he chooses a character who likes to play in puddles. Your child might create an action figure who can make it rain. Maybe the character will have a cloud for a head and a raindrop-shaped cape. Next, he could draw a few panels of the comic strip and use details from the book in his plot.



MULTIPLICATION

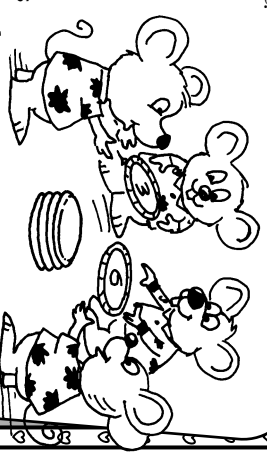
Flying math facts

Practice quickly multiplying numbers with this fast-paced game for three or more people.

Ingredients: paper plates, marker

Have your child number 10 paper plates, 1-10. Stand in a circle outdoors, allowing space to toss the plates back and forth like Frisbees. Shuffle the plates and stack them facedown in the center.

Let her take two plates from the top and toss them to two separate players. Those players look at their numbers (say, 3 and 6), hold them up for each other to see, and quickly multiply them. Who can shout the correct answer first? (18, since $3 \times 6 = 18$) The winner keeps the plates, draws two more, and tosses them to other players, and the game continues. When all the plates are used, whoever has the most wins the game. Restack the plates and play again.



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."

HEALTH

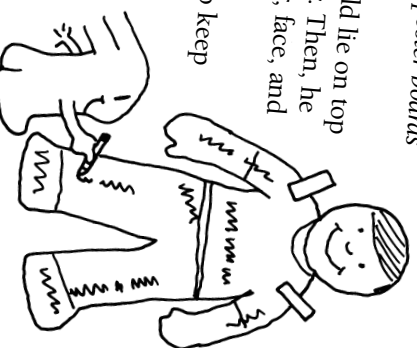
Healthy me

Give your youngster a creative reminder of ways he can stay healthy.

Ingredients: large sheet of newsprint (or several poster boards taped together), marker, scissors

Put your paper on the floor, and have your child lie on top while you trace around his body with a marker. Then, he can cut around the outline and draw in his hair, face, and clothes.

Together, brainstorm ways for your youngster to keep his body healthy. *Examples:* "Use my legs to run and exercise." "Drink milk to keep my bones strong." Let him write the sentences onto the correct parts of his "body." Then, hang up his healthy-habits cutout.



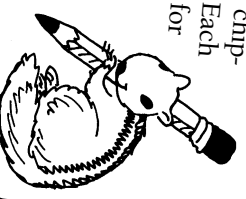
CAPITALIZATION

As your youngster stands at one end of a room, slowly read sentences aloud that contain proper nouns—names of people, places, or things that are capitalized. She takes a step forward when she hears one. If she's wrong, let her know, and she takes a step back. How quickly can she cross the room?



NATURE

Plan a nature treasure hunt in your neighborhood or at a local park. Before you go, make a list of what you might see, such as a yellow flower, a red bird, a chipmunk, or a stream. Each person should look for these "treasures" as you walk. Let your child cross them off as they're spotted.



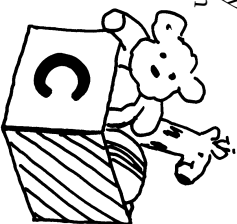
Recipes for Success

Practical Activities to Help Your Child Succeed

MARCH 2017

ORGANIZATION

Help your child assign toys a letter: A for those he uses most, B for ones he plays with occasionally, and C for those he never uses. Suggest that he place "As" on a low shelf or in a toy box and "Bs" in a container on a higher shelf or in a closet. Donate "Cs" to clear clutter.



HOSPITALITY

If you have company for dinner, let your child know that creating a nice atmosphere makes guests feel welcome. Encourage her to do her part by cleaning up or adding special touches, like making place cards.



PRIDE IN WORK

Help your youngster be proud of his work by asking to see it when he's finished. Have him explain what he did, or listen as he reads his story. Give positive feedback, and ask how he feels about his accomplishment.



FORGIVENESS

If your child is mad at a friend for not playing with her at recess, help her learn to forgive. Tell her she'll feel better by moving forward. Then, practice ways she could talk to her friend. ("My feelings were hurt, but I forgive you. Let's play together today.")



GEOGRAPHY

When you drive, have your youngster see how many different state license plates she can find. Ask her to describe the designs—and try to explain them. For instance, Colorado's license plate has a mountain range because the Rocky Mountains are there, and Florida's plate features oranges that grow in that state.



MONEY

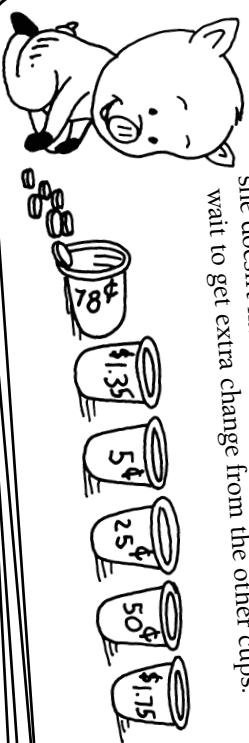
A cup full of change

Adding up coins will give your youngster practice in remembering the value of each one.

Ingredients: six paper cups, marker, loose change

Label each cup with a random dollar amount. For a younger child, you might use values ranging from 5 cents to 25 cents. For an older one, you could make amounts more challenging, say, 78 cents or \$1.35. Next, place random coins into each cup—always going over the amount labeled.

Have your youngster dump out the money from the first cup and count it. She'll have to decide which coins to put back in to reach the total labeled. Then, she moves on to the second cup. *Note:* If she doesn't have the exact coins she needs, she can wait to get extra change from the other cups.



Congratulations!

We finished _____ activities together on this poster.

Signed (parent or adult family member)

Signed (child)

INTERVIEWING

Let your child interview a relative about his life. He'll discover the most interesting details by asking open-ended questions (ones that can't be answered yes or no). He might ask about the person's childhood, job, and hobbies. *Examples:* "What is your earliest memory?" or "What's a typical day like at your job?"

