



# DENNIS-YARMOUTH TITLE I

## FROM THE TITLE I COORDINATOR:

Continuing from last month:  
HOW DO CHILDREN  
LEARN TO READ?

This month we will discuss  
Text Comprehension.

For children comprehension is so much more than just decoding written words—it involves understanding and creating meaning from text. It is at the heart of what reading is all about and it is a necessary skill for children to learn. It is the foundation of all future learning. Children with strong reading comprehension skills understand story structure, can identify the story's main idea, ask themselves questions about what they are reading, and make

connections between their general knowledge about a subject and the story's content. They are aware if they do not understand a passage they have just read.

It is recommended that adults support children's development of comprehension skills long before they can decode words. Ways to do this include reading aloud to children, then encouraging them to respond to the story. Adults might ask children to retell the story, to sequence the main events, to predict what will happen part-way through the book, or to discuss the story and their feelings about it. Providing interesting literature for children to read will likely help them develop a love of reading— one of the most important things we can do if we want children to continue to read as they grow!!

\*\*\*\*\*

Now is the time to start thinking about summer. What is your child going to do over the summer?

Does your child have a library card? If not, now is the time to sign up for one.

Remember to vote  
in your local town  
elections! Voting  
is a responsibility,  
not a privilege!



Many of our libraries run summer programs for children. Check it out. You might want to sign your child up for the summer programs now before all spaces are filled.

Children who read over the summer do not slide back.



Volume I Issue ix

MAY 2017

## Special points of interest:

May 2—Dennis Town Mtg.

May 6—Yarmouth Town Mtg.

May 9—Dennis Elections

May 16 Yarmouth Town Election

May 30—No School—Memorial Day

## IMPORTANT NOTICE:

We are planning our Title I program for next year. If you have any comments or suggestions for us to make our program better please contact me at your earliest convenience. My phone number is 508-778-7955 ext 6204 and my e-mail address is:

stewartv@dy-regional.k12.ma.us



# Home & School

## Working Together for School Success

### CONNECTION®

May 2017

Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program



#### SHORT NOTES

##### Thank you, teacher

Encourage your youngster to decide how she wants to thank her teacher for a great year. Maybe she'll make a card that tells what she liked best. ("The engineering projects were cool. I really had fun building a bridge.") She can hand-deliver the card along with a homemade gift, perhaps a bird feeder or a pencil jar.

##### Middle school ahead

Do you have a child moving on to middle school? He will feel more confident if he knows what to expect. Make sure he attends orientation, where he'll meet staff and begin to learn his way around. He might also ask older kids for advice about getting from one class to another on time or finding a seat in the cafeteria.

##### Happy parent, happy child

A happy parent equals a happier household. To increase your family's overall happiness, try to find time every day to do something that pleases you. *Examples:* enjoy a hobby, spend time with a friend, read a book.

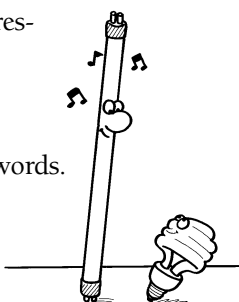
##### Worth quoting

"Good actions give strength to ourselves and inspire good actions in others." *Plato*

#### JUST FOR FUN

**Q:** Why do fluorescent light bulbs always hum?

**A:** Because they don't know the words.



## Explore the outdoors

From sunny mornings when dew sparkles on the grass to dark nights when stars appear in the sky, the great outdoors is the perfect summer "classroom" for your child. Enjoy these activities together to help him appreciate nature and learn more about it.

##### Observe nature

Have your youngster put together an outdoor exploration kit. He could fill a shoebox or a reusable grocery bag with a magnifying glass for examining bugs, binoculars for gazing at constellations, and a sketch pad and colored pencils for drawing and labeling what he sees. Let him use his kit all summer long in your backyard, at the park, or on hikes.

##### Count collections

Encourage your child to gather leaves, nuts, seeds, and other objects from the ground. He'll practice math skills as he counts, sorts, and graphs his "finds." He might make a pictograph to compare the number of seeds, nuts, and leaves he collected. *Idea:* Suggest that he research his



discoveries in nature guides and display his collection with facts on index cards. ("A sweetgum ball is the fruit of a sweetgum tree.")

##### Take poetry walks

Go on poetry walks. Your youngster can jot down notes on what he sees, hears, feels, and smells. Perhaps he'll walk barefoot across damp grass, sniff a patch of honeysuckle, or run his hand over the bark of a tree. Then, he could use his notes to write a poem, such as:

*Dew is cool under my bare feet  
The honeysuckle smells so sweet. ♥*

## Celebrate learning

Let your child know how proud you are of her efforts this school year by holding a learning celebration. Here are suggestions:

- Be your youngster's audience as she reads aloud stories or reports she wrote. Asking questions will show you're interested.
- Help your child make a hallway gallery of her artwork. Hang up favorite pieces, and invite family members to take a tour.
- Show her all the progress she has made! Pull out samples of her homework or projects from early in the year. She will enjoy seeing how much she has learned and improved. ♥



## Expressing empathy

How can you help your youngster develop empathy? Encourage her to be aware of how others feel and to take action with these ideas.

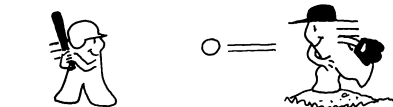
**1. Recognize.** This activity lets your child see the world from various points of view. First, have her cut out magazine photos of a dozen faces. Take turns choosing one and making up a story about how the person feels. Say your youngster picks a frowning child gazing out



the window on a rainy day. She could say, "He feels disappointed that he can't go out and play." Continue until you've used up all the pictures.

**2. Act.** Now explain that it's time to put this knowledge into action. Ask your youngster to imagine how people feel in real life and then express empathy for them. As she goes about her day, she should keep an eye out

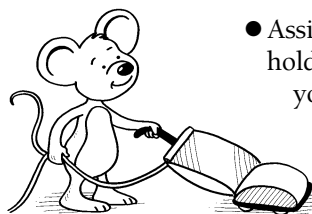
for people's feelings. Perhaps she will spot a girl on the playground who looks anxious for a turn on the swings and offer to let her go first. ♥



## Routines that work

Sticking to routines in the summer makes it easier for your child to adjust to school routines in the fall. Try these tips:

- Have your youngster get up and go to bed at around the same time each day. That way, early school mornings won't be such a big change.



- Assign household chores so your child stays in the habit of having regular

responsibilities, just like he does in the classroom. He could vacuum, sweep, or dust, for example.

- Eat regular meals together when possible. You might enjoy an early breakfast before work and reconnect with a family dinner in the evening.

- Play outdoors every day. Your youngster will stay active and burn off energy—and work toward the 60 minutes of daily recommended physical activity. ♥

### OUR PURPOSE

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

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## ACTIVITY CORNER

### My book trailer

"You're going to love this book! Here's why."

Let your child introduce friends or family to books he reads by creating his own "book trailers"—videos that give sneak peeks into books the way movie trailers do for movies.

He'll need to think about a book's details, how the plot unfolds, who the main characters are, and what facts are presented. Remind him to give clues about the book's contents—but not give away the ending or any plot twists. He could practice speaking while holding up the book to show pictures.

When he's ready, record him with a camera or cell phone. He can watch the video and re-record until he's pleased. Then, have him share his trailer with others. Anytime he reads a book he thinks friends would like, suggest that he make a new trailer. ♥



## Q & A

### Prevent summer math slide

**Q:** I'm concerned that my daughter's math skills will get rusty while school is out. What should I do?

**A:** Keeping math "muscles" strong is fun!

Look for ways to add math to outdoor games. For instance, write math facts like  $7 + 8$  or  $9 \times 6$  in hopscotch squares. As your daughter jumps to each box, she calls out the answer. If she's "It" during hide-and-seek, she could count to 100 by 2s, 5s, or 10s while players hide.

Also, give her opportunities to estimate. Cut open a watermelon, and ask how many seeds she thinks it contains. Or have her estimate how many people

are in the deep end of the swimming pool or in your row at a baseball game. Then, she should count to check her answers. As she estimates and counts, her skills will improve. ♥



# BUILDING READERS®

How Families Can Help Children Get Ready to Read

Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District  
Title 1

## Reinforce your child's reading skills over the summer

Summer is around the corner, but that doesn't mean your child should stop learning! To keep her literacy skills strong over the summer:

- **Create new reading routines.** If your child enjoyed "show and tell" during the school year, keep the fun going! Once a week, have her select a special book and tell you why she loves it. It'll boost her verbal skills and her creativity.
- **Review letters and sight words.** Let your child go through some of the junk mail you receive. She can circle the letters that she knows or sight words she recognizes.
- **Stock a special summer book shelf.** Find interesting books at yard sales, thrift shops or by swapping with friends. Put the books on a shelf marked "Special Summer Stories." Read them with your child frequently!



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

—Harold Kushner

## Use rhymes to teach letters and sounds

Carve out a few minutes each day for some rhyme time. It's an effective way to help your child learn letters and sounds. It's fun, too! To encourage your child to rhyme:

- **Sing rhyming songs**, like "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star."
- **Point out objects** around the house and ask your child to find words that rhyme with them.
- **Say three words**, two that rhyme and one that doesn't, such as *hat*, *box* and *mat*. Encourage your child to pick out the two that rhyme.
- **Read nursery rhymes** and other rhyming stories. Make up your own rhymes together, too!

Source: "Helping Your Preschool Child," U.S. Department of Education, [nismc.com/rhyme\\_activities](http://nismc.com/rhyme_activities).

## Library visits build responsibility

Turn your child into a responsible library patron by reminding her to:



- **Use her indoor voice.** You want your child to be enthusiastic while she's at the library, but not so loud that she disrupts other readers.
- **Respect the books.** This means keeping library books in a safe place at home and taking care of them. It also means returning them on time.

## Conversation increases language learning

Talk with your child often to boost his language skills. Frequent conversations can expose him to new words and ideas. When talking with your child, remember to:



- **Speak clearly** and enthusiastically.
- **Give him chances** to respond to what you're saying.
- **Encourage him to ask** questions and share his own thoughts.

## Engage your child's senses when you read together

Find word-filled ways to engage your child's senses. Here are some ideas:

- **Look for books** with bright, bold pictures to look at.
- **Take story time outdoors.** Talk about what you smell in nature.
- **Help your child imagine** (and make) a tasty treat that her favorite book character might enjoy.
- **Listen to audiobooks** together.
- **Offer books with different textures** to touch or chunky pages to turn.





## Explore nonfiction texts with your child

Be sure to read nonfiction books with your child often. They can help her:

- **Learn new concepts and vocabulary.** Help your child learn interesting facts about something she doesn't know about.
- **Gain information in new ways.** In addition to learning from the text, your child can learn from pictures and captions, graphics and charts.
- **Strengthen thinking skills.** As you read nonfiction books, have conversations with your child. Ask her what she thinks of what she's learning and if there's anything she wants to know more about. Think out loud as you look at the book together. "I wonder what that group of stars is called. Where could we learn more? I bet we'll find out if we continue reading!"



**Source:** "Getting the Most Out of Nonfiction Reading Time," Reading Rockets, [nswc.com/reading\\_nonfiction](http://nswc.com/reading_nonfiction).

## Any type of weather is good for building language skills

Summer weather isn't always perfect, but you and your child can enjoy plenty of outdoor learning activities anyway:

- **If it rains,** grab an umbrella and go on a walk around the block. Back home, help your child write about your watery adventure.
- **On hot days,** make up silly stories as your child plays in the sprinkler. Or set up a blanket in the shade for story time.



## Books to delight your early reader

- ***Gaston*** by Kelly DiPucchio (Atheneum Books for Young Readers). Gaston is a bulldog in a family of poodles. See what happens when he meets a poodle in a family of bulldogs, and the two odd dogs trade places.
- ***Extra Yarn*** by Mac Barnett (Balzer + Bray). Annabelle has a magic box of yarn, which she uses to knit hats, scarves and more for everyone and everything around her. But what happens when someone who isn't as generous gets his hands on the magic box?
- ***Last Stop on Market Street*** by Matt de la Peña (G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers). CJ and his grandmother ride the bus across town every Sunday. Throughout the journey, his grandmother helps him see the beauty in everything.



## Read aloud with energy and patience

Whether you have unlimited hours or just a few spare minutes, get the most out of the time you spend reading to your child. Make sure that you:

- **Read with expression.** Use everything from funny voices to exaggerated gestures. The more you get into the story, the more she will, too.
- **Go slowly.** Try not to rush through the books. Give your child a chance to enjoy the pictures and think about what she's hearing.
- **Pause often.** Encourage your child to ask questions and make comments during story time. View them as proof that she's engaged in the tale!



**Source:** "Tips for Reading Aloud," National Education Association, [nswc.com/reading\\_aloud\\_tips](http://nswc.com/reading_aloud_tips).



**Q:** My child adores books, but he can be rough with them. How can I teach him to be more gentle?

**A:** By being patient. As you read books together, remind him of the right way to treat them. "We pick up the book with both hands. We turn each page carefully. We put it away gently when we're finished." Do this each time you read together, and he'll eventually get the message.

Do you have a question about reading? Email [readingadvisor@parent-institute.com](mailto:readingadvisor@parent-institute.com).

## Building Readers®

How Families Can Help Children Get Ready to Read

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# Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

May 2017

Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program

## Book Picks



### Read-aloud favorites

#### ■ **Just Itzy** (Lana Krumwiede)

A little spider named Itzy doesn't want to be called "bitzy" just because he's small. To prove he has outgrown his nickname, he plans to catch his own fly for lunch. Find out what happens to Itzy, and look for "guest appearances" from other familiar nursery rhyme characters.



#### ■ **The Dot** (Peter H. Reynolds)

Vashti is stumped in art class and says she can't draw. When her teacher asks her to draw a dot, little does she know what inspiration will come from that plain dot. Follow Vashti as she blossoms as an artist and even inspires a younger child to be creative, too.



#### ■ **Hanging Off Jefferson's Nose**

(Tina Nichols Coury)

This nonfiction book tells the fascinating story of how two sculptors carved four presidents' faces into Mount Rushmore. Gutzon Borglum came up with the idea and started the project. But when he passed away, his son, Lincoln, fulfilled his father's dream and completed the monument.



#### ■ **Do Families Grow on Trees?/¿Crecen en los árboles?** (Lauren Machta)

Eva is learning about family trees in school, and she thinks families actually grow on trees! Your child can follow along as Eva learns about her family in this tale told in English and Spanish. When you finish reading, help your youngster create her own family tree using the outline at the end.

## A summer full of books

Every day is a good day when it includes reading! These ideas will help your youngster start his "reading summer" off on a fun note—and enjoy reading all season long.

### Special reading days

From "Mystery Monday" to "Fairy Tale Friday" to "Science Fiction Sunday," every day of the week brings a new reason for your child to read. Help him write theme days on a calendar. Then, add surprise twists like hiding mystery books for your little detective to find or planting bean seeds after reading *Jack and the Beanstalk*. Your youngster will become familiar with a wide variety of reading choices.

### A reading habit

Give reading a starring role all day. Try snuggling with your child for a "wake-up" story in the morning. Turn a vacation or day trip into a "reading voyage" by having everyone pack books in their suitcases or backpacks. And enjoy nice



weather by reading bedtime stories outdoors on the porch or on a blanket in the yard.

### Portrait of a reader

Here's an artistic way for your youngster to practice writing his opinions. Suggest that he draw a portrait of himself on poster board. When he finishes a book, he could add a thought bubble. *Example:* "This book was exciting. The boy got stuck at the top of a roller coaster and had to be rescued." He'll want to read more so he can add more opinions to his poster. ♥

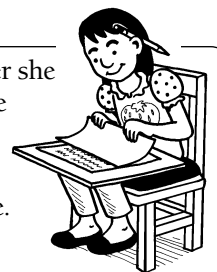
## Edit—and shine

When your child writes a story in school or at home, tell her she can be an "editor" by improving and polishing it. Suggest these strategies.

**Listen.** Encourage her to read her tale out loud. That will help her hear if she left out a word or if a sentence doesn't make sense.

**Ask.** Offer to read your child's story to her, and ask questions about it. You will lead her to add more interesting details. *Examples:* "How old is the little girl?" "Was it a big school or a tiny one?"

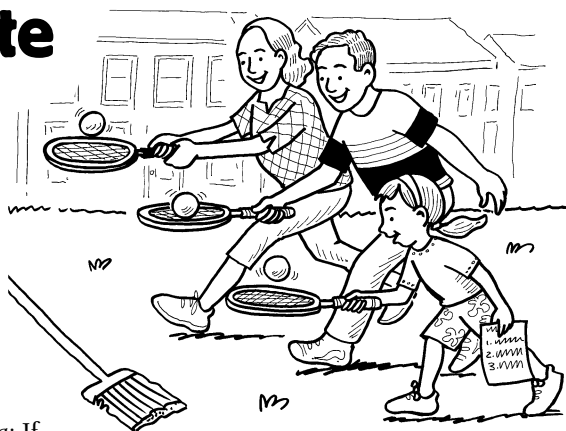
**Look.** Have your youngster hold a blank sheet of paper beneath each line and check to make sure each sentence has a capital letter at the beginning and a punctuation mark at the end. ♥



# Fun reasons to write

What would your child like to do while school is out? Encourage her to plan summer fun and enjoy nonfiction writing at the same time. Here's how.

**Design play spaces.** Suggest that your youngster draw and label "blueprints" for indoor and outdoor places to play. She might redesign her room with a "science lab" where she can do experiments and a "construction zone" for building with blocks. A blueprint of your yard could show a "climbing tree" and a "cartwheel area." *Idea:* If possible, help her use her blueprints to set up each spot.



**Make a to-do list.** Perhaps your child wants to visit her grandparents, explore new bike trails, and learn to swim. Have her list her ideas and illustrate each one. She could hang up her list and check off each item she does.

**Invent a game.** Hula ball, anyone? Let your youngster use

outdoor toys like balls, hula hoops, or racquets to make up a brand new game. Help her write the instructions, listing the equipment and the steps for playing. Try the game together as you follow the directions she wrote. She can make additions or changes to be sure her game works!♥

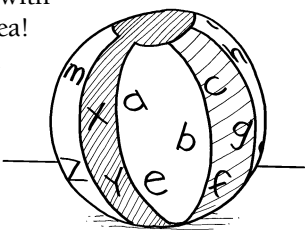


## Now I know my ABCs

Whether your youngster recognizes a handful of letters or has learned most of them, these games will improve and reinforce his knowledge:

- Have a "ball" with this alphabet idea!

Help your child write his ABCs all over a beach ball. Toss or bat the ball back and forth.



When you catch

it, call out the letter that's closest to your right thumb. *Bonus:* He'll work on recognizing left and right, too.

- Let your youngster use chalk to write the alphabet in random order on a sidewalk, driveway, or blacktop. Take turns tossing a beanbag (or a sock filled with dry beans and tied shut) onto the letters in alphabetical order. So the first player aims for A, the second for B, and so on. Continue until someone hits Z.

*Variation:* Your child can say a word that begins with each letter when you play either game.♥

### OUR PURPOSE

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

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a division of CCH Incorporated

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## Q&A

### Story hour and beyond

**Q** My son loves story hour at the library. How can we find other free reading-related events to try in our community?

**A** Great question! Your community probably has various "bookish" activities for your son to enjoy. For starters, bookstores may offer free story times or visits from local authors. Also, some farmers' markets, fairs, and festivals host storytellers or poetry readings for kids. And community theaters might put on plays based on children's books.

Here's another idea: Let your son host his own story times and other activities. He'll feel like a big kid as he leads story hour for younger siblings, cousins, or neighbors. Or he could invite friends over to read books together or to make up stories that they can perform for you.♥



## Parent to Parent

### See all the new words!

My daughter was excited about the "word wall" in her

classroom this year. Her teacher wrote words the students were learning on colorful cards and posted them on a wall. Leah asked if we could make one at home, so we brainstormed categories to include.

She wrote our categories—"weather," "things you plug in," "buildings"—on separate sheets of paper and taped them to her closet door. Now, she listens and looks for new words

to add. For instance, she wrote *gust* after hearing a weather report and *incubator* from a nonfiction book we read on hatching chicks.

Leah also likes to ask visitors to put words on her wall. Her uncle recently added *yurt* under "buildings" and explained that it's a type of circular, dome-shaped tent. I love that she's learning, and using, new words. In fact, she's in the other room right now building a yurt for her doll to sleep in tonight!♥



# BUILDING READERS®

How Families Can Help Children Become Better Readers

Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District  
Title 1

## Ask questions to get your child thinking and talking about reading

It is critical that your child read over the summer. Help her reflect on what she reads and improve her comprehension by asking a lot of questions! You might ask:

- **Who were the main characters?**  
What did you like or dislike about them? Do they remind you of people you know? How?
- **What happened in the story?**  
How did it start? What happened in the middle? How did it end? Were you happy with the way the book ended?
- **Have you ever experienced**  
something that happened to the characters in the story?
- **What would you change** about the book if you were the author?  
What plot would make a good sequel?



*"Books are a uniquely portable magic."*

—Stephen King

## Help your child improve reading habits

There is no such thing as too much reading—it just has to be done responsibly! Here are three common reading problems followed by easy ways to turn them around:

1. **Tattered books.** Choose a special spot for books where they won't get trampled—like a basket or a shelf.
2. **Overdue library books.** Set a weekly schedule to visit the library with your child. Make sure he returns items on time. Then have fun browsing for new material to check out.
3. **Late night reading.** On school nights, tuck him in early so he has time to read in bed before lights out. On occasional weekend nights, it's OK to let your child stay up later to read.

**Source:** "Breaking Bad Reading Habits," Scholastic, [nswc.com/improving\\_reading\\_habits](http://nswc.com/improving_reading_habits).

## Keep your child reading over the summer



If your child needs some encouragement to keep reading over the summer, do what you can to make reading appealing. Suggest that he read:

- **A series of books**, like Magic Treehouse or Nancy Drew.
- **A joke book.** Ask your child to find the funniest one he can.
- **A "choose your own adventure" book.** Your child may enjoy creating his own path as he reads.

**Source:** M. Leonhardt, *Keeping Kids Reading: How To Raise Avid Readers in the Video Age*, Crown Publishers.

## Enjoy reading aloud to your child

Your child benefits many ways when you read aloud, even if she is able to read on her own. You can expose your child to new concepts and words. And reading aloud is an opportunity to spend quality time together.



## Task your child with being the family fact checker

To help your child engage with reading, give him the job of being your fact checker. When you have a question about something, ask him to get the facts. If you need to double-check an ingredient in a recipe, ask him to read it to you. If you want to know the capital of Bulgaria, have him look it up. He'll have to read to find out!





## Use newspapers to inspire reading games

Spice up your regular reading routine by reading a newspaper or magazine—either in print or online—and playing a few games. You can:

- **Recreate cartoons.** Read a comic strip with your child. Then cut apart the squares. Can she put them back in order? Or, rearrange the squares and create a story together to go along with the new order.
- **Go on a scavenger hunt.** Make a list of things for your child to find in the pages. She might look for a food coupon, a sports statistic, one of her spelling words and the name of your town.
- **Retell stories.** Read a short, simple (and interesting!) article aloud. Encourage your child to summarize what it says. Then switch roles with a new story.



**Source:** “Fun Ways to Encourage Your Children to Read,” Family Works, University of Illinois Extension, [niswc.com/newspaper\\_games](http://niswc.com/newspaper_games).

## Plan family reading activities this summer

Get the whole family involved in reading this summer by planning exciting reading events. Here are some to try:

- **Trivia night.** Choose a book that everyone in your family can take turns reading. Or, read a short book together. Then, have each person write three trivia questions about the story. Take turns quizzing each other. Who remembers the most?
- **Themed dinners.** What do the characters in your child’s books have for dinner? Base a meal around a favorite book. If the story takes place in another country or time period, help your child



research what to include on the menu.

**Source:** B. Hyde, “Family Reading Activities,” Old Fashioned Living, [niswc.com/reading\\_night\\_activities](http://niswc.com/reading_night_activities).



**Q:** When my child has trouble reading, he gets frustrated and says, “I can’t read this!” How can I encourage him?

**A:** Remind him that every new skill takes practice. Show him examples of books he now finds easy, and remind him that at one time, they were a challenge for him. Reassure him that he is able to learn how to read—and that he will. But it takes determination, patience and hard work!

Do you have a question about reading? Email [readingadvisor@parent-institute.com](mailto:readingadvisor@parent-institute.com).

## Turn writing mistakes into grammar challenges

Exercise your child’s skills by giving her this sentence to fix: *Can You correct this Sentence!* (Then show her the right answer: *Can you correct this sentence?*) Challenge her to fix other grammatical errors. Include things she’s been learning all year, such as punctuation, capitalization and verb tenses. Throw in a few spelling mistakes, too!



## For lower elementary readers:

- ***The Hole Story of the Doughnut*** by Pat Miller (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt). Learn how this tasty treat came to be—all because of a boy who was a ship’s assistant cook.



- ***Can I Tell You A Secret?*** by Anna Kang (Harper). A small frog named Monty confesses a big secret: He is afraid of water.

## For upper elementary readers:

- ***Little Joe*** by Sandra Neil Wallace (Alfred A. Knopf). Nine-year-old Eli is given a newborn calf he names Little Joe. Follow along as Little Joe grows and Eli learns how to take care of the animal.
- ***Eureka! Great Inventions and How They Happened*** by Richard Platt (Kingfisher). Ever wonder how the hot air balloon was invented? Or the vacuum cleaner? Learn all about inventions and the creative minds that produced them.

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# Reading Connection

Working Together for Learning Success

May 2017

Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program

## Book Picks

### ■ **The Brilliant World of Tom Gates** (Liz Pichon)

When Tom's not annoying his classmates, playing tricks on his sister, or scheming to get tickets to see his favorite band, he's writing in his diary. This first book in the Tom Gates series invites readers to chuckle at Tom's hilarious mishaps. (Also available in Spanish.)



### ■ **Awesome Adventures at the Smithsonian** (Emily B. Korrell)

This nonfiction book lets your youngster explore the world's largest museum system, the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC. The museums contain more than 154 million artifacts, including the Hope diamond and the Apollo lunar landing module. Created by a former teacher, the guide is packed with facts, photos, and activities.



### ■ **Fuzzy Mud** (Louis Sachar)

In the woods, throwing weird-looking mud seemed like a good way for Tamaya and Marshall to deal with the class bully. But now Tamaya has a bad rash, and the bully hasn't returned to school. Is the mysterious mud at the heart of an environmental disaster?

### ■ **Eat Your Greens, Reds, Yellows, and Purples** (DK)

Encourage your youngster to eat a rainbow of foods with this kid-friendly vegetarian cookbook. Step-by-step photographs make it easy for young chefs to follow along. Plus, color-coded sections contain nutrition facts about the ingredients.



## Read, sing, explore

Children who read during summer break are more likely to maintain and even improve their reading skills. Here are ways your youngster can fit in reading while spending time outdoors, enjoying music, or pursuing an interest.



### Read on location

Suggest that wherever he goes, your child carry books related to his destination. At the beach or pool, he might read a novel set on a tropical island or a nonfiction book about ocean life. While camping, he could read a story about a mountain climber or a book on outdoor survival. He'll naturally make real-life connections to details in his books.

### Collect song lyrics

Have your youngster print out lyrics to favorite songs and put them in a binder.

He can use the printouts to sing along with the radio or his playlist. Let him practice making inferences—can he “read between the lines” to figure out what the songwriter meant?

### Follow interests

Your child's interests can inspire him to read. If he enjoyed a science unit on rocks and minerals, he might collect rocks and look them up in a field guide. Or maybe he loves animals. He could get a brochure of training tips from the vet and teach commands to your dog. 🐕

## Roll-and-write poetry

With this fun family poetry-writing activity, your child will choose her words carefully!

1. Ask your youngster to pick a topic (say, thunderstorms) for each person to write a poem about.
2. Let your child roll two dice—the number rolled is how many lines each poem should be. (Roll an 8, and the poems will be 8 lines.)
3. For every line, take turns rolling one die to determine the

number of syllables in that line. If you roll 5, 2, and 1, your youngster's first three lines might go:

*Lightning cracks the sky  
And then  
Boom!*

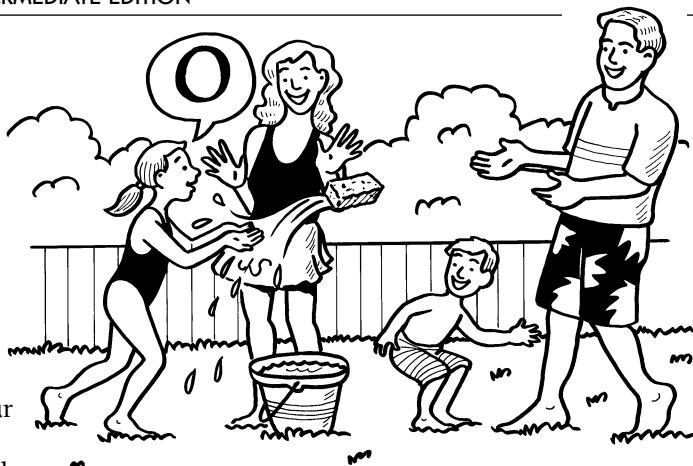


4. Read your poems aloud. It'll be fun to hear how different they are, even though the topic and rhythm are the same! 📖

## Word games with a splash

Can your child spell swimsuit? Have everyone put theirs on, and beat the heat with these family spelling and vocabulary games.

**Dunk and spell.** Players stand around a bucket of water. Let your youngster dunk a large sponge in the water. She says any letter (perhaps O) and tosses the sponge to another player. That person dunks the sponge, thinks of a word that starts with O, and adds a letter that would begin to spell her word (O, C).



Continue until a word is spelled (*ocean*, *octopus*). If you finish a word or can't think of a letter to add, you're out. The last player to go starts a new word.

**Downpour.** Anyone who breaks the word chain is in for a soaking. Fill a large plastic cup with water, and name a category (*flowers*). The first player holds the cup and names something that belongs in the category (*tulip*). She passes the cup to the next person, who names a flower that begins with the *last* letter of the previous word (*petunia*). Play until someone is stumped—she must dump the cup over her head! 📖

## My book of summer

Putting together a summer scrapbook is a fun way for your child to practice writing. Share these ideas for filling the pages:

- Take photos during an activity (say, a cookout). Arrange them in order on a page, and write captions to tell what happened.
- Save ticket stubs, maps, and other memorabilia. Glue them in the scrapbook, and use them to write a story.
- Keep a list of favorite quotations or passages from books he enjoyed.
- Draw a comic strip about a special memory, such as a water park adventure or a visit with cousins.

**Idea:** Suggest that your youngster plan to make a new book each summer. 📖



## Parent & Parent

### Start a literature circle

This year in school, my son Seth enjoyed participating in a literature circle. He explained that it's like a book club where every reader has a special job—and he wanted to start one in our neighborhood.

My son and a few friends decided to choose books, meet regularly, and take turns with different roles. Seth was the group's first "director," so his job was to bring discussion questions, such as whether the main character would make a cool friend. Thanks to the group's "word detective," whose job was to look up unfamiliar words, the children decided the character's *deviousness* would make them unable to trust him. At the end of their meeting, they passed around books brought by the "recommender" and voted on the one to read next.

Seth is excited about starting the new book. And guess what? I told Seth that he inspired me to start a literature circle with my friends. We're having our first meeting next month! 📖



## Q&A

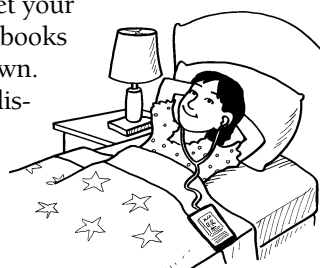
### Listening to audiobooks

**Q** I've heard that audiobooks will help my daughter become a better reader. How can I get her interested in them?

**A** It's true! Audiobooks let your child enjoy more complex books than she can read on her own. Plus, when your daughter listens to an audiobook, she hears a good example of *fluent* reading—the narrator reads smoothly and with expression.

Have your youngster download a title or two from your public library's website. She might listen while she does chores or plays in her room, or she

could relax with an audiobook before she falls asleep. Or turn on an audiobook for everyone to hear in the car. You'll enjoy a book together, and the story could spark an interesting family discussion. 📖



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

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# Math+Science Connection

Beginning Edition

Building Excitement and Success for Young Children

May 2017

Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program

## TOOLS & TIDBITS

### The time is now

Give your youngster extra practice telling time—in all different ways. He can tell it's early morning because he sees the sunrise. Or he might know the time by his activity—perhaps it's noon when he's eating lunch or 4:30 when he's at karate. Of course, a clock is handy for telling time, too!

### Teddy needs some help

What would your child do if her teddy bear hurt its knee? Challenge



her to engineer a knee brace for her stuffed animal. She could use rubber bands to attach a soft cloth to the knee, add-

ing a flexible straw on each side to bend with the knee. What other household materials might she try?

### Book picks

■ *One Grain of Rice: A Mathematical Folktale* (Demi) tells the charming story of feeding a village by doubling the grains of rice it gets each day.

■ With vibrant photos and simple words, *I Use Science Tools* (Kelli Hicks) introduces your youngster to equipment for exploring science.

## Just for fun



**Q:** What goes up but never comes down?

**A:** Your age!

## Math all summer long

Counting, reasoning, and recognizing numbers aren't just for the classroom. Keep your youngster's math learning on track through the summer with these fun ideas.

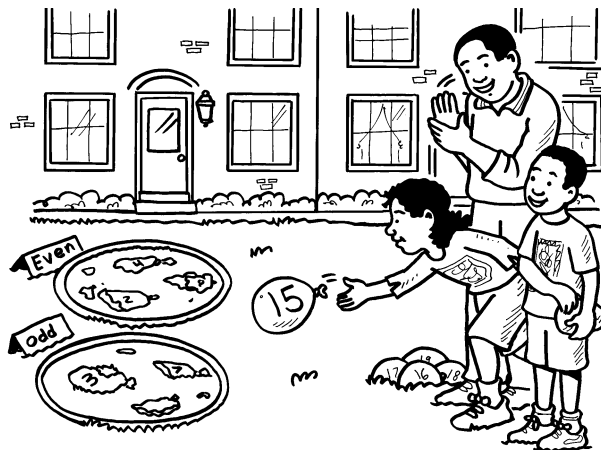
### Follow the leader

Suggest that your child write the numbers 1–40 outside with sidewalk chalk. Each player picks a number to stand on.

The "leader" tells everyone how far to hop so they can "count on"—or count forward by a given number. If she says, "Hop forward 5 numbers," the player on 16 would hop and count, "17, 18, 19, 20, 21." Take turns being the leader.

### Open a lemonade stand

Let your little entrepreneur practice measuring ingredients and counting coins by setting up her own lemonade stand. She can shop for supplies with you, design a cute sign, and mix up a batch of lemonade. Before opening her stand, have her identify and count coins to rehearse giving change. If a cup of lemonade costs



25 cents and a customer gives her \$1.00, what change would she make? (3 quarters or 2 quarters, 2 dimes, and 1 nickel, for example.)

### Toss water balloons

Splat! On a hot day, help your youngster fill 20 water balloons and number them (1–20) with a permanent marker. Place two hula hoops on the grass, labeling one "Odd" and the other "Even." Take turns throwing balloons, in order, into the matching circle (1 goes in "Odd," 2 in "Even," and so on). *Variation:* See if she can pick up balloons in random order and still know which target to aim for. ♀

## How things change

Your child can observe for himself how things in the environment change slowly or quickly—starting in your own neighborhood.

What might he see that appears different from one day or week to the next? He could notice how flowers bloom and die or that seeds planted in the garden grow into vegetables. If he touches dirt, he'll find it's wet or dry, depending on whether it has rained recently.

Next, help him spot things that change more slowly. For instance, point out that trees grow tall over many years. Or let him feel smooth rocks from a streambed, and explain they have been worn down over time by the water. He'll begin to understand that everything is changing, even when he can't see it happening. ♀



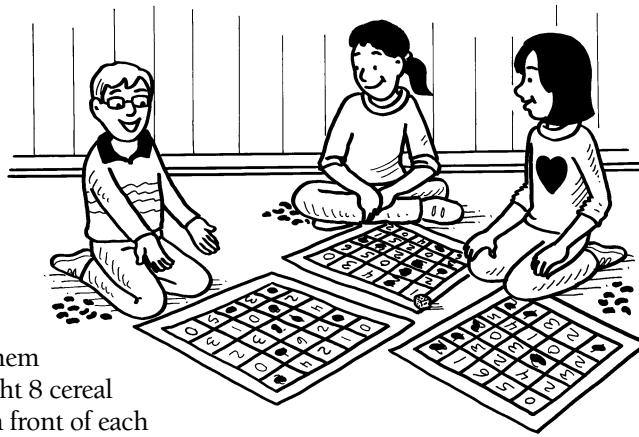


# Split up that number!

Addition becomes easier when your child learns to break numbers into parts. These clever activities will help him do just that.

## Share them

When you bring groceries home, let your youngster imagine sharing them between 2 action figures. If you bought 8 cereal bars, for example, he could place 4 in front of each figure—and see that  $4 + 4 = 8$ . Then, if he moves 1 cereal bar to the first character, it would have 5 while the other had 3, so



cover 0 and 3 or 1 and 2. Continue playing until someone has 5 in a row horizontally, vertically, or diagonally. “Bingo”—he’s the winner! 🦋

$5 + 3 = 8$ . How many different ways can he find to share the 8 items?

## Pair them

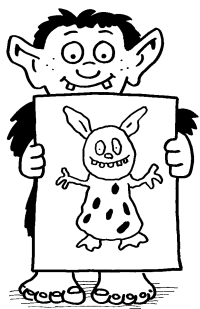
For this game, each player should create a 5 x 5 bingo board with a number 0–6 in each square. (Most should be 0–3, with a few 4–6.) One person rolls a die, and all players try to cover 2 numbers (with beans or coins) that add together to equal the number rolled. For a 3, your child could



## Q & A Monster glyphs

**Q:** When my daughter came home the other day, she told me about making glyphs in school. It sounded like fun. Could we make these at home for a summer project?

**A:** Glyphs—pictures used to convey information—are an easy way to represent data. Suggest that your daughter and her friends make glyphs about themselves by each drawing a monster. For instance, they might add:



- teeth equal to the number of people in their family
- spots equal to their age (6 spots for a 6-year-old)
- a toe for each letter in their name

They’ll need to write a key explaining what each symbol means

(example: 1 tooth = 1 family member). When they finish, they can display their monsters—and use the key to figure out which child each monster belongs to! 🦋

## MATH CORNER

### Find the object

Next time you’re out on a family walk, use the opportunity to play around with position words—words that describe where objects are in relationship to other objects.

Take turns secretly choosing an item. Then, use position words to help family members identify what you

picked. If your youngster chose a mailbox, she might say, “I spotted something that is *next to* a pine tree, *beside* a driveway, and *above* the grass.”

Ask questions about the object’s position (“Is it *behind* us?” “Is it *below* the chimney?”), or make a guess. Keep asking and guessing until someone correctly identifies the object. That person chooses the next item to describe with position words. 🦋



### Position words

above	next to
below	in
under	on
top	beside
middle	between
bottom	in front of
behind	in back of

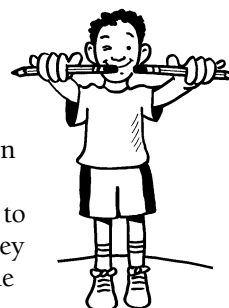
## SCIENCE LAB

### Two eyes are better than one

Your youngster may think he sees the same thing with one eye that he sees with both eyes. This experiment will help him “see” differently.

**You’ll need:** two pencils with erasers

**Here’s how:** Your child should grip a pencil in each hand and stretch his arms out in front of him, with the erasers pointed at each other. Ask him to bring the erasers together so they touch. Next, have him close one eye at a time and try again.



**What happens?** With both eyes open, he should easily be able to touch the erasers together. However, when trying with only one eye open, he will likely miss.

**Why?** When our eyes see an image, they send a message to the brain about that image. Yet each of our eyes sees things from a slightly different perspective. The brain takes the two images and combines them to form the correct one, allowing your youngster to line up the erasers. This is called *depth perception*. 🦋

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# Recipes for Success

Practical Activities to Help Your Child Succeed

MAY 2017



## Refrigerator Poster

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

### READING

#### Swap out words

Help your child work on word recognition by switching one word for another as you read aloud. He'll need to look and listen closely to catch you!

**Ingredients:** books

Read a book to your youngster while he follows along with the text. Every so often, use a word that's different from the one that's printed—"without changing your tone or emphasizing the word. ("Andrew dashed inside")

instead of "Andrew dashed away.")

If your child notices you substituted a word, he should yell out, "Sneaky swap!" Then, have him read the sentence using the correct word. Can he catch all of your "mistakes"?

When you're done, let him read to you and do his own "sneaky swapping" for you to catch.



### SOCIAL STUDIES

#### Laws to live by

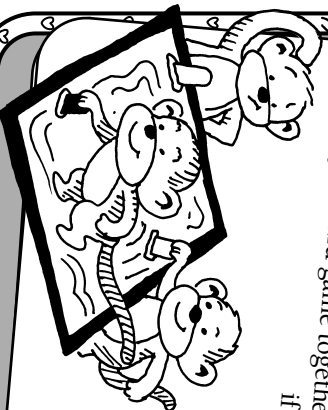
Try this activity to show your youngster why rules matter in a society.

**Ingredient:** board game

Ask your child to name as many laws as he can think of. *Examples:* Cross the street in crosswalks. Do not take items from stores without paying.

Next, play a board game together without following the rules. What happens if players don't take turns? How about if people move ahead more or fewer spaces than the number they rolled on the dice?

Your youngster will see that not having rules makes it hard to play the game. Based on that, what conclusions could he draw about what would happen if we didn't have laws in our communities?



### FINANCIAL LITERACY

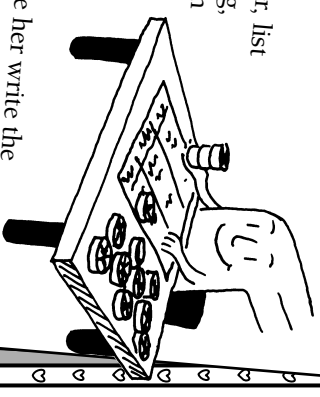
#### Spending pasta

This activity gives your child practice choosing how to spend limited resources.

**Ingredients:** paper, pen or pencil, pasta pieces

What do people pay for in everyday life? Together, list categories (housing, transportation, food, clothing, entertainment). Then, brainstorm choices for each one. For example, under transportation your youngster might list bus, car, and subway. Under food, she may put grocery stores, restaurants, and vending machines.

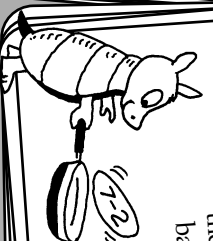
Talk about which options are more expensive. Have her write the comparative "cost," in pasta pieces, next to each (say 5 wagon wheel shapes for a house and 3 for an apartment). Give her 20 pieces to "spend" across the categories. If she runs out, can she spend less in one area to help cover another?



### SUBTRACTION

Let your child cut circles from construction paper to make "pan-construction paper to make "pan-cakes." On one side, have her write subtraction problems (7 - 2, 25 - 11).

Then, she can play them out facedown. Take turns picking one and writing the answer on the back. Check each other's work to make sure they're all correct!



### FITNESS

Here's a heart-pumping game to play with friends or family. If your youngster calls "green light," players run in place or in circles. If he says "yellow light," everyone walks. But at "red light," they freeze in place. Say "green light" to get players moving again.



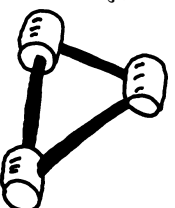
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## ENGINEERING

When it comes to building structures, some shapes are more stable than others. To test this, your youngster could form a square and a triangle with toothpicks and mini-marshmallows. If she stands each shape up and pushes down on it with her finger, which shape withstands the pressure better?



## Character Corner

### □ FLEXIBILITY

Your child will become a more flexible thinker by discovering there are various ways to do something. See how many methods he can come up with to clap his hands (loudly, slowly) or to climb into the car (shoulder first, backward).



### □ SPORTSMANSHIP

Ask your youngster to make a trading card that celebrates good sportsmanship. She could draw an athlete's picture and list his "good sport" accomplishments, such as respecting officials' calls, cheering on teammates, and congratulating opposing teams on wins.



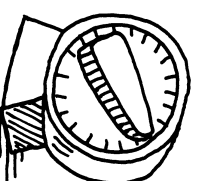
### □ DETERMINATION

Setting "stretch" goals will help your youngster push himself. Say he sings one part of a song by memory. He might decide to memorize two more lines each day. Let him perform for you to show his progress.



### ESTIMATION

Youngsters often ask how long things will take. ("How long until we get to Grandma's?") Turning the question around can help him practice estimating. If he's clearing the table, ask, "How many minutes do you think it will take?" Have him estimate and set a timer to check.

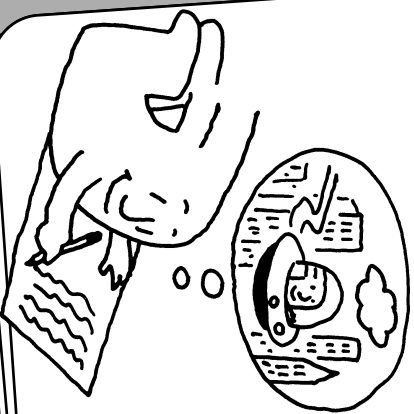


## WRITING A fan of your fiction

Boost your youngster's imagination and writing skills by encouraging her to write "fan fiction."

**Ingredients:** books, paper and pencil or computer

What book or series is your child a fan of? Suggest that she write her own stories based on the characters or settings that the author uses. For instance, she might imagine what the city in a book would be like in 20 years. Then, she could place the characters there and write a sequel. Or perhaps she will write letters back and forth between characters, updating each other on new developments in their lives or solving a mystery together. Have her read her fan fiction to you—and let her know you're a fan of her fiction!



## Congratulations!

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

Signed (parent or adult family member)

Signed (child)

## STORYTELLING

Suggest that your youngster make a deck of storytelling cards. Using 16 index cards, she could write: four settings (forest, city), four problems (lost dog, upset friend), four characters (girl, fox), and four objects (suitcase, pineapple). Have her draw a card from each stack and use them to tell a story. Then, it's your turn.

