

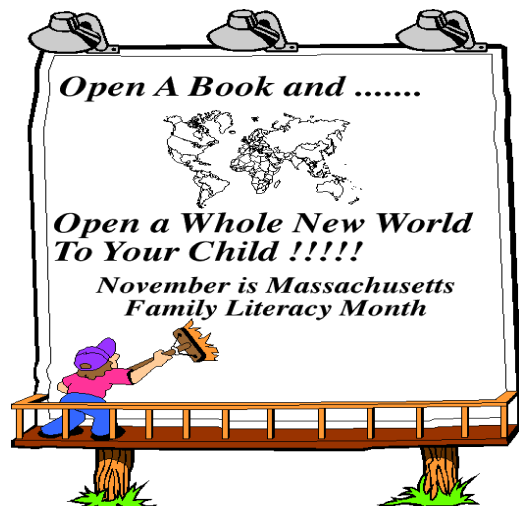


Dennis-Yarmouth Title I

From the Title I Coordinator

Volume 1, Issue ii

November, 2017



Parents play a specific role in their child's literacy development by: creating a literacy-rich environment; sharing reading and writing activities; acting as reading models; and demonstrating attitudes toward education. *A strong educational environment at home can be a major factor in reinforcing the home-school connection.*

Read to Your Child

As parents, you should know that shared learning and reading experiences are valuable gifts you can give your child. Reading is a key learning skill that will enable your child to become proficient in other areas. Reading aloud can also help your child become a better listener.

Reading doesn't take a lot of time, either. As a parent, finding the time to read to or with your child is not always easy. However, it is an investment that pays off in big dividends! Research shows that children who spend as little as 30 minutes a day reading books, magazines, and newspapers are more likely to become good readers.

Raising a Reader: Getting Started

These easy-to-do activities are designed to build a solid foundation of family literacy at home.

♦ **Know your children.** Before selecting books, make sure you know your child's reading abilities and interests. Your child's teacher can help you with the reading level, and the teacher or librarian can make age-appropriate

recommendations on books for you.

♦ **Set aside time for reading.** Designate a time of day when family members can read for pleasure. Make reading a part of your family routine.

♦ **Make reading special.** Children should feel as if having a book is special. Help them create a space for storing their books. However, if your child doesn't show an interest or strong ability in reading, be patient, but do not give up. Reading should be viewed as an enjoyable activity.

♦ **Use your local library.** One of the best resources you will have as a parent is access to your community's library. It costs nothing to borrow books. Many libraries offer story hours and other fun literacy activities. Make visits to your library a routine activity.

Yarmouth Libraries

South Yarmouth—508-7600-4820

Yarmouthport—508-362-3717

West Yarmouth—508-775-5206

Dennis Libraries

Jacob Sears—508-385-8151

Dennis Public Library—508-760-6219

Limit television time. Monitor program selection for your children. Discuss programs with them. Have a "NO-TV" night with your family on a regular basis. Read magazines, write letters to relatives living far away, play charades, or games as a refreshing alternative.

Reminder: November 10th is a holiday. There will be no school in honor of Veteran's Day.

For parents having difficulty with mathematics:

You should be able to find some help at the following: www.greatminds.org

Once you have arrived at the site, click on the word math. When that page opens, click on the word parents. You should be able to find everything you need right there.



If you have any questions, please contact me, Cookie Stewart, at 508-778-7599 ext. 6204 or stewartv@dy-regional.k12.ma.us



Math+Science Connection

Beginning Edition

Building Excitement and Success for Young Children

November 2017

Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program



TOOLS & TIDBITS

It's still a triangle!

Your youngster may not realize that a yield sign is a triangle—it's just "upside down" from what she probably draws as a triangle. Explain that any shape with three straight sides is a triangle. Then, challenge her to draw as many different triangles as she can—long and skinny, short and wide, or pointing left or right.

Mission to the moon

Your child will have a blast modeling phases of the moon. First, help him find moon phases in books or online.



Then, twist off the tops of several cream-filled sandwich cookies. Let him use a plastic knife to carve the cream into *quarter*, *crescent*, and *gibbous* moons. How could he show a *full* moon or a *new* moon? Now, enjoy the lunar snack together!

Book picks

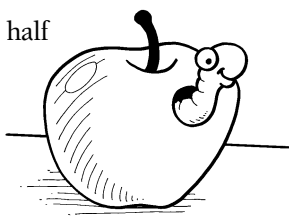
■ Your youngster can solve clever word equations like "squirrels + _____ = winter storage" in *Mathematickles!* (Betsy Franco).

■ *Rosie Revere's Big Project Book for Bold Engineers* (Andrea Beaty) shows children that being a successful engineer involves a lot of trial and error.

Just for fun

Q: What's worse than finding a worm in an apple?

A: Finding half a worm!



I see a pattern here

"Breakfast, lunch, dinner, breakfast, lunch, dinner" is a pattern, and so are the orange and black stripes on a tiger. Whether your child is spotting patterns all around him or creating patterns of his own, he's sharpening his math skills and preparing for future algebra.



Build a pattern

Give your youngster blocks in different sizes and colors. Challenge him to create something with a pattern like a striped snake that repeats red, red, black, red, red, black, red, red, black. Or maybe he'll build a castle with a pattern of short and tall blocks around the edges of the roof.

Spot the pattern

Take turns naming patterns in everyday life. Your child might think of traffic lights (green, yellow, red, green, yellow, red) or seasons (winter, spring, summer, fall, winter, spring, summer, fall). Talk about why patterns are helpful (they let you know what to expect). For

example, a yellow light tells you a red light will be next.

Roll a pattern

Play this number pattern game together. You'll each need 6 dice. To start, each player names a two-number pattern using the numbers 1–6 (say, 5, 2, 5, 2). Roll your dice at the same time, trying to be the first to form your pattern. If your youngster's first roll is 1, 5, 6, 2, 6, 3, he should set aside the 5 and 2 for the first parts of his pattern. Then he keeps rolling until he completes his pattern with all 6 dice. 🐛

Play the plastic cup

How can a plastic cup be a musical instrument? With this activity, your youngster will learn that the secret is in the vibrations.

Help your child loop a rubber band across the top and under the bottom of a plastic cup. If she plucks the rubber band, she'll hear a noise. Let her try plucking over the opening of the cup and then along the sides of the cup. She'll see that she can change the "music" by changing where she plucks her "instrument." Ask her what makes a higher sound or a lower sound. What happens if she adds more rubber bands?

The science: You can explain that when she plucks the rubber band, it causes vibrations, and vibrations make sounds. At the opening of the cup, she's mostly vibrating air. On the sides, the cup itself vibrates. And just like strings on a guitar, each makes its own sound! 🐛



Relay race for the difference

A great way for your youngster to understand any math problem is to first act it out with objects, then draw it with pictures, and finally write it with numbers. This relay race is a fun way to try this approach with subtraction.

Set up. Help your child write 12 subtraction stories on separate slips of paper. *Example:* “You have 10 marbles. You lose 6 of them. How many are left?”



Place these stories in a bowl at a start line on the floor or ground. Then for each player (or team), put a pile of 20 objects (marbles, beads) a few feet past the start, paper and pencil a few feet later, and another sheet of paper and a pencil a few feet beyond that.

Let's play. Have two players or two teams line up. On “Go,” the first players each grab a subtraction story and race to the objects to create the math problem. For example, they would gather 10 marbles and move 6 marbles away. Next, they use the paper and pencil to sketch the problem (draw 10 marbles, cross out 6 of them). At the last station, they write the number sentence ($10 - 6 = 4$). Players race back so the next players can go. The first team to solve six story problems all three ways wins!

PARENT TO PARENT

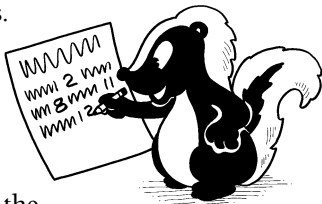
Write your math “autobiography”

My son Jamal was assigned to write his “math autobiography”—a story about his life using as many numbers as possible. He said his teacher wanted the kids to see how numbers are everywhere in their lives.

Jamal's story included his age (7), his little sister's age (3), the number on his T-ball jersey (15), and his favorite number (11). After he read his story to us, I asked if he'd write “math biographies” for the rest of our family.

Jamal asked lots of questions to get the right numbers. For his sister, he wrote, “When Kaya was 6 months old, she got her 1st tooth. Now she has 20!” His dad's biography tells about his family moving to the United States when he was 9 years old—and that they traveled more than 6,000 miles to get here.

Next, Jamal is going to write the biography of our cat. He has already asked if it's true that cats have 9 lives.



MATH CORNER

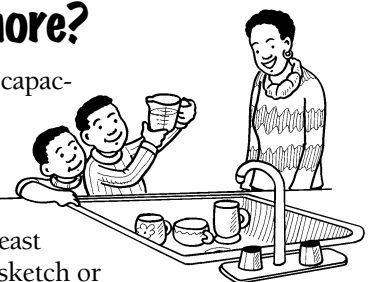
Which mug holds more?

For a hands-on way to explore capacity, challenge your youngster to find the mug that holds the most liquid.

Help him take mugs of different sizes and shapes out of your cabinet. Have him line them up in order from the one he thinks will hold the least water to the one that will hold the most. Let him sketch or take a photo of his predicted order.

To check his predictions, help him fill each mug to the brim with water and then pour the water into a large measuring cup. He can record the amount each mug holds—its *capacity*—in ounces or cups.

Now he should rearrange the mugs by capacity in the correct order. He could draw them or take a picture. How close did his predictions come?



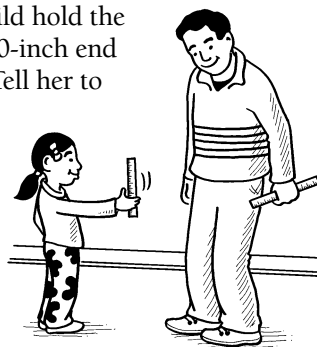
SCIENCE LAB

Reaction action

Your youngster will delight in this simple drop-and-catch experiment that measures her reaction time.

You'll need: ruler

Here's how: Have your child hold the ruler vertically, grasping the 0-inch end with her finger and thumb. Tell her to let go of the ruler and catch it with that same hand as quickly as she can. Together, read what inch mark her fingers end up on. Have her repeat the experiment 10 times. You could take a few turns, too.



What happens? Several inches will “slip through her fingers” before she catches the ruler. As she practices, she'll likely catch the ruler quicker.

Why? Our brains take in information like seeing the ruler fall or feeling our fingers let go of it. The brain then tells the hand to grab the ruler. The time in between is called reaction time. With practice, the reaction becomes a habit—so it doesn't take her brain as long to figure out what to do.

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Home & School

Working Together for School Success

CONNECTION®

November 2017

Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program



SHORT NOTES

Practice patience

Patience is a lifelong skill that will help your youngster in school—and in life. The key is knowing how to pass time pleasantly while waiting so he doesn't feel anxious or frustrated. Together, come up with special "waiting activities" like saying the alphabet backward or counting down with the crosswalk sign.

A future job

Help your child make the connection between school and the career she could have someday. Point out workers using school subjects like a nurse writing on a chart or a TV weather forecaster describing a cold front. Also, friends and relatives might tell your child what they studied in school and how it's related to their jobs.

See that illustration?

Understanding the meaning of images in books, magazines, and newspapers will boost your youngster's reading comprehension. To build *visual literacy*, ask your youngster to explain what's happening in illustrations and graphics. He might even enjoy making up his own captions.

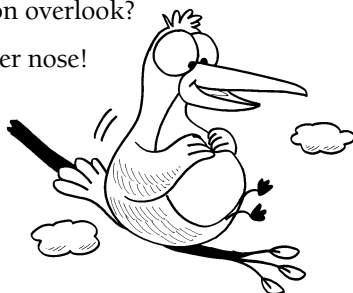
Worth quoting

"Adventure is worthwhile in itself."
Amelia Earhart

JUST FOR FUN

Q: What does even the most careful person overlook?

A: Her nose!



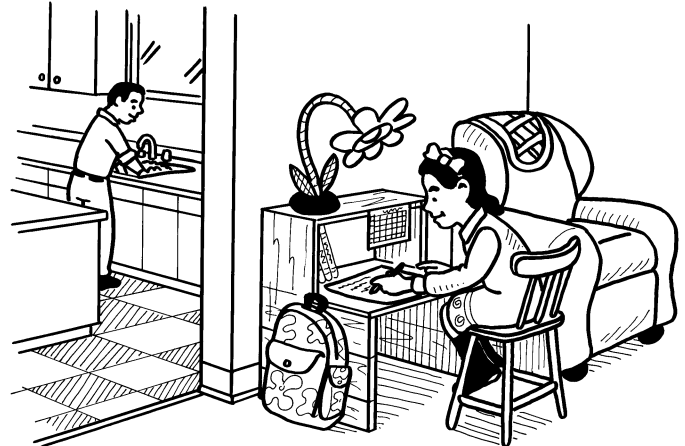
Doing my own homework

When your child is the one responsible for her homework, she will form good habits that will benefit her throughout her school career. Use these tips to help your youngster be independent at homework time.

Your child's job: Let her choose a usual place and time for homework. That will make her more likely to stick with her routine. She may want to work at the kitchen table after school or at her desk after dinner.

How to help: Make sure your family's evening activities don't interfere with homework time. From time to time, ask your youngster whether she needs more supplies, such as pencils, erasers, markers, or glue.

Your child's job: She should tackle homework on her own. Not only will this help her learn, it will also show the teacher how well she understands the material.



How to help: If your youngster gets stuck, suggest that she reread the directions or look for similar examples in her book. Offer to play study games with her. Also, check to see that her homework is finished.

Your child's job: It's up to her to hand in completed work. She can find a way to remind herself, maybe by posting a note on her backpack.

How to help: Together, choose a visible spot to keep her backpack and anything else she needs for school. ♥

An attitude of gratitude

Around Thanksgiving, people often talk about what they're thankful for. These activities can inspire your youngster to express gratitude now—and all year long.

On the calendar. Brainstorm categories of things to be grateful for, such as people and nature. On a calendar, list one category per day for a week. Then each day, have family members name something they're grateful for in that category (a healthy grandparent, a beautiful fall day).

Behind the gift. When your child receives a gift, ask him to think about what the giver put into it. For instance, if his aunt sends him a sweater that he doesn't like, he might say it was nice that she took the time to find out what style is popular with kids his age. ♥

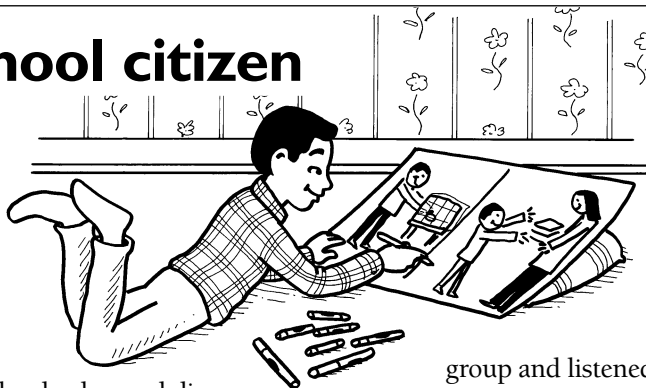


Be a good school citizen

Your child can make his school a better place to learn and play by following school rules and being considerate of his fellow students. Encourage him to be a good school citizen with these ideas.

Follow rules

Have your youngster name school rules, and discuss what would happen if they didn't exist. What if no one had assigned seats? (People might waste time deciding where to sit.) What if students could run in the hallways? (They might get hurt.) He'll see why it's important to follow the rules—just like people must obey laws.



group and listened to others without interrupting.

Do your part

Every school citizen has an important role to play, and helping teachers and classmates is a part of that role. Suggest that your youngster draw himself doing classroom jobs like feeding the class guinea pig or delivering papers to the office.♥

PARENT TO PARENT

Sparking curiosity

My daughter Hailey used to be curious about everything from whether butterflies dream to why she has curly hair. As she grew older, she didn't ask as many questions. I wanted to keep her curiosity alive—so I decided to start asking *her* questions.

For example, when we saw ants carrying big leaves, I wondered aloud how they can hold stuff that's bigger than they are. Hailey looked it up, and she was proud to teach me that ants' muscles are thicker than ours compared to their body size. And these muscles don't have to support much body weight, freeing them up to hold other things.

Hailey enjoys telling me facts I don't know. We are both learning new things, and she's discovering that you're never too old to be curious and ask questions!♥



ACTIVITY CORNER

Design a city

If your youngster could create her own city, what would it look like? Suggest that she pretend to be an urban planner. She'll use thinking, planning, math, and engineering skills as she follows these steps.



1. Pick a location. Have your child decide where her city will be located. It could be near an ocean, in a desert, or even in outer space.

2. Add services. Encourage her to consider where people will live, work, grow food, and spend free time. Also, how would they get around? They might travel by car, subway, bike, hovercraft, spaceship—or use an entirely new form of transportation.

3. Make a plan. Let her draw a map of her city, revising it until she's satisfied.

4. Build and play. Suggest that your youngster make a model using household materials (construction paper, empty boxes, paper towel tubes, plastic cups, string). She can see how her city functions by adding toy people, animals, and vehicles.♥

Q & A

A successful parent-teacher conference

Q: I'm attending the parent-teacher conference for my son this month. How can I get the most out of it?

A: First, write down what you want to say before you go. List any questions you have. Also, include information to help the teacher learn more about your child, such as the kinds of books he reads or activities he's involved in.

Then, be sure to arrive on time, and set a friendly tone by mentioning something

your son likes about school. Example: "Dylan loves science. He especially enjoyed learning about polar bears."

Listen closely to find out where your youngster is doing well or where he needs to improve. Ask how to support his learning at home—perhaps by helping him review math facts.

Finally, agree on how to follow up throughout the school year so you can stay connected and help your child do his best.♥



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Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

November 2017

Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program

Book Picks

Read-aloud favorites

■ *The Legend of Rock Paper Scissors* (Drew Daywalt)

Rock, Paper, and Scissors are great warriors in their own kingdoms—with one problem. Their opponents aren't challenging enough! This humorous legend tells how they found each other and the game Rock, Paper, Scissors was born.

■ *Look at That Building! A First Book of Structures* (Scot Ritchie)

Tag along with five friends as they set out to build a doghouse for their pet. Blending fiction with nonfiction, this book includes ideas readers can use to build a miniature doghouse of their own.

■ *Andy Shane, Hero at Last*

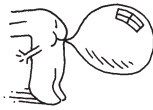
(Jennifer Richard Jacobson)

Andy isn't sure he can win a bike-decorating contest against his friend Dolores. But as the children ride their bikes in the town parade, Andy has a chance to be a hero and save the day. Part of the Andy Shane series.



■ *National Geographic Readers: Storms* (Miriam Busch Goin)

What causes tornadoes, hurricanes, and other storms? This book about Mother Nature's fiercest weather has the answers. Simple explanations, photographs, and quick facts help readers understand the science behind wind, rain, lightning, and more. (Also available in Spanish.)



For reading out loud!

Reading aloud to your youngster builds listening skills, improves reading comprehension, and encourages her to love books. Try these three strategies for fitting in at least 20 minutes a day of read-aloud time.

Little by little

In a time crunch? That's okay. Even short bursts of reading throughout the day add up. Read a chapter before school—perhaps while your child is getting ready or during breakfast. Squeeze in a few jokes from a joke book or facts from a trivia book before dinner. Then, wrap up the day with a picture book or two at bedtime.

Two for one

Reading doesn't have to be a stand-alone activity. Add a read-aloud to other things you and your youngster are doing. Read a book about different kinds of transportation while riding the subway. Share the directions for a craft project while you work on it together. Weave in a story during bath time.

Family affair



Invite other family members to read to your child—that counts toward the 20 minutes per day, too! Your youngster can connect with them by phone or with a video app (Skype, Facetime). Before Grandma reads over the phone, you could both get the same book from the library. Or during a video chat, remind Uncle Dave to hold up the book and share the pictures with your child.♥



MY TALE

Dreaming up an autumn *rebus* story—a story where pictures replace some words—gives your child a creative way to practice writing.

First, help him choose a fall topic like raking leaves or watching squirrels gather nuts. As he writes, he can substitute a picture for at least one word in each sentence. Examples:

"I used a  to make a giant pile of .

"The  ran up the  to get an .

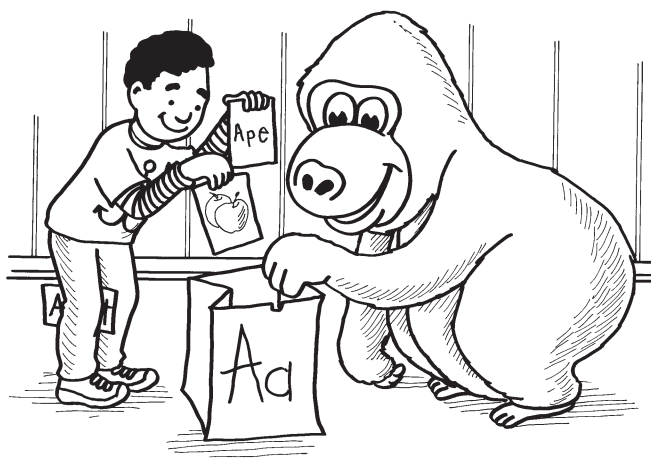
If he repeats a word that he has replaced, he could draw the same picture. When his story is complete, ask him to read it to you. What will his next rebus story be about?♥



A is for ...

Hunting for objects that start with a certain letter lets your youngster explore the alphabet and letter sounds. Here's how.

Collect. Have your youngster label a paper lunch bag with "Aa." Then, he can fill the bag with small objects, pictures cut from magazines, or index cards with words printed on them—all beginning with the letter A.



Share. Invite your child to show you what he gathered. As he names each item, talk about the various sounds the letter makes. For instance, how does a sound in *ape*? What about in *apple* or *art*?

Continue. Tomorrow he can label a bag "Bb" and hunt again. After 26 days, he'll have a complete collection of ABC bags!

Tip: Gently correct him if something doesn't belong. For example, if he collects an elephant on "U" day, sound out the word together. Can he name the correct letter for it now?♥



Story VIPs

It's all in the details!

Boost your child's reading comprehension by helping her pick out the story details that really matter!

Read a book together, and encourage her to identify the VIPs (Very Important Parts). If she's not sure, ask, "If this detail were missing, would the story be the same?" For instance, in *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, the detail "She walked into the living room" is nice to know,

but it isn't necessary to the story. But "Goldilocks woke up and saw the three bears" is a VIP. Your child can write each VIP on a star cut from construction paper.

Afterward, let her arrange the stars in order from start to finish and use them to retell the story. As she goes, she could add stars for any important parts she missed or take away ones that aren't necessary for the tale.♥



Sound-alikes

This simple activity teaches your child the meanings of *homophones*—words that sound the same but have different meanings and spellings.

Materials: paper, pencil, index cards, crayons

Together, list all the homophones you can think of. *Examples:* blew/blue, toad/towed, pair/pear, hare/hair.

Now, have your youngster come up with a sentence that uses both words of a pair. For blew/blue, she might imagine "A soccer player blew a blue bubble." She can draw a picture on an index card to illustrate it. Then, help her write the sentence on the back of the card. Encourage her to make a card for each set you thought of.

Idea: Suggest that she use the cards to play a guessing game with friends. They could take turns picking a card and displaying the picture for the other players. Who can name the words that are homophones?♥



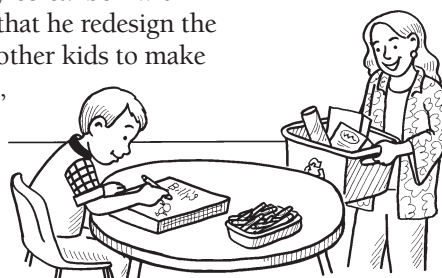
You'll love this cereal!

Recently, my son Billy said he wanted to rename his favorite cereal "Billy's Blueberry Crunchies." That gave me an idea. Why not let him redo the whole box?

I covered an empty cereal box with paper and suggested that he redesign the package to persuade other kids to make it their favorite cereal, too. First, he wrote "Billy's Blueberry Crunchies" on the front in big blue letters. Then, he drew a bluebird as

a mascot and added a slogan, "A berry good way to start your day!" He even printed an ingredient list on one side and wrote a recipe on the back—which were good ways to get in what his teacher calls "informational writing."

Billy had so much fun that we hunted through the recycling bin for other containers he could "make over." I never thought such a simple idea would encourage so much writing!♥



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BUILDING READERS®

How Families Can Help Children Get Ready to Read

Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District
Title 1

Get your child involved when you read actively

To make the most out of reading with your child, try to engage him as you read and talk about the stories. He will get more out of the story if he is actively involved, rather than just listening and looking.

Here are some ways to encourage your child's participation:

- **Ask about what he sees** or notices on the page. "What animal is this? What is it doing in this picture?"
- **Expand his response** by rephrasing it and asking for more information. "The duck is peeking out of the pond. Why do you think it's doing that?"
- **Rephrase the question** to see what he has learned. "What was the duck looking for when he was in the pond?"

Source: G.J. Whitehurst, "Dialogic Reading: An Effective Way to Read to Preschoolers," Reading Rockets, nswc.com/reading_aloud_actively.

"The world is full of magical places, and the library has always been one of them for me."

—Julie Andrews

Provide activities to make your child think

The more critically your child is able to think, the better the reader she is likely to become. Try these activities to boost her thinking skills:

- **Give her puzzles to solve.** Break out the jigsaw puzzles and get busy! Once she masters puzzles with just a few pieces, try some that are more complicated.
- **Tell riddles.** What has two hands but no feet? A clock! What gets wetter as it dries? A towel. See if your child can figure out these and other brain teasers.
- **Play with patterns.** Use coins or other small objects to make a pattern (like nickel, quarter, dime, nickel, quarter, dime). See if your child can continue it correctly.

Enrich your child's library visits

The public library is a great source of reading opportunities. To make sure your child is reaping the benefits of the library:



- **Sign him up for a library card** and check out books regularly.
- **Ask the librarian** to suggest books.
- **Explore the library's other offerings**, such as DVDs and audiobooks.
- **Attend story time** and other events held at the library.

Source: L. Newton, "Benefits of Trips to the Library," families.com, nswc.com/library_trip_benefits.

Create a cozy spot for your child to read



Help your child designate a special reading spot. Whether it's her own special chair or a blanket on the floor, set aside a place for her to look at books. If she likes it, it may even encourage her to read more!

There's always time for language fun

It doesn't take a long time to help your child build language skills. From having conversations and reading stories to singing songs and playing rhyming games, language-rich activities will put him on the road to reading.



These activities help your child:

- **Broaden his vocabulary** and knowledge of words.
- **Sharpen his memory** and listening skills.
- **Expose him to different sounds** in words.

Source: D. Davis, "Easy Ways for Families to Help Children Learn," Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory, nswc.com/learning_literacy_activities.

Spend time playing rhyming games with your child

Rhymes are a terrific tool for boosting your child's language learning. Carve out some "rhyme time" each day and play:

- **Change the Name.** Rattle off the names of everyone in your family, and then challenge your child to invent rhymes for each one. See who can come up with the silliest one!
- **What Do I See?** Think of an object in the room and give your child rhyming clues about it. If you want him to guess the word *table*, you might say "I see a *nable* ... a *wable*" If you can, use some real words as well as nonsense words.
- **Roses Are Red.** Use the classic verse as a jumping-off point for creating new rhymes. "Roses are red, violets are blue" Now what?

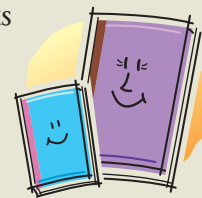
Source: L.K. Rath, Ed.D. and L. Kennedy, *The Between the Lions Book for Parents*, HarperCollins.



Choose advanced books for read alouds with your child

When selecting books to read to your child, don't be afraid to look beyond her reading level. When you read aloud from books that are above her reading level, you:

- **Expose her to new** vocabulary words.
- **Introduce her to complex** and different concepts.
- **Encourage her to explore** other higher-level books.



Books to delight your early reader

- **Big Friends** by Linda Sarah and Benji Davies (Henry Holt and Company). Birt and Etho take two big cardboard boxes out each day and pretend they are pirates, astronauts and more. One day, a boy named Shu comes up the hill with his own giant cardboard box.
- **A Place to Read** by Leigh Hodgkinson (Bloomsbury USA Childrens). A young reader is in search of the ideal reading spot. He looks all over to find the perfect location.
- **How to Dress a Dragon** by Thelma Lynne Godin (Scholastic Press). Take note of these helpful hints in case you need to dress a dragon—for example, dragons prefer shorts to pants and capes to shirts.



Make reading fun to inspire a love of reading

When story time is exciting, your child will look forward to sharing this special time with you. To make reading together enticing:

- **Make it entertaining.** Story time shouldn't be a chore—it should be a delight! Be playful when reading with your child.
- **Put your child in charge.** Let her choose which books to read—even if she always picks the same ones. You may cringe at the thought of reading a particular tale over and over, but it is beneficial for your child to hear repeated stories.
- **Mix up your location.** Who says story time has to happen inside? Grab a blanket and share books in the backyard or park!



Q: My child doesn't always feel like reading stories. What other reading-related activities can we do?

A: There's no limit to the reading-related fun you can have. Listen to audiobooks. Act out favorite stories with finger puppets. Make bookmarks. Host a "book character" tea party using your child's stuffed toys. And when your child is in the mood to read, settle in together with a story!

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

Working Together for Learning Success

November 2017

Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program

Book Picks

■ *My Side of the Mountain* (Jean Craighead George)

It's the 1950s, and Sam doesn't want to live in his cramped New York City apartment with his family anymore. He runs away to the Catskills and learns to live on his own. A coming-of-age story for young nature lovers. (Also available in Spanish.)



■ *Science in Ancient Egypt* (Geraldine Woods)

Does your youngster know that ancient Egyptians used the sun to tell time, made paper from plants, and designed tools to lift and move heavy objects?



This nonfiction book explains many things we have learned from this long-ago civilization.

■ *Trauma Queen* (Barbara Dee)

Thirteen-year-old Marigold wants to go to school, make friends, and, most of all, avoid embarrassment. That's hard to do with the unusual way her mother teaches the drama class at her new school. A hilarious look at mother-daughter relationships.

■ *A Bad Case of the Giggles* (Compiled by Bruce Lansky)

This funny collection of poems on everything from stinky feet and hiccups to spaghetti and hand-me-down clothes is practically guaranteed to make readers love poetry. Includes more than 60 poems by numerous poets.



Building word power

Did you know that a strong vocabulary paves the way for your child to become a fluent reader, a better writer, and a more confident speaker? Try these everyday strategies to increase your youngster's word power.

Create crosswords

Encourage your child to make a crossword puzzle for you to solve. She'll boost her vocabulary as she collects unfamiliar words from books and uses dictionary definitions to write clues. *Idea:* Have a crossword puzzle night. Get crossword puzzle books from the dollar store. Take turns reading clues aloud, and fill in the answers. Or make your own puzzles, and swap.

Search during errands

At the bank, supermarket, or car wash, ask your youngster to be on the lookout for new words. Can she figure out the meaning of words like *principal* or *biodegradable* by using context clues? For instance, if a sign at the bank says, "Interest is paid on your *principal* monthly," she

might realize that *principal* is the amount of money you have. Or a recycling symbol near the car wash chemicals may be a hint that *biodegradable* relates to environmental conservation.

Make a word wall

Set aside a bulletin board or a space on a kitchen wall where family members can post interesting words they read or hear. During dinner, talk about where you found the words and why they're interesting to you. Then, try to sprinkle the words into your conversation. Each week, have every person choose her favorite new word. ■

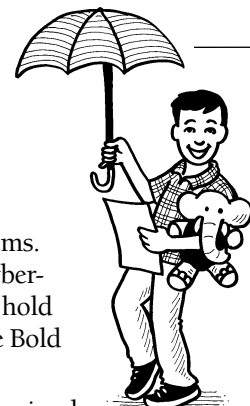
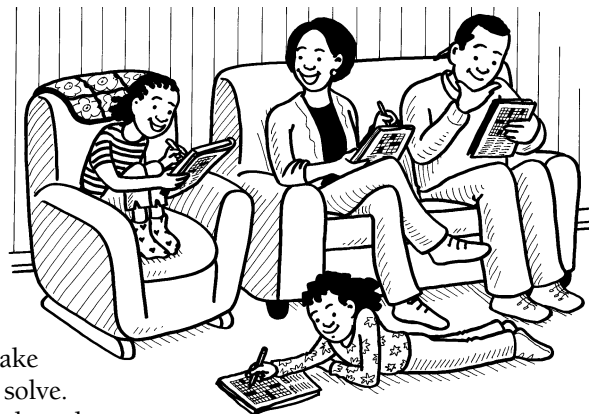
Host a poetry slam

This family "poetry slam" lets your child enjoy poetry and practice speaking in front of others.

Find. Have your youngster pick out poetry books from the library or print poems from websites. Then, each family member can choose one to memorize or read.

Perform. On the big night, take turns performing your poems. For extra fun, use props. Your youngster could juggle strawberries while reciting "Wild Strawberries" (Shel Silverstein) or hold an umbrella and a stuffed elephant as he recites "Behold the Bold Umbrellaphant" (Jack Prelutsky).

Discuss. Boost your child's reading and listening comprehension by talking about the poems. Ask questions like "What do you think the poem's message is?" or "Why do you think the poet chose that topic?" ■



What's the scoop?

Encourage your youngster to practice informational writing by pretending he's a "roving reporter" when you visit with relatives this month. These steps will ensure he gets the scoop on all the family news that's fit to print.

1. Ask questions. Have your child list the six questions reporters ask: *who, what, when, where, why* (the "5 Ws") and *how*. He can use them to think of questions when he interviews family members. *Examples:* "What school did you go to?" "When did you graduate?"



2. Add details. Suggest that your youngster dig for details that support and clarify facts. Prompts like "Tell me more about..." and "Could you explain..." may lead him to discover which foods his cousin tried on his trip to Korea or what inspired his grandmother to run a marathon.

3. Check facts. Your child should consult books or websites to confirm information. For example, he could check the ingredients for Korean specialties or find out how many miles are in a marathon (26.2).

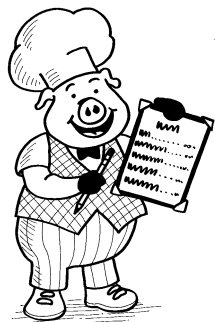
4. Write and publish. Once your youngster has all the facts, it's time to write! Suggest that he write an article about each relative he interviewed or one long article combining his information. Then, he could distribute copies to family members. ■

Fun
with
Words

Menu games

Restaurant and take-out menus are chock-full of opportunities for your children to practice reading skills. Here are two ideas.

Search for words



Go on a word hunt with your youngster. Who can find the longest word? The word with the most syllables? You might ask her to find a synonym (a word with the same meaning) for *delicious* (mouth-watering). Or see if

she can find an antonym (an opposite) for *chilled* (steaming).

Find the food

Choose an ingredient (zucchini, alfredo sauce, garlic), and have your child find a menu item that contains it. If the menu has photographs, point to a picture of a dish she doesn't know, such as chicken Parmesan, and cover up the name. Let her study the picture and then read through the menu descriptions to find one that matches. ■

OUR PURPOSE

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

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Parent
2
Parent

Be a guest reader

At my daughter's parent-teacher conference, I met her reading teacher, Ms. Connor. She let me know that she was looking for parent volunteers, so I signed up to come in twice this month.

For my first time volunteering, I read with small groups of students. The teacher explained that hearing someone read aloud encourages kids to view books as a source of pleasure. Then, I had some students read to me, which she said helps them improve their reading fluency and listening skills.

My daughter was excited to see me in her class, and I really enjoyed reading with her and her classmates. Next, I've signed up to take part in the book donation program coming up. We are going to ask other parents and the community to contribute used books for a classroom library. ■



Branching out as a reader

Q&A

Q My son only likes to read stories about sports. Any ideas for getting him to try something new?

A It's great that your son enjoys reading and has go-to favorites.

To help him discover a variety of books, try taking him to a library or bookstore and pointing out displays showcasing mysteries, new releases, classics, or how-to books. Sometimes children get into the habit of going straight to the same section every time. If you

explore together, a different type of book may catch his eye.

Also, since he's a sports fan, biographies of athletes may be a natural fit. Reading these real-life stories may lead to an interest in biographies about inventors, musicians, or world leaders.

Another idea is to steer him toward books about sports history. Reading about the origin of the Olympic Games or the impact of the civil rights movement, for instance, may encourage interest in other history books. ■



BUILDING READERS®

How Families Can Help Children Become Better Readers

Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District
Title 1

Take advantage of everything your local library has to offer

The library isn't just a place to find new books to read with your child. Libraries offer a wealth of information, programs and other helpful services. Here are just a few things you can find at the library:

- **Read-aloud and book club programs.** Some of these are led by children. There may also be presentations by authors that your child enjoys.
- **Reference materials.** Help familiarize your child with dictionaries, almanacs, atlases and encyclopedias. They'll come in handy as she needs to complete assignments throughout her school career.
- **More than just books.** From magazines to audiobooks to movies, there is a lot more than just books at the library. See what you and your child can find on your next visit!



Source: U.S. Department of Education, "Beyond Books: Library Services for Children," Reading Rockets, nswc.com/library_elem_tips.

*"I continue to do what I did as a child;
dream of books, make books and collect books."*

—Maurice Sendak

Boost thinking skills by discussing books

When your child finishes a book, use it as an opportunity for him to share what he's learned. Do something simple and natural: Have a conversation. You can:

- **Discuss the book with your child.** Ask him what he thought of the characters, plot and ending. Consider reading the book yourself to make the talk more lively.
- **Have a family discussion.** Suggest that everyone in your family read the book. Gather one evening to share your views. Did anyone have the same favorite part?
- **Start a book club.** Encourage your child to read the same book as some of his friends. Then, host a book club meeting. They can meet at your home to discuss what they have read.

Keep track of your child's reading progress

The older your child gets, the more he'll read to himself. That can make assessing reading skills tough. When you're keeping tabs on your child's reading progress, check that he:



- **Reads books at his own** reading level independently.
- **Enjoys reading** by himself.
- **Can understand and analyze** the information that he reads on his own.
- **Uses reading as a way** to learn new information.

Share your passion for reading

Enthusiasm for reading goes a long way. Are you thrilled about a book you're reading? Tell your child! Help her find reading materials she'll love, too. If she sees reading is an exciting activity, she's more likely to do it.



Teach sight words through touch

Sight words are words that kids will see over and over—so often that they need to recognize them at first "sight," words such as *about* and *because*. Knowing them makes reading much easier.



Have your child write a few sight words in glue and then cover them with glitter, sand or yarn. When the words dry, your child can trace them with his finger as he reads.

Make connections and build vocabulary by using word webs

Creating word webs is a visual way for your child to connect concepts, questions and words and it helps her build her vocabulary. Word webs can also provide a framework for writing.

To create a word web, have your child write a word in the middle of a blank sheet of paper (*gardens*, for example). Ask your child to write other words all around the page that relate to the main concept (*vegetables*, *grow*, *plants*) and draw lines that connect the new words to the center word. Your child can also think of words that relate to some of her other words. For example, she might write *tomatoes* as a branch off the word *vegetables*.



Source: "Vocabulary Strategy 8: Create Word Webs," Reading Horizons, niswc.com/connect_word_webs.

Emphasize an understanding of math words

Your child has a math test coming up, and he knows all his facts. But how are his reading skills? Reading is a part of every school subject, especially when it comes to taking tests. Your child will need to read directions and solve test problems.

Have your child:

- **Look over homework** and past tests. Notice which words appear often, whether they're math terms or in directions. Practice reading them with your child. Make sure he understands what they mean.
- **Solve new problems.** Help your child figure out how to apply his knowledge correctly. For example, is he comfortable with words such as *fewer* and *product*?



Q: How can I make sure that my child is comprehending everything that she reads?

A: Talk with your child about what she reads. Discuss all kinds of things, such as characters, plot and word definitions. Link reading to her life. Does she relate to characters or situations? What would she have done if she were the character?

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

Find opportunities to read on the go

Your child can practice reading anywhere—even in the car or on the bus. When you and your child are out, encourage him to:



- **Read road signs** and billboards.
- **Find words on license plates** and bumper stickers.
- **Read the directions** to unfamiliar locations.

For lower elementary readers:

- ***Just Joking: 300 Hilarious Jokes, Tongue Twisters, and Ridiculous Riddles*** by National Geographic Kids (National Geographic Children's Books). Get silly with these jokes, all related to science!



- ***Prince and Pirate*** by Charlotte Gunnufson (G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers). Two fish that are used to being on their own are put into the same fish tank, so they must find a way to get along.

For upper elementary readers:

- ***Little Cat's Luck*** by Marion Dane Bauer (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers). Patches is in search of her own special place when she follows a fluttering leaf and is off on an adventure.
- ***The Key to Extraordinary*** by Natalie Lloyd (Scholastic Press). Every woman in Emma's family lives an extraordinary life, revealed to them in a dream. So, Emma eagerly waits for her own dream.

Building Readers®

How Families Can Help Children Become Better Readers

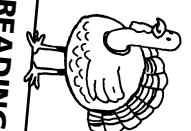
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Recipes for Success

Practical Activities to Help Your Child Succeed

NOVEMBER 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

Learning with similes

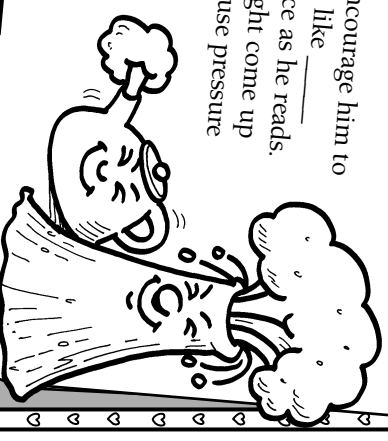
Comparing new ideas with familiar ones can improve your youngster's reading comprehension.

Ingredients: textbook, storybook, paper, pencil

Before your child reads a textbook chapter, encourage him to write this fill-in-the-blank sentence: "_____ is like _____ because _____." He can complete the sentence as he reads.

For instance, if he's studying volcanoes, he might come up with "A volcano is like a whistling teapot because pressure in the earth pushes lava out like pressure in a teapot forces steam out."

He could try the same idea while reading fiction. **Example:** "The character Sam is like my dad because he is always fixing things."



SPELLING

Find a word

Let your child turn her spelling list into a fun word game.

Ingredients: spelling list, pencil, graph paper

Have your youngster write five spelling words in rows on graph paper, one under the other, and one letter per box. Then, see how many new words she can form with the letters. The letters must touch each other—horizontally, vertically, or diagonally. For instance, if she stacks the words *flavor*, *apple*, *teeth*, *maybe*, and *read*, she might find *flap*, *meat*, and *bed*.

Hint: If your child has trouble finding words, she can switch the order of the list or add new spelling words.

f	l	d	v	o	r
a	p	p	i	e	
t	e	e	t	h	
m	d	y	b	e	
r	e	d	d		

RESEARCH

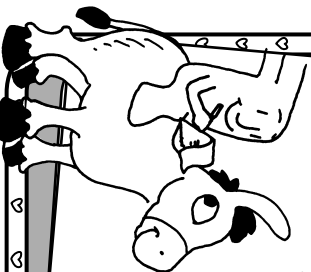
Not your usual pet

This activity will stretch your child's imagination while she does research and learns about animal habits.

Ingredients: library books, notebook, pencil, markers

Ask your youngster to pick an animal that would make an unusual pet, perhaps a whale, a squirrel, or a donkey. A librarian can help her find books or recommend websites about her "pet."

Then, have her write a "pet owner's guide" that tells how to care for the animal. She could include pointers like the type of shelter and exercise recommended. For instance, she might write, "Your whale needs a huge saltwater pool to live in so he has plenty of room to swim and jump. Make sure he has a couple of dolphin friends to play with." Encourage your child to illustrate her guide with pictures and diagrams.



SCIENCE

Suggest that your youngster pretend she is a magnet. She could walk around the house and think of five things she would stick to (soup can, refrigerator) and five that she wouldn't (couch, book). Then, let her use a refrigerator magnet to check her predictions.



STRATEGY

Have your child make a game board by drawing three rows of three circles, with vertical, horizontal, and diagonal lines to connect them. Give him three pennies and yourself three on any circle. To play, take turns moving your coins one at a time. Get three in a row, and win.



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PUNCTUATION

Ask your youngster to read a picture book or short magazine article and make a tally mark for each period, comma, question mark, and exclamation point. She can count the total for each and give you examples of how they're used (comma between a city and state, exclamation point to show surprise).

MATH

Guess my number

Try this guessing game to sharpen your child's number sense.

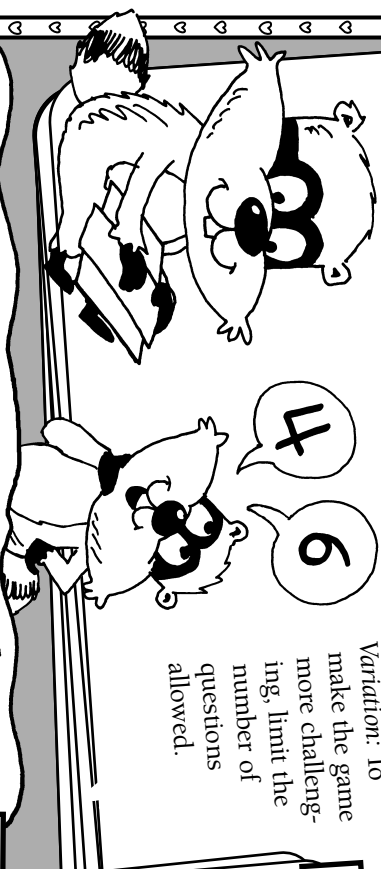
Ingredients: paper, pencil

Take turns choosing a secret three-digit number, such as 548. Write down the number, cover it up, and have the other player guess each digit by asking questions. For instance, your youngster might ask, "Is the digit in the hundreds place greater than 4?" "Is it an even number?" "Is it less than 6?"

Based on your answers, he will realize the digit is 5. Let him ask questions about the other digits until he comes up with the whole three-digit number.

Variation: To make the game more challenging, limit the number of questions allowed.

4 6



Congratulations!

We finished _____ activities together on this poster.

Signed (parent or adult family member)

Signed (child)

PERSEVERANCE

HONESTY

The next time you buy clothes or eat in a restaurant, check the receipt with your child. Have her help you make sure you were charged for everything and that the prices are correct. If you spot a mistake, let your youngster see you being honest by telling the clerk or server.

COOPERATION

Let your youngster experience teamwork in action. Hold one hand behind your back. Have your child put one hand behind his. Together, use your free hands to tie his shoes. You must work cooperatively to succeed!



READING

A cookbook is a tasty tool for learning to use an index. Turn to the back, and ask your child to find three recipes, perhaps for beef stew, corn chowder, and chili. Help him use the page numbers to locate the recipes. He can choose his favorite and read the instructions aloud while you cook together.



HISTORY

How many American patriotic symbols can you and your youngster think of? *Examples:* U.S. flag, Liberty Bell, bald eagle. Talk about what each one stands for and how it ties into our history. Then, suggest that she draw pictures of the symbols and label them.



Character Corner

HONESTY

The next time you buy clothes or eat in a restaurant, check the receipt with your child. Have her help you make sure you were charged for everything and that the prices are correct. If you spot a mistake, let your youngster see you being honest by telling the clerk or server.

COOPERATION

Let your youngster experience teamwork in action. Hold one hand behind your back. Have your child put one hand behind his. Together, use your free hands to tie his shoes. You must work cooperatively to succeed!



STUDY SKILLS

Your child will practice recalling what he studies with this idea. Each of you write five short sentences—about anything—on a sheet of paper. ("Eric likes chess." "The elephant has big ears.") Trade papers, and study the lists for one minute. Put them away, and try to write every sentence from memory.

