



Dennis-Yarmouth Title I

From the Title I Coordinator

Volume 1, Issue ii

October, 2017

Do you need an answer for that familiar plea from your youngsters, "I'm bored! There's nothing to do"? Are you looking for a way to pass the time on a long drive or while sitting in a waiting room?

Your child will banish the boredom blues—and brush up on his/her language, memory and mathematics skills—with these activities. What's the best part? They require "nothing" to do them—just you, your youngster, and a little spare time!

Language Arts

Taller Tales

A large part of creative writing is learning how to describe people, places, and things. Your child can practice making creative comparisons while having fun trying to top yours.

Start the game by making up a simple sentence that compares two things: "My dog is bigger than a couch." Your child answers with another comparison: "Well, my dog is blacker than midnight."

On your turn add a new comparison: "Really? My dog is bigger than a couch and hungrier than a bear." Then your child might say, "My dog is blacker than midnight and faster than a rocket." Keep going back and forth to see how "tall" and silly your tales can get.

Mathematics

Mystery Counting

This super-simple game will help younger children with counting. And children of all ages can build their observation skills. Together, sit quietly for a few minutes looking at your surroundings. While you are looking, each of you silently choose an item to count. *EXAMPLES:* windows, parked cars, magazines on a table.

When you are both ready, tell each other how many you found, but don't say the name of your object.



turns guessing what the other person counted. The first one to name the right item gets a point. See who has the most points after five rounds.

Memory and Observation

Hide-and-Sneak

This activity will give your child's observation skills a workout.

Ask your child to imagine that both of you are the size of a pencil. Then, each of you look for places you could hide (behind a plant, between the sofa cushions, inside a trash can, etc.)

Take turns trying to find the other players pretend hiding spot. When you think you have found it, say, "I am sneaking..." and name the place. *Example:* "I am sneaking under the chair." Give each other "cold" and "hot" clues so you'll know if you are getting closer to the spot (hot) or farther away (cold). The first player to find the other person's spot wins.

No Peeking!

Try this quick activity while waiting in line at the grocery store. It will help your child with observation and memory skills.

Tell your child to study his surroundings for one minute. Then, have him shut his eyes. Ask him 5 questions about things he might have seen around him. *Examples:* "How much does your favorite candy bar cost?" "How many people are in line in front of us?" "What color is the floor?" "Is the cashier a woman or a man?" "What does the sign above the door say?"

Have fun, and most of all enjoy the time spent with your child!



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

Title I Parent Representatives

We need representatives from each of our schools. If you can give one to two hours this year, please let me know. We will be meeting in February or March.

Thank you for volunteering!



Home & School

Working Together for School Success

CONNECTION®

October 2017

Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program



SHORT NOTES

Speak clearly

To boost your child's communication skills, let her introduce herself when she meets people rather than doing it for her. Also, encourage her to be clear and specific when asking for help. If she says, "I can't do this," you might respond, "What are you asking for help with?"

Rested and ready

When your youngster wakes up easily and feels ready to start the day, that's a good sign he's getting enough sleep. But if he's too groggy in the morning or he's sleepy in school, try slowly adjusting his bedtime until he feels alert in class. *Note:* Experts recommend 10–11 hours of sleep per night at this age.

DID YOU KNOW?

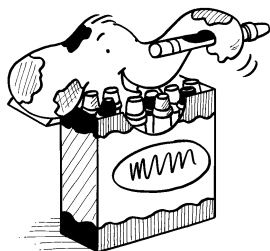
Repetition helps your child's brain form new connections. Say she wants to improve her soccer dribbling skills. She might practice for a certain number of minutes every day. Or if she'd like to learn origami, she could check out a library book on the topic and work on her favorite designs.

Worth quoting

"The whole world opened to me when I learned to read." *Mary McLeod Bethune*

JUST FOR FUN

Q: Why did the elephant paint himself different colors?



A: So he could hide in the crayon box!

Consequences that work

Matthew was supposed to put away his toys and games, but he didn't. So when his mom tripped over a block, she thought carefully about what an appropriate consequence for him might be. Consider the following ideas to set consequences that encourage your youngster to listen and follow rules.

Make it logical

A consequence should relate to the situation at hand and promote the behavior you want. If your child, like Matthew, doesn't put his things away, you might say he has to store them away for a period of time. Living without them may make cleaning up more important to him.

Keep it reasonable

Take into account your youngster's age and stage of development. A little one may lose screen time for a day if he won't turn off the TV when you ask him to. An older child might have to go



without electronics for a week if you see him posting on a social media site he's not allowed to use.

Allow natural outcomes

Let your youngster learn from what happens naturally. Say he wants to wear his school T-shirt on Spirit Day, but he didn't put it in the hamper. The result? He will need to wear something else. Or if he forgets his trumpet on band day, he won't be able to play his instrument with the rest of the class. ♥

Attention! Attention!

Staying focused during class will help your child do her best work. Here are strategies that can make a difference.

Role play. Pretend you're the teacher, and have your youngster show you what a student who is paying attention looks like. She might sit quietly with her eyes focused on you.

Stretch attention span. Suggest that your child do activities that require concentration. Examples include putting together jigsaw puzzles or building a house of cards.

Remove distractions. Encourage her to keep only what she needs on her desk. For instance, she should put away art supplies during a social studies lesson.

Note: If your youngster has trouble focusing at home, ask her teacher how well she focuses during school. The teacher can share what she notices and offer advice. ♥



Pumpkin power

What's orange and round and full of opportunities to learn? A pumpkin! Your child can try these activities.

Math

Have your youngster estimate how many "stripes" (ridges) are on a pumpkin and count to see how close she came. She could paint each stripe as she counts it, switching colors to create a pattern. The colors will help her keep track of the number of stripes—and she'll have a pretty pumpkin to display!



Writing

Suggest that your child design a brochure for an imaginary pumpkin festival. Encourage her to give her festival a name and describe features, such as mini-pumpkin hunts, pumpkin catapults, or hayrides.

Science

Your youngster may be surprised to discover that pumpkins float. Let her try making boats out of them. She could start with a whole-pumpkin boat (cut off the top and scrape out the insides). Then, help her carve boats of different sizes and shapes, perhaps deep and wide or shallow and narrow. How does the design affect whether they float or sink?♥

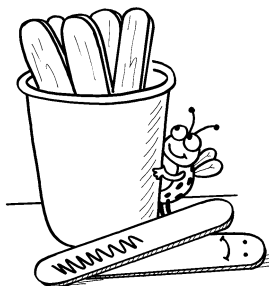
ACTIVITY CORNER

"Sticky" vocabulary

Play this game with your youngster to help him learn vocabulary words.

Materials: marker, craft sticks, cup, dictionary or textbook

Let your child write each vocabulary word (or boldface word from a textbook) on the end of a craft stick. On three



more sticks, he should draw "frowny faces" instead of writing words. When he's finished, have him place all the sticks in a cup, printed ends down.

Take turns pulling out a stick and using the word in a sentence that makes its definition clear. Check the dictionary or textbook—if you're right, keep the stick. If not, return it to the cup. But be careful: Draw a frowny face and you lose all your sticks! (Set each frowny face aside after it's drawn.)

When all sticks have been claimed, the player with the most wins.♥

OUR PURPOSE

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PARENT TO PARENT

Blending together

I recently got remarried, and my children now have a stepbrother and a stepsister. My husband and I want us all to bond, so I reached out to a coworker to see how she had successfully blended her new family.

Nancy recommended that we find pastimes everyone can enjoy together. That way, the children will get to know each other in a more relaxed way. We asked the kids for ideas, and they thought of bowling, skating, and playing board games.

My friend also mentioned the importance of respecting each other's space and belongings. So my husband and I made sure to talk to our kids about knocking before entering each other's rooms and asking for permission before borrowing items.

For now, we're taking one day at a time. Recently, we went bowling and had some good laughs. Feeling like a family may not happen overnight, but at least we're on our way.♥



Q & A Healthy after-school snacks

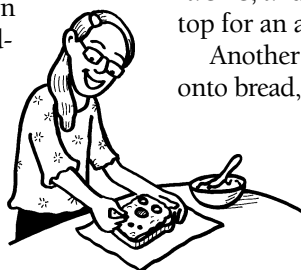
Q: My daughter is hungry after school, but it's hard to come up with nutritious snacks that she's excited about eating. Any recommendations?

A: Add a fun twist to healthy sandwiches by presenting them in a whole new way. Try a sandwich-on-a-stick, for example. Help your child cut whole-grain bread and cooked turkey into small pieces. Then, she can thread them onto a toothpick or bamboo

skewer along with cheese cubes and cucumber slices.

Or core an apple and slice it into rounds. Let her spread peanut or sunflower butter on one slice, sprinkle with raisins, and place a second apple slice on top for an apple sandwich.

Another idea is to scoop tuna salad onto bread, and your daughter can create a smiley face on top. She might use sliced green olives as eyes, a grape tomato for the nose, and chickpeas for the smile.♥



Math+Science Connection

Beginning Edition

Building Excitement and Success for Young Children

October 2017

Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program



TOOLS & TIDBITS

Math stories

To improve your youngster's understanding of word problems, have him retell them in his own words. For extra fun, he can change the names to people he knows: "Dad and Jack read 4 books on Sunday and 2 on Monday. How many books did they read in all?" ($4 + 2 = 6$)

Put on a science show

Let your child share science she is learning with the whole family by staging a show.



She could demonstrate experiments, perhaps talk-

ing through a tin-can-and-string telephone or melting ice cubes. Then, she can explain the *phenomena*. (She'll like that big word!) She might tell how *sound waves* traveled through the string or describe *liquids* and *solids*.

Web picks

At mathgames.com, your youngster will use number patterns, counting, or subtraction to protect the queen bee in Math Buzz, solve puzzles in Age of Math, and much more.

Check out the Wonder of the Day question at wonderopolis.org, and learn what a polar ice cap is or how stars form. Or let your child pose a question of her own.

Just for fun

Q: What do rhinoceroses have that no other animals have?

A: Baby rhinoceroses!



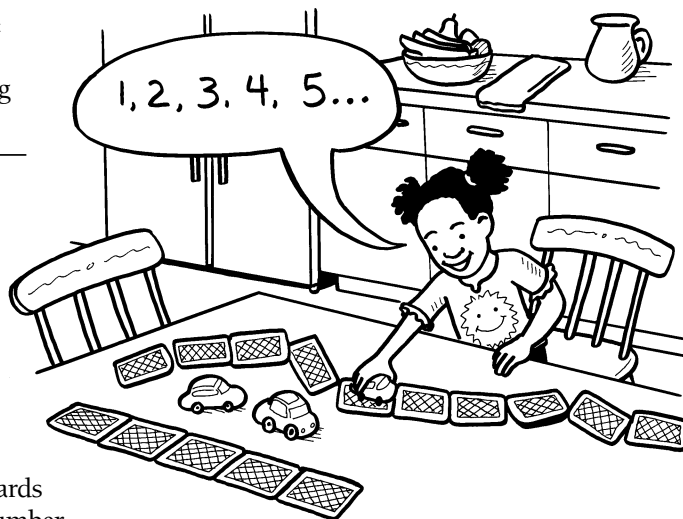
The afternoon commute

Understanding the *commutative property of addition*—changing the order of numbers being added together—helps your youngster master math facts. She'll enjoy driving her "math car" to learn about this important property.

Counting roadways

Suggest that your child create 2 roadways out of playing cards placed end to end (number side down). Maybe 1 road will be made of 10 cards and the other 5.

To find the total number of cards, she can drive a toy car on them, counting the cards on the first road (1, 2...10), then continue counting with the second (11, 12...15) to get the sum (15). Ask her to count again, but this time start with the second road (1, 2...5), then move to the first one (6, 7...15). She'll see the total is the same!



Swapping cars

Let your youngster put a piece of masking tape on the tops of 2 toy cars and draw a number of dots on each tape (for instance, 2 dots and 3 dots). Have her put one car on the left and the other on the right. What addition number sentence does that represent? ($2 + 3 = 5$) Now, have her swap (or "commute") the order of the cars. The equation may look different ($3 + 2 = 5$), but the answer is identical.

Framing nature

Take advantage of the world outside your door to explore natural science with your child.

On a walk, encourage your youngster to gather items that look interesting (leaves, acorns, rocks). Have him lay out his collection. Then, ask him what's the same and what's different about the objects. Perhaps he'll say that an acorn is hard and smooth, a rock is hard and rough, and a leaf is soft and bendable. Or he may notice colors—green and red leaves, brown acorns, and white rocks.

Let him choose his favorites to exhibit. He could glue leaves to paper and frame them or place rocks in a shallow box.

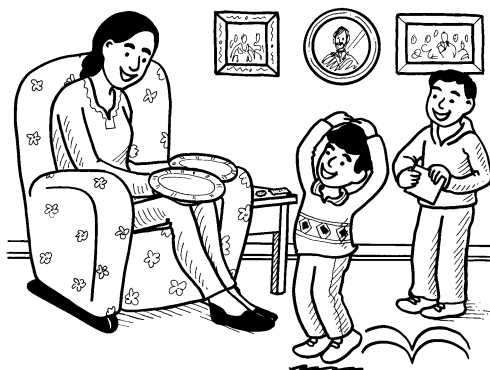


Shape scavenger hunt

Squares, rectangles, circles, and hexagons—where might they be hiding? See what your child can learn about shapes and their attributes with this idea.

1. Find. Challenge your youngster and his friends to find as many shapes as possible in your home in 5 minutes. They could gather smaller items and quickly sketch pictures of bigger ones.

2. Identify. When time's up, have everyone show what they found and name the shape. One child might have found a plate (circle), a DVD case (rectangle), and an oyster cracker (hexagon).



3. Count. How many circles did each youngster collect? Or how many straight sides did your child find? If he has a circle (0 straight sides), a rectangle (4 sides), and a hexagon (6 sides), he has 10 straight sides altogether. Who found the highest number of straight sides?

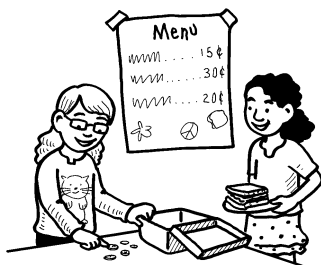
4. "Tell." Let each person find a way to show or tell about

his shapes. One child may form his arms into a circle and hop twice to "tell" he has 2 circles. Another youngster might draw a rectangle in the air and do 4 jumping jacks to indicate he has 4 rectangles.

Q & A "That will be 75 cents, please"

Q: My daughter is learning about the value of coins. What's a fun way to practice counting money at home?

A: On the weekend, set up a play deli at lunchtime. Suggest that your child make a list of foods to "sell," such as sandwiches, apples, and grapes. Then, she could decide the cost of each and decorate a menu with prices.



Hand out change for everyone to use as they place their orders. When your daughter orders, she can gather the coins she needs for each item and count them to the "cashier." For example, she might use 1 quarter (25¢) and 1 nickel (5¢) to pay for a 30¢ sandwich ($25¢ + 5¢ = 30¢$). What other coins could she use? (3 dimes, 6 nickels, or other combinations.)

Next, let her be the cashier and count your payment to make sure it's correct.

MATH CORNER

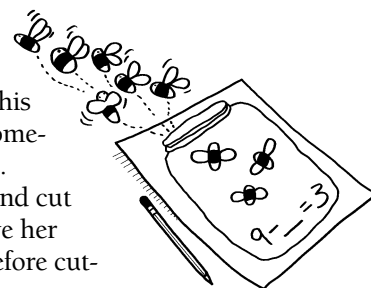
Firefly algebra

Finding the missing number in this delightful early algebra activity is something your youngster will want to do again and again.

Let her draw a jar on a piece of paper, then draw and cut out 10 fireflies from another sheet of paper. *Idea:* Have her paint the fireflies with glow-in-the-dark craft paint before cutting them out.

Put some of the fireflies "in" her jar (say, 9). Ask her to count them. Then with her back turned, remove some fireflies (perhaps 6). When she turns around, she counts the fireflies left in her jar (3). How many flew away? ($9 - 6 = 3$, so 6 flew away.) *Tip:* If you used glow-in-the-dark paint, turn out the lights so she can count the glowing fireflies.

Now it's her turn to control the fireflies. She might start with a few and, while you're not looking, add more. After you count them all, tell her how many fireflies flew into the jar.



SCIENCE LAB

What's in the water?

Protecting our environment starts with learning about it. This simple experiment will teach your child about water pollution.

You'll need: 6 clear glasses, water from 3 sources (examples: tap, stream, pond, bottled), 3 white coffee filters

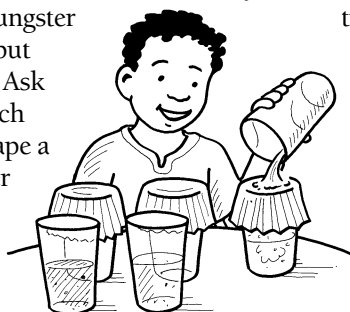
Here's how: Help your youngster collect 3 water samples and put them into 3 separate glasses. Ask him to compare them—which one is clearest? Have him drape a coffee filter upside down over each empty glass and pour part of a water sample through each filter. Now, let him compare the

filtered samples to the original samples and then examine the coffee filters.

What happens? Water from outdoor sources will look dirtier than tap or bottled water, but when filtered, it gets cleaner. Coffee filters from the outdoor samples will be dirty or gray.

Why? Pollutants from trash get trapped in the filters.

(Since tap and bottled water are treated, they have few pollutants.) Your child can remember this when he's outside—picking up garbage means it won't wind up in rivers and streams!



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Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

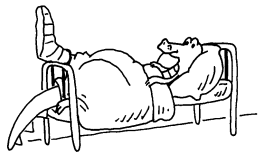
October 2017

Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program

Book Picks

Read-aloud favorites

■ *Zoey and Sassafras: Dragons and Marshmallows* (Asia Citro)



Zoey discovers that her scientist mother has been helping

injured magical creatures since she was a little girl. Now Zoey (with her cat, Sassafras) is following in her mom's footsteps by using science to care for a sick dragon. The first book in the Zoey and Sassafras series.

■ *The Hole Story of the Doughnut* (Pat Miller)

The true story of how doughnuts got their holes



starts in 1847 aboard a ship where teenager Hanson Gregory was working as a cook. Your youngster will love hearing how Gregory turned the breakfast cakes he fed the ship's crew into the popular treat.

■ *Whoever You Are* (Mem Fox)

Children around the world might speak different languages and live in different kinds of houses, but they can have the same feelings. That's the message in this colorful book that shows little ones hugging their moms, laughing with friends, and crying over scraped knees. (Also available in Spanish.)

■ *Bee: A Peek-Through Picture Book* (Britta Teckentrup)

Readers learn the meaning of "busy as a bee" in this nonfiction book about pollination. Peek-a-boo holes let youngsters zero in on the bee in each bright illustration, while short, simple text explains what the bee is doing.



Begin with a book preview

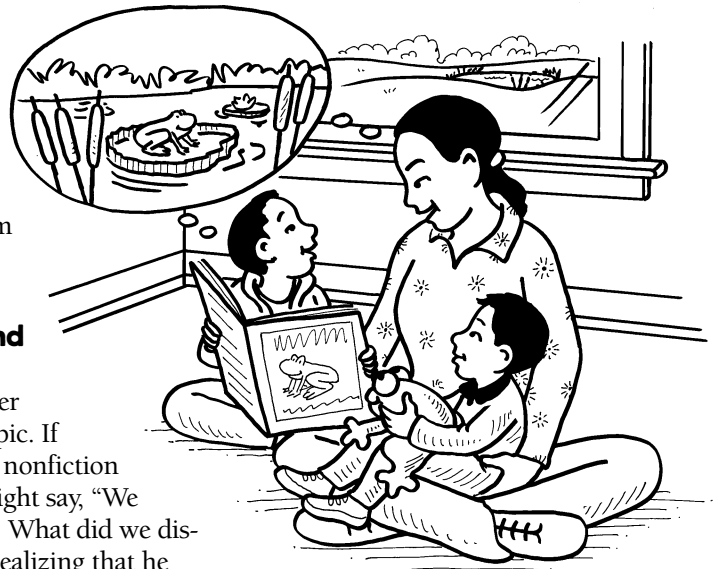
Before your child reads a book, take a few minutes to do a "sneak preview" together. Knowing what to expect will strengthen his comprehension and set him up for success. Try these strategies.

Bring up background knowledge

Help your youngster relate to the book's topic. If you're going to read a nonfiction book on frogs, you might say, "We saw frogs at the pond. What did we discover about them?" Realizing that he already knows something about the subject will get him ready to learn new facts.

Tour the scenery

Illustrations offer your child clues to what might happen on each page. Let him flip through the pictures and tell you what he sees. Encourage him to make predictions by asking questions like "What do you think will happen to the fly that's buzzing around the frog?"



Take a "word walk"

Ask your youngster to point out familiar words. He'll be excited to show you what he knows. Then, call his attention to words he may not know. ("A tadpole is a baby frog. Can you find the word *tadpole*?") He'll be better able to recognize words and read with confidence.♥

Strengthen writing muscles

Playing with art supplies builds your youngster's hand muscles and improves fine motor skills that she uses for writing. Consider these activities:

- Have your child roll play dough into a flat sheet and press a winding maze into it with her fingertips. Then, let her push a marble through the dough.
- Arrange small stickers on construction paper. Suggest that your youngster connect them all by drawing a line from one sticker to the next.
- Use a marker or highlighter to draw a simple picture (heart, star, smiley face) on white paper. Ask your child to trace over your drawing with a different-color highlighter. She can watch the ink blend to make a brand-new color!♥



Family signs

Whether you're celebrating a special occasion or writing a quick reminder, displaying messages around the house is a nice way for your youngster to practice writing. Here are ideas.

Banners. Add homemade decorations to celebrations. Together, come up with a greeting, and let your youngster write each word on a separate sheet of paper. For her little brother's birthday, she might write "Look who's turning 2! Happy birthday, Joey!" Then, use tape to attach the pages to a piece of yarn, and string them up clothesline-style.



Posters. Write each person's name on a slip of paper, and take turns drawing one from a basket. Next, each family member creates a poster to hang on the door of the person whose name she chose. Your child might draw a portrait of the person and add a few facts ("Mom likes to play tennis").

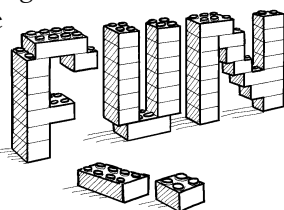
Reminders. Think of helpful signs to post around the house. Your youngster may want to write a reminder that says "Please feed me!" on the hamster cage. Or your family might work together on a sign that lists activities for the upcoming weekend. ("Go apple picking." "Jump in leaves.")♥



Build-a-word workshop

Spelling practice gets a hands-on twist when your child uses Legos or other connecting bricks.

First, invite your youngster to build each word on his spelling list. He'll use thinking and problem-solving skills as he decides how to construct each letter.



Then, let him use the letters for spelling study. You could take turns scrambling letters for each other to put back in the correct order. Or he might display a word on a bookshelf—looking at it whenever he walks by will help him remember how it's spelled. Another idea is to take a photo of each word, print out the photos, and staple them together for a colorful study guide.♥

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Parent to Parent

Bag o' nonfiction

My son Paul had a fun show-and-tell assignment recently. He had to share at least five nonfiction items to read that weren't books. The teacher said they could be anything from a parent's business card to a grocery circular.

So while we were running errands, I handed Paul a tote bag and suggested that we collect free things to read. By the time we finished, he had a takeout menu, an office supply catalog, a schedule of fitness classes, a recipe card, and an instruction sheet from the craft store.

At home, Paul spread out his items, and I helped him read a few. He was surprised by how many different kinds of nonfiction there are, and he was excited to share his finds with his classmates.

Now Paul wants to collect reading material every time we go out. His tote bag is getting pretty full, but I'm happy that he's getting reading practice.♥



Q&A Musical reading

Q I've heard that music helps children learn to read. How can I use music at home to help my daughter?

A That's true! Music offers a fun way to call your child's attention to the sounds in words, which will help her figure out new words when she reads.

Try singing familiar songs in silly ways. For instance, swap the beginning sounds in some words (change "Row, row, row your boat" to "Bow,

bow, bow your roat"). Have your daughter tell what sounds you switched (B and R). Then, encourage her to come up with a swap of her own.

Or replace a word with one that rhymes with it. Ask your youngster what rhymes with *boat*, and use the word she gives you to sing the new verse together, such as "Row, row, row your *coat*." She'll enjoy deciding how the song will change if you're rowing a coat—or a goat!♥



BUILDING READERS®

How Families Can Help Children Get Ready to Read

Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District
Title 1

Teach new words to a new reader

When you build your child's vocabulary, you are helping make her a successful reader. Here are a few ways to introduce her to new words:

- **Expose your child to all types** of writing. Don't limit her to books! Have her leaf through magazines, comics, maps and brochures, too.
- **Talk about new words.** When she comes across an unfamiliar word, explain what it means. "*Gigantic* is a great word! It means really, really big."
- **Point out words that appear** within other words. Take *big*, for instance. Show your child how it's also part of *bigger* and *biggest*. She'll learn that many words are related.



Source: Texas Education Agency, "New Words: Practical Ideas for Parents," Reading Rockets, nswc.com/new_vocabulary_ideas.

"The only important thing in a book is the meaning that it has for you."

—W. Somerset Maugham

Connect with your child's teacher

A brand-new year of preschool is underway. Start it off right by building a strong relationship with your child's teacher. Here's how:

- **Start the conversation.** Make a point of saying hello to your child's teacher during the first few days of class.
- **Volunteer.** Do you have a few spare hours? Pitch in at school! Ask the teacher how you can help. And the bonus is that your child will love seeing you at school!
- **Stay informed.** Read every email and handout that your child's teacher sends home. If something doesn't make sense, ask about it. Remember, you and the teacher are partners in your child's education.

Practice writing the alphabet all around the house

Now that your child is learning the letters of the alphabet, you two can have some fun by writing the letters in a variety of places. Write:



- **In the bathtub.** Let him write letters on the side of the tub with shaving cream. (Supervise carefully!)
- **In the kitchen.** Sprinkle flour or sugar onto a baking sheet. Then have your child write letters using his finger.
- **On the driveway.** Have your child write big letters with sidewalk chalk.

Wondering leads to great conversations

Children love to ask *why*. Make the most of it! Turn your child's question into a conversation. Find out what she thinks about the topic. Talking with your child is one of the best ways to help her build her language skills.



Employ everyday reading boosters

Your child is learning more about language every day. Help him work on identifying letters and the sounds that they make. Then, to support his growing language skills, be sure to:



- **Set an example.** Let him see you reading and writing every day.
- **Sing the alphabet song** and recite nursery rhymes together.
- **Play language-rich games** like "I Spy" that encourage him to speak.

Source: "Building Phonics Skills," Scholastic, nswc.com/language_phonics_skills.

Tips for choosing books to read with your child

With so many books out there, it can be hard to figure out which to read with your child. Keep these tips in mind when you're looking for new titles:



- **See if you like it.** Read the book's opening pages. Are they engaging? Funny? Interesting? If you like the book, chances are your child will enjoy it, too.
- **Notice the artwork.** Many children love big, bold pictures, so your child may enjoy stories accompanied by splashy illustrations. And books with unique artwork can lead to interesting conversations.
- **Ask an expert for input.** If you're searching for books at the library, ask a librarian for help. You can also look online for popular books.

Source: V.V. Lewis and W.M. Mayes, *Valerie & Walter's Best Books for Children*, Collins.

Add life and laughter to reading

In order for your child to become a lifelong reader, it's critical that he find reading enjoyable. When you read together, point to pictures and talk about the things you see. For example, if the book is about animals, see which animals he can identify. Then, talk about what you know about those animals.



Laugh at the silly things you read. Read with expression and use different voices. If a word sounds funny, say it again. The sillier, the better!

Simple crafts excite your child about writing

Writing is an important part of reading. Get your budding reader excited about writing by making:

- **Macaroni letters.** Fill one bowl with dry macaroni and another with pieces of dry spaghetti. On a sheet of paper or a place mat, have your child form letters with the pasta. Use macaroni for the curves and spaghetti for the straight parts.
- **A pencil holder.** Wrap a clean dry can or jar with construction or contact paper. Have your child decorate it with stickers, markers or glitter. Lastly, have him put his favorite writing pencils inside the can!



Books to delight your early reader

- **Little Bea** by Daniel Roode (Greenwillow Books). As soon as Little Bea wakes up, she is off and running! She encounters many of her friends and plays all of her favorite games as she goes.
- **Ice Boy** by David Ezra Stein (Candlewick Press). Even though his parents tell him to stay home in the freezer, Ice Boy dreams of seeing the world. So, he goes off on an adventure and transforms in accordance with the stages of the water cycle.
- **Exclamation Mark** by Amy Krouse Rosenthal (Scholastic Press). Exclamation Mark can tell that he doesn't fit in with periods. He tries to be just like them, until he meets another punctuation mark who helps him realize how important and wonderful he can be!



Q: My child goes nonstop all day. She'll hardly ever sit still for a story. What should I do?

A: Make books a bedtime ritual! Keep a stack of kid-friendly titles on hand, and read a few of them together every night. Not only will it help your child enjoy books and become a reader, it'll also serve as a calm, quiet transition from playtime to resting time.

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

Working Together for Learning Success

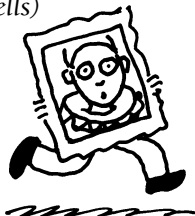
October 2017

Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program

Book Picks

■ **Eddie Red Undercover: Mystery on Museum Mile** (Marcia Wells)

Sixth-grader Eddie Red has a photographic memory and a talent for drawing. Will that be enough to outsmart art thieves in New York City? The first book in the Eddie Red series.



■ **Trapped: How the World Rescued 33 Miners from 2,000 Feet Below the Chilean Desert** (Marc Aronson)

This true story describes the plight of copper miners trapped for 69 days in 2010. As the miners slowly ran out of food, water, and fresh air, rescuers from all over the world worked to save their lives.

■ **The Lemonade War**

(Jacqueline Davies)

Sibling rivalry and lemonade take center stage in this opening book of the Lemonade War series. The friendship



between a sister and brother is put to the test when she skips a grade and winds up in his fourth-grade class. (Also available in Spanish.)

■ **How Cities Work**

(James Gulliver Hancock)

Readers watch a city grow from a tiny village to an enormous metropolis in this nonfiction book. Each page is filled with detailed drawings and simple explanations about the buildings and people it takes to make a city thrive.



Keys to nonfiction reading

As your child gets older, he will do more reading in subjects like science, social studies, and math. Here are strategies for helping him use clues in textbooks and other nonfiction to understand what he reads.

Remember the three “Bs”

Encourage your youngster to scan for information in boldface, boxes, and bullet points. In a science chapter on weather, he might see the word *storm chasers*, a box on how rain forms, and a list of the world’s windiest cities. Previewing these parts will alert him to what the chapter covers (storms, rain, wind)—and what to look for as he reads.

Examine an image

This activity can help your child observe details in pictures. Let him select any photo, illustration, or diagram in a textbook. Together, gaze at it for 30 seconds. Close the book, and write as many facts about the picture as you each can. For a diagram of the earth, he could write, “The earth has four layers” and “The core is the innermost layer.” Take



turns reading your facts aloud, and check the picture to verify them.

Guess the graphic

The secret to grasping charts, graphs, and tables is to read the words *and* the numbers. Even the design may offer hints. Choose a graphic, and cover the heading. Can your youngster figure out its purpose? Perhaps you selected a pie chart that looks like an apple pie, its slices labeled with state names and percentages. He might deduce that it shows top apple-growing states. Now let him pick a graphic for you. ■

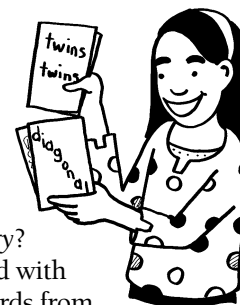
Fun with Words

Picture that word

This activity makes vocabulary building fun! Have your youngster create her own deck of vocabulary cards that show definitions at a glance.

Together, brainstorm playful ways to write words so their meanings are illustrated. For example, she might write *backward* as *drawkcab* or print *twins* twice. Or perhaps she’ll stack the letters in *vertical* or write *diagonal* at a slant. What could she do with *staircase*, *bubbly*, or *symmetry*?

Suggest that your child write each word on an index card with brightly colored markers or pens. Encourage her to add words from her vocabulary lists and textbook chapters, too. Studying will be easier with visual cues like these. ■



Persuade me!

Next time your youngster asks for a pet hamster or a bigger allowance, suggest that she put her request in writing. She'll practice persuasive writing and give you time to think about your answer. Share these steps for writing a convincing case.

1. State your case. A good argument is specific and clear. Ways to start may include "I believe" or "In my opinion." ("I believe having a pet makes a kid more responsible.")



2. Provide reasons. Explain that your child's reasons should appeal to her audience—in this case, you! That means putting herself in your shoes: "I know you're worried I won't clean the cage. I'll write out my cleaning schedule and post it so I won't forget and you will know what to expect."

3. Add supporting facts. These could include a quote from an expert or information from a website or a magazine article. Or she might mention survey results about pet ownership and responsibility.

Tip: Let your youngster know you'll consider her position and get back to her! ■

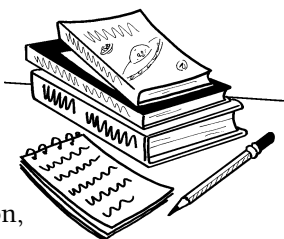


Author habits to follow

It takes hard work to become a published author. You can guide the budding author in your household with these real-life habits of successful writers.

Read a lot

Encourage your child to read often and to read a wide variety of material—fiction, biographies, science fiction, graphic novels, and newspapers. He'll pick up ideas for his own writing.



Keep tools handy

Suggest that your youngster always keep a small notebook nearby (even in his pocket). He can jot notes or begin a story whenever inspiration strikes.

Create a goal

Authors often set targets for themselves, perhaps writing for a certain number of hours a day, or writing a set number of words or pages. Ask your child to pick his own daily goal (write for 20 minutes, write five sentences or until he fills a page). ■

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

Partner with the reading specialist

My son Simon was recently diagnosed with dyslexia. I had a good meeting with the reading specialist at school, and she said the best way to support Simon is to read aloud every day. Fortunately, that's something Simon and I have always enjoyed together.

The reading specialist gave me titles that are a little more challenging than Simon can read by himself. Reading harder books, she said, will help Simon stretch his comprehension skills.

She also asked that I listen to Simon read the books she sends home each week—but not to correct him immediately if he struggles. Instead, I should suggest he try strategies he's learning like using context clues or breaking words into "chunks." So far it's going well. Simon likes following along as I read aloud to him, and he's excited to show me how he can read the books he brings home. ■



Q&A

Get comfortable with public speaking

Q My daughter's first class presentation of the year is next month. She's a little nervous—how can I help her prepare?

A Encourage your daughter to practice, practice, practice! If she feels confident about what she's going to say and how she'll say it, she will feel more comfortable.

One way to prepare is by observing good public speakers in action, such as her principal

leading an assembly or game show hosts on TV. What does she notice? She may see that they look at the audience, smile, speak clearly, and avoid glancing at their notes too often. Then, she can keep these tips in mind during her own presentation.

Finally, your daughter will feel more confident if she knows what she sounds and looks like as she presents. Offer to videotape her—she can practice and play it back until she feels ready. ■



BUILDING READERS®

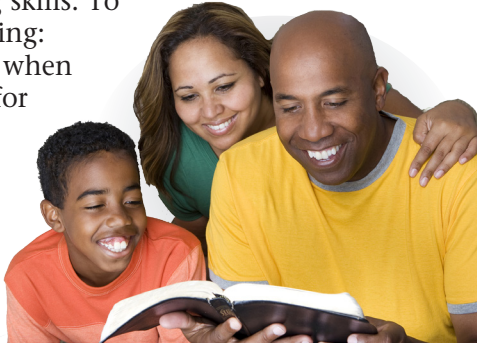
How Families Can Help Children Become Better Readers

Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District
Title 1

Reading for pleasure can improve your child's language and literacy skills

When your child enjoys reading and does it often, he boosts his vocabulary and reading skills. To increase his interest in reading:

- **Suggest books you enjoyed** when you were young. Search for some of your favorite authors or books at the library with your child.
- **Make opportunities for your child** to read with friends. Encourage them to discuss books they enjoy. They may consider starting a book club.
- **Keep a supply of books** and magazines on subjects that interest your child available all around your home.
- **Connect books and food.** Create a reading café at home. Bake a favorite dessert and make some hot chocolate. Then, settle in with your child and spend some time reading.



Source: "Leisure Reading," International Reading Association, nswc.com/leisure_reading_benefits.

"Reading is like an infectious disease: it is caught not taught."

—Christine Nuttall

Work with the teacher to set reading goals

It is important to be on the same page as your child's teacher when it comes to reading. Work together to set appropriate goals for your child. You can talk to the teacher about your child's:

- **Reading level.** Is your child meeting expectations for her grade? What kinds of materials are best for her? How can you tell if a book is the right level? How can you help her improve?
- **Reading habits.** Many teachers expect students to read for a certain number of minutes each day. Should your child keep and turn in a calendar to track the time she spends reading? What other ideas does the teacher have to instill good reading habits?

Encourage frequent writing

Reading and writing go hand in hand, so it's important to encourage your child to write. When your child is writing, make sure you:



- **Wait until she has tried** to fix the errors in her writing before you offer to help.
- **Encourage her to share** what she has written with other family members.
- **Save what she has written** and find ways to display her work.

Source: "Second and Third Graders Writing Milestones," PBSkids, nswc.com/encourage_writing.

Mnemonic devices help spell tricky words

A *mnemonic* ("neh-mon-ic") *device* is a tool used to remember information.



Mnemonics can help your child with spelling words. For example, he could make up a sentence like *Big Elephants Could Always Use Some Exercise* to help him remember how to spell the word *because*.

Explore nonfiction with your child

To achieve in school, your child will have to be able to read, understand and enjoy many types of books, including nonfiction.



Reading nonfiction helps your child:

- **Apply comprehension skills** to factual content.
- **Develop new hobbies** or interests.
- **Learn how authors** use text to inform and persuade their readers.

Source: M. Lee, "Enthralling Nonfiction for Early Readers," education.com, nswc.com/reading_nonfiction_books.

A personal dictionary can help grow your child's vocabulary

Your child is constantly seeing and hearing new words every day. How will he ever be able to remember them all? Help him make his own special dictionary for all the new words he learns. The more words that he knows, the more he will understand as he reads more complex information.

Encourage your child to write new words or words he's not sure about in a small notebook. Or, he can make his own book by stapling several pieces of paper together.

Writing just the word is okay for now. Your child should focus on finishing the sentence or paragraph he is reading. Later, he can look up the new word and add the definition. He can also draw pictures to illustrate the definition. Make sure your child reviews his dictionary regularly—and his vocabulary is sure to grow!



Persevere through reading challenges

Reading is part of many home and school activities, so if your child struggles with it, it can feel as if it affects every part of her life. Her self-esteem can suffer.

To support your child:

- **Consult her teacher.** Ask about realistic expectations. What does your child's teacher notice in class? What strategies have been taught and how can you apply them at home? What additional help is available?
- **Use reading materials at home** that minimize frustration. Choose books that are easy for your child to read and understand. This builds her confidence while she is reading.
- **Stay positive about her learning.** Focus on how her strengths can help. And remember to praise your child often for her hard work.



Source: "Helping Children Overcome Reading Difficulties," Child Development Institute, niswc.com/helping_reading_difficulties.



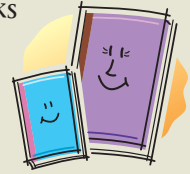
Q: Our family is so busy. How can we make time for reading together?

A: Think about the times when everyone is home. Put family reading on the schedule then, even if it's just once a week. Perhaps you could schedule a reading dinner or a surprise "DEAR" (Drop Everything and Read) time during Saturday chores. Make reading a fun part of established family routines.

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

Ask your child to tell you a story for a change

Next time your child asks you to tell him a story, trade places. Let him make up a story of his own, and when he finishes, suggest he write it down. Encourage him to leave spaces for illustrations! Now he'll have a copy of his own authored tale.



For lower elementary readers:

- *I, Fly: The Buzz About Flies and How Awesome They Are* by Bridget Heos (Henry Holt and Company). Learn fun facts about flies, such as how their wings work to make a buzzing noise.



- *The President and Mom's Apple Pie* by Michael Garland (Dutton Children's Books). When President William Taft goes to a small town to dedicate a flagpole, he is entranced by all of the aromas he smells.

For upper elementary readers:

- *Ava Tree and the Wishes Three* by Jeanne Betancourt (Feiweil and Friends). Ava's birthday is the first day of summer vacation. On it, she finds that she has a special ability to make birthday wishes.
- *Jake the Fake Keeps It Real* by Craig Robinson and Adam Mansbach (Crown Books for Young Readers). Jake is enrolling in the Music and Art Academy with a big secret—he is neither a musician nor an artist.

Building Readers®

How Families Can Help Children Become Better Readers

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Recipes for Success

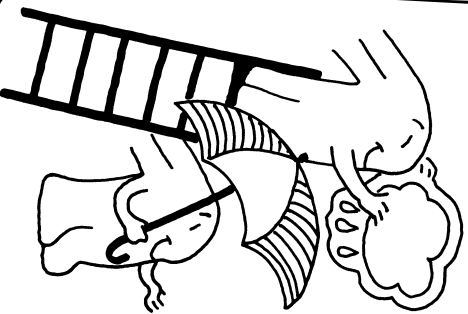
Practical Activities to Help Your Child Succeed

OCTOBER 2017

READING

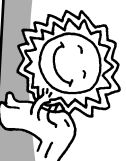
Forecast: Better comprehension

Boost your youngster's reading comprehension by letting him match weather symbols with the correct forecasts.



Ingredients: newspapers, scissors (or Internet access and a printer)

Help your child cut out the weekly weather report from the newspaper (or print it from *weather.com*). Separately, have him cut out the symbols that go with each day's forecast. Then, mix up the forecasts, and ask your youngster to match each symbol to its report. For example, a forecast of "mostly cloudy" would go with a symbol that has more clouds than sun, while "mostly sunny" would show more sun. He'll practice reading words and symbols as he makes the matches.



MATH

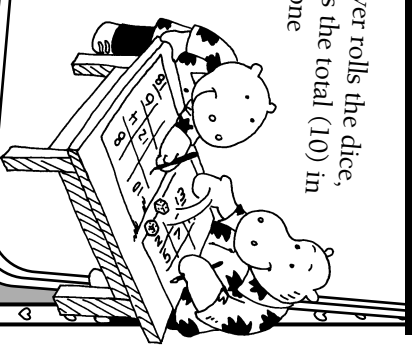
Tic-tac-roll

This game lets your child think strategically while she works on addition.

Ingredients: 2 dice, paper, pencils

Have each player draw a tic-tac-toe grid. The first player rolls the dice, adds the two numbers together (say, 4 + 6), and writes the total (10) in an empty square on her board. Take turns until everyone has a full board.

Next, players add up each column, row, and diagonal separately. *Example:* a row with 2, 5, and 8 = 15. To win, score the most points for a single column, row, or diagonal. Play again, but this time, encourage your youngster to think carefully about where she places each number. How can she get the highest score?

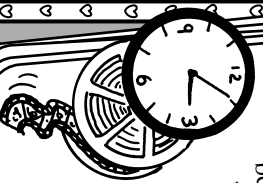


Refrigerator Poster

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."

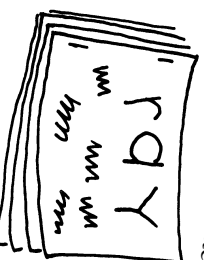
TIME

The next time your child watches a movie on TV, see if he can figure out its exact running time. He should write down what time it starts, when each commercial break begins and ends, and what time the movie ends. He'll need to compute the time from beginning to end and then add up the commercial breaks and subtract them from the total.



RHYMING

Help your youngster staple six sheets of paper together to make a rhyming book. Have her write one of these words at the top of each page: *ray, me, fan, pie, ball, hot*. How many rhyming words can she write on each page? Then, she could make another book with new words to rhyme.



SOCIAL STUDIES

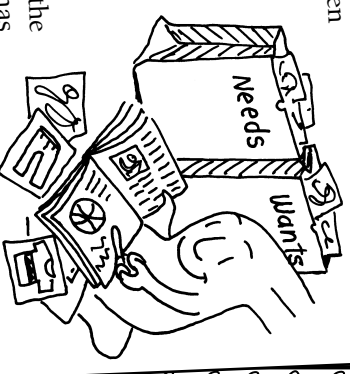
Need or want

Give your youngster a stack of old magazines to "shop" for items that people need and those they want.

Ingredients: magazines, scissors, 2 paper lunch bags, marker

Ask your child to tell you the difference between a need and a want. (Needs are things we must have to stay healthy and safe like water, food, and shelter. Wants are things that are nice to have, such as a TV, toy, or cookie.)

Then, let your youngster flip through magazines to cut out pictures of needs and wants. He can sort them into two separate bags. For instance, toothpaste goes in a bag marked "Needs," while a video game goes in the "Wants" bag. When he's finished, which bag has more items?



Recipes for Success

Practical Activities to Help Your Child Succeed

OCTOBER 2017

Character Corner

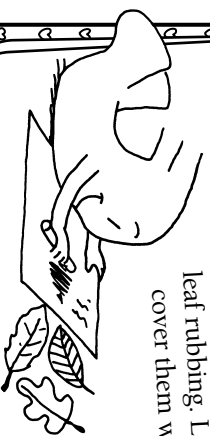
POETRY Leaf haiku

Celebrate autumn with this poetry writing project.

Ingredients: leaves, paper, pencil, crayons

First, take a nature walk for inspiration. Your child can look at leaves on the trees and collect fallen ones.

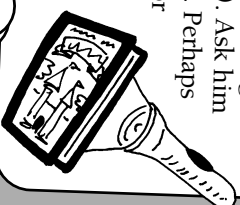
Then, encourage her to write a haiku about leaves. Explain that a haiku is a three-line Japanese poem, often about nature. Lines one and three each have five syllables. Line two has seven syllables. Your youngster might think about the colors, or what autumn reminds her of, as she writes her haiku.



Next, she could illustrate her poem with a leaf rubbing. Let her lay leaves on a table, cover them with a piece of paper, and lightly rub with the side of an unwrapped crayon. Hang up her haiku and leaf rubbing as a fall decoration.

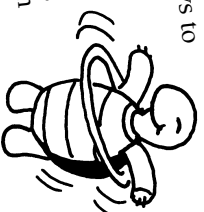
SCIENCE

Your youngster can use a flashlight to see the difference between *opaque* objects (light won't shine through) and *translucent* ones (light will shine dimly through). Ask him to find three of each type. Perhaps he'll spot a book, a pan, or a chair that are opaque, and notebook paper, a white sheet, and a plastic bag that are translucent.



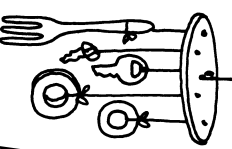
FITNESS

Families used to entertain themselves without computers, TV, and video games. With your child, list at least five ways to have screen-free, active fun. For instance, she could do jumping jacks or twirl with a hula hoop.



CREATIVITY

Let your child create a wind chime from metal objects (old keys, washers). Tie a piece of string to each. Then, poke holes around the edge of a plastic lid. She can put the strings through the holes and knot them. Hang the chime outside to hear the sounds it makes in the wind.



PEACEMAKING

When your children bring an argument to you, try this. Ask each one to explain—from the other's point of view—what happened. This will help them see situations from another perspective.



MANNERS

Together, brainstorm a word or signal to use if your child forgets his manners. For example, touch your ear to remind him to take his elbows off the dinner table. You'll have a way to prompt him without embarrassing him in front of others.



POSITIVE ATTITUDE

Blow up a balloon, leaving the end untied. Hold it closed while your youngster writes a positive message on it ("Keep trying," "You can do it"), and let it deflate. Make several, and have her choose one when she's feeling down. As you blow up a balloon, she can watch the words grow and read them aloud.



GRAPHING

Use your grocery list for math practice by having your child turn it into a colorful picture graph. Next to each item, ask him to draw a picture showing how many you need. For example, he would draw 6 peaches beside "peaches." For "milk," he might draw 1 carton.



Congratulations!

We finished _____ activities together on this poster.

Signed (parent or adult family member)

Signed (child)