



Dennis-Yarmouth Title I

From the Title I Coordinator

Volume 1, Issue i

Welcome to Title I!

New changes in Title I this year. All of our elementary schools and Mat-tacheese are now school-wide Title I schools. What does this mean? It means that every teacher and every student in each of the schools is now either a Title I teacher or a Title I student. The Title I teachers, those who were Title I last year, will be working with the neediest students in each of the schools.

We will be using LLI for the most part for reading, and Eureka for our mathematics.

If you would like to observe an LLI lesson in progress, please give me a call (508-778-7599 ext.6204) and we will set up an observation for you.

Attendance Matters

Your child's teachers will do their best to help your child learn and succeed in school. But there's one thing *only you can do*—get him or her to school every day.

Children who don't attend school regularly fall behind and score lower on tests. They can have a hard time making and keeping friends—especially in elementary school.

A study of the nation's fourth graders, conducted by the USDOE, showed that almost one in four (19%) had been absent from school 3 or more days in the last month.

Show your child and his teachers that you know attendance counts: **Tell your child** how important school is.

Make dental and other appointments during non-school hours.

Don't let your child skip school for reasons that wouldn't prevent your from going to work.

Avoid taking your child out of school on exam days.

Keep track of your child's absences. See if there are any patterns that need to be changed.

Discuss the consequences of missing school. Not understanding. Needing to do make-up work. Missing out on friends.

Talk to the teacher if your child regularly doesn't want to go to school.

More than 12 absences in a school year is excessive. We need the children there to teach them.

Tardies and Early Pick-up

Getting your child to school on time and avoiding early pick-up is as important as daily attendance.

If your child comes to school late, just 15 minutes a day, they are missing an hour and 15 minutes of time on learning a week.

School starts at 9:20 a.m. and dismissal is at 3:30 p.m.

Let's all work together to try to keep our attendance at 93% or better.

September, 2017



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



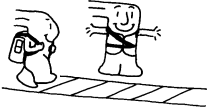
Home & School

Working Together for School Success

CONNECTION®

September 2017

Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program



SHORT NOTES

Sign your work

Encourage your youngster to get in the habit of writing his name on his paper before he begins an assignment. He could think of it as “autographing” his work, just like artists sign their masterpieces. His teacher will know who the paper belongs to, and he’ll get credit for his hard work.

Safety smarts

Help your child travel safely to and from school. Explain that it’s important to avoid horseplay at the bus stop and to stay away from the street. If your youngster walks to school, make sure she sticks with a group. And if you drive, drop her at the designated spot, and remember to stop for school buses loading or unloading children.

Extra fun, extra learning

Extracurricular activities let your youngster explore hobbies and find friends with similar interests. He might join an art club, a robotics group, or a sports team, for instance. To find options, check in the school office or on the school website.

Worth quoting

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” *Nelson Mandela*

JUST FOR FUN

Q: Which side of a duck has the most feathers?

A: The outside!



Great year ahead

Showing your child you’re excited about the school year will get her excited, too. Encourage her to share what she learns and to make the most of each school day with these strategies.

“What will you learn today?”

Talk about your youngster’s day at school *before* it happens. In the morning, let her know you can’t wait to hear all about it. She’ll be on the lookout for things to tell you. She might even jot down notes to remember the highlights (a science experiment she enjoyed, the words to a song she sang in music class).

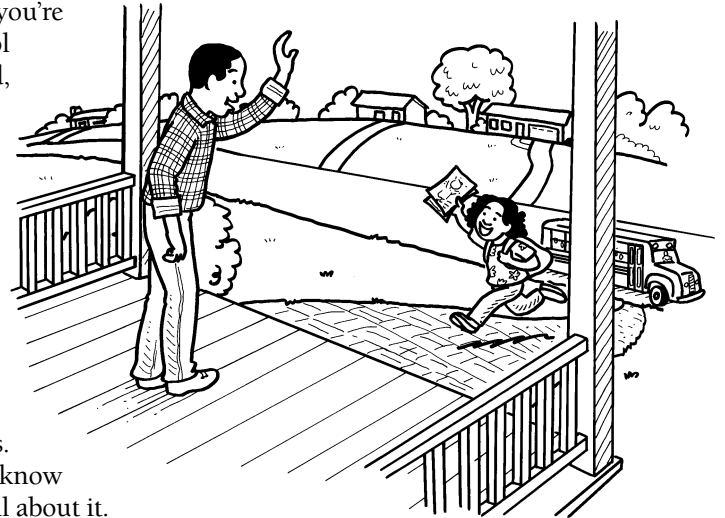
“Show me what you did!”

Ask your child to demonstrate something she learned. Perhaps she’ll show you how to measure the area of a room or write a line of code. You’ll get to see what she’s working on in school. Plus, explaining something out loud will help

her understand and remember it—and build her confidence.

“What’s new this year?”

Each school year brings something exciting that your youngster couldn’t do the year before. Maybe she’ll go to recess on a different playground, join the chorus, or change classes for math or reading. Build enthusiasm by talking up these experiences in the first weeks of school, and keep her motivated by following up as the year goes on. ♥



Team up for success

Teamwork is an important part of life in school *and* at home. Try fun games like these to help your youngster practice cooperating with others to reach a common goal:

- Line up, and pass a balloon from one person to another without dropping it—using anything but your hands.
- Stand in a circle, and hold hands.

Then, have everyone turn around so they’re facing the opposite direction. The catch? You can’t let go of each other’s hands! ♥



Organized all day long

Being organized can reduce stress and make the school day go more smoothly. Here's a checklist that will help.

Morning

- ❑ Show your child how to set an alarm that will wake him up in time to get ready for school.
- ❑ On a sheet of paper, help him draw or list morning tasks, such as "make bed" and "brush teeth." Let him post the list where he can see it (say, by his bed or on the bathroom mirror).



After school

- ❑ Have your youngster go through his backpack to take out homework and throw away trash. To store work he wants to save, he might use folders or a shoebox.
- ❑ Ask him to place papers for you in a special spot, perhaps a basket. Look them over, and sign papers as needed.

Nighttime

- ❑ Before bed, your child should put needed items in his backpack. *Examples:* completed assignments, signed permission slips, show-and-tell objects.
- ❑ Suggest that he pick out clothes and choose breakfast foods for the next day. He could get a head start by setting out cereal, fresh fruit, and a bowl and spoon. ♥

ACTIVITY CORNER

A homemade calendar

Encourage your child to use a calendar this school year by having her make her own. Follow these steps.



1. Label. Have her draw a calendar page for each month, labeling the month and days of the week. She can refer to a real calendar to fill in the dates.

2. Illustrate. What does each month make her think of? Let your youngster illustrate the top of each sheet—maybe she'll draw herself making new friends in September and painting pumpkins in October.

3. Fill in. Now she can write in regular events (library day on Mondays, spelling quizzes on Fridays). As the year goes on, she could add assignment due dates, tests, or other reminders. ♥

OUR PURPOSE

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

Resources for Educators,
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ISSN 1540-5621

PARENT TO PARENT

Building knowledge—on a budget

I heard that giving your kids lots of experiences in the community provides "background knowledge" that helps them succeed in school. We're on a tight budget, so I looked into outings for my daughter, Carly, that don't cost a lot.

First, we searched online for free days at nearby museums. I even saw an ad for "Museum Day Live!" on September 23, when many museums offer two free tickets per family. Carly picked out one on pioneer life and another with hands-on engineering projects.

Then, at the farmers' market, someone mentioned a farm that gives free tours. We visited last Saturday, and Carly got to pick apples and see how cows are milked. I'm glad Carly is having new experiences—and we are sticking to our budget.

Editor's note: See smithsonianmag.com/museumday/museum-day-live-2017/ for more information about Museum Day Live! ♥

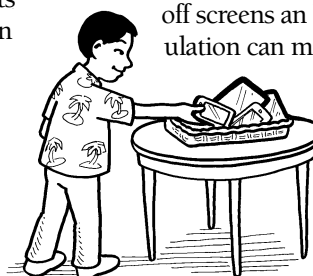


Q & A How to manage screen time

Q: My son could spend hours watching videos or using apps. How can I set reasonable limits?

A: The goal should be for your son to have enough "unplugged" time to finish schoolwork, be with family and friends, get exercise, and relax. Experts suggest coming up with a plan that suits your family.

Think about what your youngster uses devices for. A fifth grader may need a computer for homework, while a younger child might simply play on a tablet. Then, set limits that make sense.



Maybe you'll decide on a half-hour of screen time on school days (after homework is done) but give him an hour a day on weekends.

It also helps to name times for everyone to stay off screens, perhaps during meals and car rides. Also, consider turning off screens an hour before bed—the stimulation can make it harder to fall asleep.

Note: Set aside a place for stowing devices so they're out of sight.

To create a plan, see healthychildren.org/English/media/Pages/default.aspx. ♥

Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

September 2017

Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program

Book Picks

Read-aloud favorites

■ **Big Dog and Little Dog Going for a Walk** (Dav Pilkey)

A pair of dog friends loves to take walks—especially if it involves splashing and rolling in mud! Your youngster will laugh as he tags along on this messy journey. (Bilingual version also available, with each page in both English and Spanish.)



■ **A Rock Is Lively** (Dianna Hutts Aston)

They come in all shapes and sizes, melt if they get hot enough, and sometimes arrive from outer space. What are they? Rocks!



Using poetic language, this nonfiction picture book introduces your child to colorful varieties.

■ **May I Have a Word?** (Caron Levis)
Once upon a refrigerator, the alphabet magnets set out to tell a story. But when C and K begin fighting about who stole whose sound and who is hogging all the good words, it looks like there will be no “happily ever after.” F is for *funny* in this tale about the importance of teamwork.

■ **Clothesline Clues to Jobs People Do** (Kathryn Heling and Deborah Hembrook)
Your child can use clothes on a clothesline and rhyming clues to match people with their careers, then turn each page to see a worker in action. This simple story brings all the characters together for a party at the end.



Reading at school, reading at home

“How do I help my child learn to read?” That’s a common question for many parents. Ask your youngster about the kinds of reading she does in school, and use what you discover to support her at home. Try these ideas.



In a group

Let your child play “reading group” with her stuffed animals or dolls. Suggest that she give each “student” a book and “teach” reading strategies she’s working on like breaking big words into smaller chunks or using pictures to figure out hard words.

an at-home reading log, have her fill it out, and sign it if required.

On my own

Your child likely has time in school each day to read all by herself. Her teacher may call it “DEAR” (“Drop everything and read”) or SSR (“Self-selected reading”). Try holding a daily “DEAR” time at home for at least 20 minutes. Each person picks any reading material (book, magazine, newspaper) and reads anywhere—on a couch, on the porch, or stretched out on the floor.♥

With you

When your youngster brings home books from school, set aside time to snuggle up and listen to her read. You’ll get an idea of the reading level that’s right for her and see what topics she enjoys and is learning about. *Note:* If she has

A writing nook

A cozy space can inspire your youngster to enjoy writing regularly. Consider these suggestions:

- Help your child find a quiet spot. He might use a chair tucked in a corner of the living room or a lap desk on his bed.
- Let your youngster pick out cool writing supplies at a dollar store like colored pencils, fancy paper, or gel pens. Then, he could arrange them in a box or basket to keep in his nook.
- Look for everyday ways to encourage writing. You might say, “Grandpa’s birthday is next week. Why don’t you make him a card?” Or invite your child to add a few items to your grocery list. Suggest that he write stories, poems, and plays, too!♥



Create a comic strip

With lots of pictures and just a few words, comic strips are easy and fun for beginning writers to make. Here's how.

Change a favorite. Suggest that your youngster write new words for a comic strip he likes. Help him cut one from the newspaper and glue it on a sheet of paper. Cover the words with masking tape. He can add his own words in the bubbles or on the paper around the strip. What will each character say or think in his version?



ask questions like "What happens first?" and "How does Elvis the Cat's adventure end?" *Idea:* He might like to create a series of comic strips about his character.♥

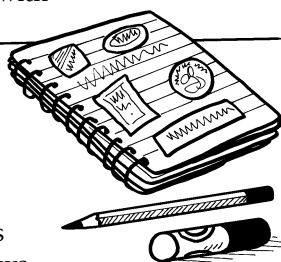


Words all around

Even before youngsters learn to read, they get excited when they recognize words on road signs, stores, and food packages. Encourage your child to collect words to make a book she can read all by herself. She'll begin to connect the letters she sees with the sounds they make.

Find words

Give your youngster a notebook. When she spots a word she knows, she could write it or cut it out and glue it on a page. For instance, she might clip "Eggs" from an empty carton or the name of a favorite restaurant from a take-out bag.



Read your book

After your child has filled a few pages, let her read her book to you. She'll build confidence in her reading ability because she'll know every word!♥

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Q&A Tell me a story

Q My daughter often asks me to tell her stories at bedtime, but it's not always easy to make them up on the spot. Any suggestions?

A Hearing stories develops your daughter's listening and language skills. You may find it easier to tell stories you're familiar with.

Children love stories about people they know—especially themselves and other family members. Flip through photos at bedtime, and have your youngster pick one that she likes. Her newborn picture could lead to a tale about the day she was born. Or a childhood snapshot of you may inspire a story about the games you played or what you learned at school when you were her age.

Another idea is to retell fairy tales or other children's stories that you know. If you're feeling creative, try changing the story as you go. For example, turn *The Three Little Pigs* into *The Three Little Bananas*.♥



Parent to Parent

"I love you" notes

My son Danny has always loved it when I tuck an "I love you"

play after school?" The notes made Danny feel special and gave him extra reading practice.

note into his backpack. When he was learning to read, I asked his teacher for a list of words he was working on. Then, I used those words in the notes.

Sometimes I'd write simple messages like "You are number one!" Other times, I wrote a question, such as "What game should we

Now secret notes are a tradition at

our house. Danny's little sister Jamie is starting to read this year, and he writes notes to put in her backpack. And when I opened my suitcase on a business trip recently, I had a big smile when I discovered a note from Danny to me!♥



BUILDING READERS®

How Families Can Help Children Get Ready to Read

Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District
Title 1

Start some new routines to increase your child's interest in reading

The start of a new school year is a great time for your family to begin some fun new reading routines!

To add variety to your regular routines:

- **Break the mold.** Do you only read with your child before bedtime? Think about other times you can look at books together, such as during breakfast or after baths.
- **Tell a story.** Did your family do something special over the summer? Does your child have a special interest? Make up stories together about the adventures you take together or the things he loves best.
- **Mix up your materials.** Expand your child's horizons by moving beyond books. Some days, spend story time browsing through magazines, newspapers or cookbooks.



"There are perhaps no days of our childhood we lived so fully as those we spent with a favorite book."

—Marcel Proust

Simple activities expand word smarts

Your child's brain is a language-learning sponge. It is absorbing everything you say! To boost his vocabulary and word knowledge:

- **Speak together often.** Conversation is one of the best ways to expose your child to new words.
- **Use proper grammar.** If he hears you speaking correctly, he's more likely to do the same.
- **Play 20 Questions.** This game will encourage him to use words and logic to solve a puzzle.
- **Share interesting experiences.** This doesn't have to be a big undertaking. A simple walk around the block or trip to the store is a chance to discover new things—and to use new words.

Source: "Helping Your Child at Home with Vocabulary Building," Child Development Institute, niswc.com/vocabulary_sponge.

Poetry builds anticipation

Children often like knowing what will come next when they read. Through repetition and rhyme, poetry helps your child anticipate what will happen next. When you are reading with your child:



1. **Pick a nursery rhyme or poem** that uses repeated phrases.
2. **Read it aloud** a few times.
3. **Read it again,** pausing at the sections that repeat or rhyme, to see if she can fill in the blanks.

Source: B. Cullinan and B. Bagert, "Family Reading Activities," Reading Rockets, niswc.com/readaloud_rhyme.

Bag up a love of reading

To get your child excited about visiting the library, help him make a special library bag. Find an old tote bag and help your child decorate it with paint or markers. Then, take frequent trips to the library to fill it up!



Help your child publish his own books

Is your child a natural storyteller? Encourage him to keep talking—then write those stories down! Using construction paper, make a booklet to keep track of his tales.

Just fold a few sheets of paper in half, staple or tape the edge and get busy. Write your child's words on one side of each page and have him draw an illustration on the other. Soon you'll have a wonderful book and family treasure!



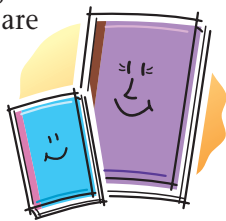
Get hands on to sharpen your child's fine motor skills

Fine motor skills are critical to your child's progress in school. When the tiny muscles in her hands are strong, she will be able to turn pages in books easily. She will also have better control over pencils, pens and crayons as she writes and draws.

To help your child build her fine motor skills, encourage her to:

- **Scrunch up sheets of newspaper** in one hand.
- **Use an eye dropper** to "pick up" water.
- **Peel stickers from a sheet** and stick them onto paper.
- **String beads or buttons** onto a piece of yarn.
- **Cut play dough** with a plastic pizza wheel or plastic knife. (Supervise carefully.)

Source: "Activities for the Development of Fine Motor Skills in Young Children," Shrewsbury Public Schools, nswc.com/fine_motor_tasks.



Use music to build language skills

Listening to music with your child is one good way to help him build those critical language skills. Plus, it's fun! Play your favorite songs for him and sing together as you do chores. Sing along to songs on the radio. When you are listening to lyrics and singing along, you are exposing your child to rhymes and vocabulary words.

Source: "Literacy Tips for the 10-Minute Parent," pbskids.



Conversations during meals boost literacy

Mealtimes are a great time to talk with your child. Talking with your child helps her develop oral (spoken) language skills—and language skills are the first step toward literacy!

When children hear new words, they learn to figure out what the words mean from the way they are used in conversation. Saying, "The banana is still green—it's not *ripe*, so it won't be sweet if we eat it now," helps your child learn that *ripe* describes when a piece of fruit is ready to eat.

During mealtime, use words that are new to your child to describe food. Talk about a *crunchy* apple or a *chewy* cookie.

Meals are also a great time to ask her about her favorite foods, how her day was or any other topic that interests her.



Q: I want my child to love reading. Is reading books together the only way to get him there?

A: Although reading together is one of the best ways to build your child's love of reading, there are lots of other activities that will boost his literacy skills. Ask your child questions. Send him love notes.

Make up stories together. Keep art supplies on hand and have your child tell you stories about what he draws.

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

Books to delight your early reader

- ***The Wonderful Book*** by Leonid Gore (Scholastic Press). Some animals find a book in the forest and use it to make wonderful things, such as a table, a bed and a hat.
- ***Cuckoo: Cucú*** by Lois Ehlert (Harcourt Brace & Company). Cuckoo is a very pretty but spoiled bird. One day, she is the only bird able to come to the rescue and save their seeds. This book also includes the Spanish telling of the Mexican folktale.
- ***Peanut Butter and Jellyfishes*** by Brian P. Cleary (Millbrook Press). This beautiful alphabet book includes silly descriptions of animals and plants. From antelopes forming an arc to a zebra named Zachary at the zoo, see what all the letters of the alphabet can do!



Building Readers®

How Families Can Help Children Get Ready to Read

Publisher: L. Andrew McLaughlin.

Publisher Emeritus: John H. Wherry, Ed.D.

Editor: Stacey Marin.

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P.O. Box 7474, Fairfax Station, VA 22039-7474

1-800-756-5525, ISSN: 1533-3299

www.parent-institute.com

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Reading Connection

INTERMEDIATE EDITION

Working Together for Learning Success

September 2017

Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program



Book Picks

■ *The Templeton Twins Have an Idea* (Ellis Weiner)

It's double trouble in this mystery about the disappearance of twins John and Abigail Templeton. Their dad is an inventor and the kid-nappers are college-age twins who want to cash in on his invention. The first book in the Templeton Twins series. (Also available in Spanish.)

■ *Eight Dolphins of Katrina: A True Tale of Survival* (Janet Wyman Coleman)

In 2005, Hurricane Katrina swept eight dolphins from their Mississippi aquarium home into the Gulf of Mexico. Your child can read about the dangers the dolphins faced and how their trainers never gave up on rescuing them.



■ *Next Best Junior Chef: Lights, Camera, Cook!*

(Charise Mericle Harper)

A multicultural cast of tweens competes for top chef honors on a reality TV show. This fictional tale captures the contestants' nervousness and excitement as they navigate cooking challenges. The first story in the Next Best Junior Chef series.



■ *Sonia Sotomayor* (Barbara Kramer)

Sonia Sotomayor is America's first Hispanic Supreme Court justice—and only the third woman to serve on the nation's highest court. This easy-to-read biography describes Sotomayor's rise from a humble background, her early interest in the law, and obstacles she overcame.



Boost reading comprehension

Your child can talk, write, and draw her way to better reading comprehension. Try these fun activities to help her understand and remember what she reads.

Talk

Did you know that talking about books can improve your youngster's comprehension skills? Invite her to retell stories and share details about what she reads. Ask open-ended questions like "Why do you think...?" or "What did you like about...?" Describing the story in her own words will prompt her to think through what she read and to organize her thoughts.

Write

Encourage your youngster to jot down insights and questions while reading. The process of asking and answering "How does Jamal really feel about having a baby brother?" lets her monitor how well she is understanding what she reads. *Tip:* Sticky notes are ideal for writing notes and marking passages, or she could use a small notebook.



Draw

Like a mountain, the plot of a story builds to a peak. Have your child draw a mountain on a sheet of paper and illustrate it with characters, places, and objects from the story. On one side of the mountain, she can write about the characters, setting, and problem. At the top, she could summarize the most critical part. And on the way down, she might explain how the problem was solved. ■

Three cheers for writing!

When your youngster shows you his summer vacation essay or book report, you have a chance to recognize his writing accomplishments. Here are three ways to celebrate.

1. Display. Reserve a wall in the hallway or family room to hang writing samples. You might even frame them like the masterpieces they are.

2. Arrange a read-aloud. Encourage your child to read his writing to grandparents, aunts, and uncles when they visit—or during a video call.

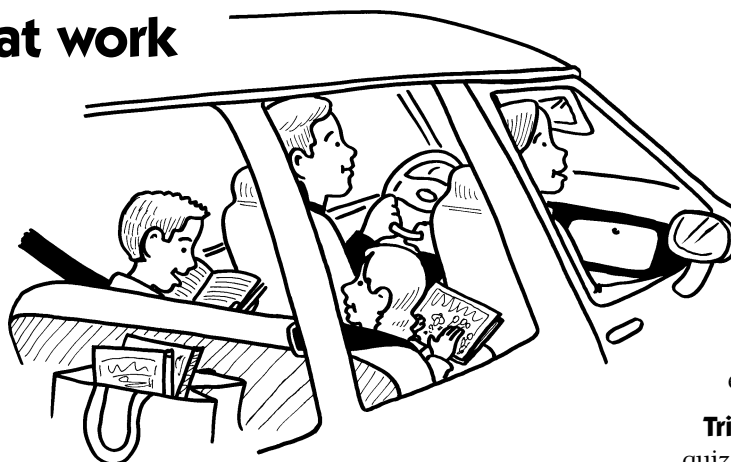
3. Create a coffee table book. Let your youngster decorate a binder to fill with his favorite stories or reports. Place it on a coffee table so visitors can enjoy his work. ■



Reading rituals that work

Establishing regular routines helps busy families find more time to read. Fit more reading into your child's day with these clever ideas.

Breakfast broadcasts. Morning reading can be as easy as bringing the newspaper to the table. Your youngster might read movie reviews, sports columns, or comics. Or ask him to check the weather page and announce the forecast.



Road-trip reads.

In the car, keep a stash of books that includes short items—perhaps an almanac, a book of world records, a volume of poetry, or a joke book. Your child could pull out a variety and read to everyone.

Trivia time. Cards from quiz games (*Trivial Pursuit*

Junior, *Beat the Parents*) offer fun ways to get kids reading—and learning new facts—any time of day. Put a batch of questions in a tote bag, and quiz each other after dinner or in a waiting room. ■

Parent 2 Parent Loving the school library

My daughter Lily loves library day at school, but last year she kept forgetting to return books. This year, we have a plan to help her remember so she can check out new books each week.



I asked Lily to find a special place for library books. She covered a cardboard box with wrapping paper and put it on the counter with her books inside. Then, she added a sign that says “Thursday: Books go in backpack” on one side and “Friday is Library Day!” on the other.

Now Lily flips the sign to the front on Thursdays and to the back on Fridays. Hopefully our new plan will remind Lily to return books throughout the year—and enjoy the new books she brings home each Friday. ■

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Fun with Words

Pop goes the spelling word!

Give your youngster's spelling study time a fun burst of energy with this active balloon game.

1. Blow up one balloon for each spelling word on your child's list. Have her use a permanent marker to write a word on each balloon.
2. Now the action starts! She and her friends take turns picking a balloon and saying the word that's written on it.
3. Players bat the balloon back and forth. Each time someone hits it, that person calls out one letter in the word in order. The player who finishes spelling the word by shouting the last letter gets to pop the balloon with a pin.
4. The “popper” chooses another balloon and starts the next round. Repeat until all the words have been spelled and all the balloons have been popped. ■



Q&A

Brainstorming story starters

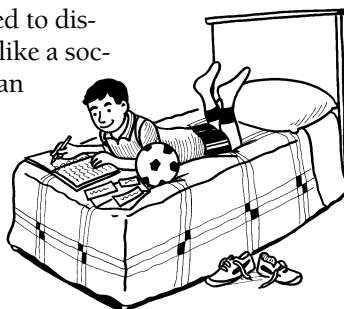
Q For homework this year, my son has to write a weekly journal entry on a topic of his choice. He's already saying he doesn't know what to write about. How can I help?

A Your son may be surprised to discover that an ordinary event like a soccer game or a family picnic can inspire an interesting story.

Chat with him regularly about his week—what was exciting, surprising, or funny? He might say, “Even though my team

lost, I made a great save,” or “I love picnics because Dad packs surprises like spicy mustard with pretzels.”

After these conversations, your son could write story ideas on slips of paper (“Soccer save,” “Picnic treats”). Put them in an envelope for easy reference. Do this together frequently, and he'll soon develop a knack for brainstorming story ideas all by himself! ■



BUILDING READERS®

How Families Can Help Children Become Better Readers

Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District
Title 1

Get your family into a reading routine at the beginning of the school year

Reading with your child every day is one of the best ways to improve her reading skills. Establish a regular reading time at the beginning of the school year, and it will become routine in no time!

To develop reading routines and make reading a regular part of your family's schedule:

- **Bring books anywhere** your child may need entertainment (in the car, on the bus, in line at the grocery store, etc.).
- **Read favorite books** at the breakfast table before school.
- **Visit the library regularly** and fill a special bag with new books to read.
- **Celebrate what you read.** Have themed book dinners as a family. Hang a paper "reading tree" on the wall and add a leaf for each book your child reads.



Source: "Family Reading Traditions," Family Reading Partnership, niswc.com/family_reading_routines.

"A book is the only place in which you can examine a fragile thought without breaking it."

—Edward P. Morgan

Teach your child 'active' reading strategies

Your child's homework is to read a passage of his textbook. He looks the section over, and he's ready to begin. Help him read "actively," rather than just reading straight through without stopping. This involves doing things while he reads. Remind your child to:

- **Stop and think.** What are the main points? What has he learned? Is anything confusing? How does the material relate to other things that he has learned?
- **Restate what the book says.** If your child puts things in his own words, it may reassure him that he "gets it."
- **Make a list of confusing points.** This will help your child figure out exactly what concepts he needs to ask his teacher to clarify.

Source: "Lesson #11—Textbook Reading, Part 2," PinkMonkey.com, niswc.com/textbook_reading_strategies.

Talking with your child builds reading and language skills

Talking with your child provides countless benefits. When he talks with you, your child builds vocabulary and conversation skills. He develops thought patterns and makes connections that will boost language and reading skills, too.



So talk with your child often. Ask about what he's learning in school. Discuss his hobbies and interests. And of course, talk about what you're reading together!

Discuss common elements of word families

To make reading easier for your child, focus on word patterns. Together, list words that sound and look alike, such as *walk*, *talk* and *chalk*. Grouping words with similar endings can make them easier to learn.



Source: "Word Families Can Help Struggling Readers," Literacy Connections, niswc.com/word_families.

Make reading appealing to your child

As children grow older, reading may become less attractive to them. To prevent this problem, make reading irresistible to your child. Here's how:



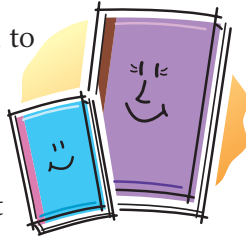
- **Encourage your child to read** age-appropriate materials she enjoys.
- **Create a cool reading spot.**
- **Let your child stay up** on weekends to read.
- **Suggest a book swap** with friends.

Launch a family book club!

The beginning of the school year is the perfect time to get everyone in the family excited about reading together—and starting a family book club is a great way to do it.

To get your book club started:

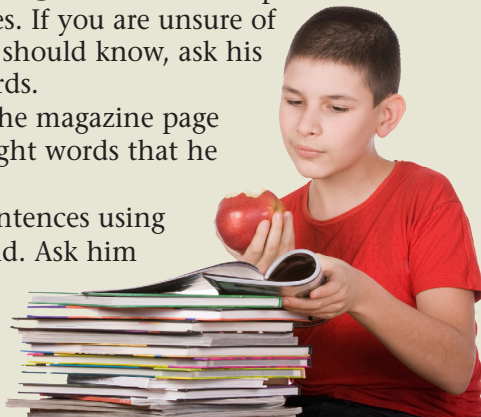
- **Pick a time.** Designate one evening a month to be your book club night.
- **Get everyone involved.** Have your child invite everyone from siblings and grandparents to join you on the big night.
- **Choose a book.** Find something exciting that no one has read yet. Make a schedule for sharing the book so that everyone will have time to read it before you meet up to discuss it.
- **Talk about the book.** What did everyone think about the characters? What differences of opinion did family members have? What was each person's favorite or least favorite part?



Search for sight words in magazines

Sight words are words your child can recognize and produce without stopping to sound them out. To help him practice them, grab an old magazine or newspaper and then:

- **Write a few of your child's sight words** at the top of some magazine pages. If you are unsure of sight words your child should know, ask his teacher for a list of words.
- **Ask your child to search** the magazine page and circle any of his sight words that he finds.
- **Have your child create** sentences using the words that he found. Ask him to read the words back to you and review their meanings as well as how they are spelled.



Q: My child is learning to read, but it's hard for her. She doesn't want to pick up books at home. How can I help?

A: Make books around the house as appealing as possible. Choose stories that include mostly familiar words. Look for subjects she loves or new topics she might embrace. Also consider books with short items

to read, such as jokes or rhymes. Books with appealing pictures are great, too!

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

Help your child find time to read

Reading for a few minutes before breakfast or while waiting for the bus adds up! To help your child find extra time to read:



- **Suggest reading as an option** when she says she's bored.
- **Help your child schedule** time for pleasure reading.
- **Try not to interrupt** her when she is reading.

For lower elementary readers:

- **Max's Words** by Kate Banks (Frances Foster Books). Max watches his brothers collect stamps and coins, but they won't share. So Max finds something of his own to collect.
- **Tricky Vic: The Impossibly True Story of the Man Who Sold the Eiffel Tower** by Greg Pizzoli (Viking). Learn about Robert Miller, who developed a sneaky plan to make money off France's famous landmark.



For upper elementary readers:

- **A Room With a Zoo** by Jules Feiffer (Michael di Capua Books). Julie loves animals, so she devises a plan to get as many pets as she can.
- **The Mummy's Mother** by Tony Johnston (The Blue Sky Press). When a mummy's tomb is disturbed, the mummy of a 10-year-old waits to see what will happen to his family.

Building Readers®

How Families Can Help Children Become Better Readers

Publisher: L. Andrew McLaughlin.

Publisher Emeritus: John H. Wherry, Ed.D.

Editor: Stacey Marin.

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P.O. Box 7474, Fairfax Station, VA 22039-7474

1-800-756-5525, ISSN: 1533-3302

www.parent-institute.com

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Math+Science Connection

Building Excitement and Success for Young Children

September 2017

Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program



TOOLS & TIDBITS

Math on display

Celebrate your child's math learning by displaying her schoolwork. Have her make an "I love math!" banner to hang on a wall. When she brings home a shape collage or a math explanation she's proud of, hang it underneath. You'll help her feel good about what she's learning and send the message that math is important.

Mirror, mirror

Suggest that your youngster play with a mirror to explore the science of reflection.

Get him thinking by asking, "If you want to see more of yourself, should you walk closer to the mirror or farther away?" Encourage him to come up with questions, too.



Book picks

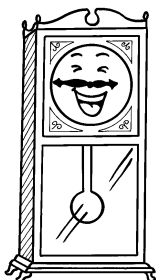
■ *Ada's Ideas: The Story of Ada Lovelace, the World's First Computer Programmer* (Fiona Robinson) is the true tale of a girl who used a love of numbers to become the world's first programmer—many years before computers were invented!

■ Help your child explore the wonder of maple seeds and trees with *Next Time You See a Maple Seed* (Emily Morgan). Part of the Next Time You See series.

Just for fun

Q: What has two hands, a round face, always runs, but stays in place?

A: A clock!



Hop, skip, and count

Here's an idea that's good for your child's brain *and* body: Play outdoor games that let him practice counting in all sorts of ways.

Hop along

For stop-and-start counting practice, let your youngster design his own hopscotch game with sidewalk chalk. He might draw and number 10 or 20 circles in a zig-zag. Roll a die. For 5, he hops and counts 5 circles ("1, 2, 3, 4, 5"). Roll again. He starts where he left off—if his new roll is a 2, he would hop twice and count "6, 7." When he reaches the end, it's your turn.



3 giant gallops forward and 2 tiny steps backward"). Your child will practice counting forward (or backward) with each move. The first player to reach the "Friend" wins.

Freeze and find

This tag game lets your youngster count objects to match a given number. Choose someone to be "It," and everyone else runs. "It" tags someone, yells "Freeze," and names a number 1–10 (say, 3). The person can be "unfrozen" by showing "It" 3 of something, perhaps 3 stripes on his shirt or 3 rocks on the ground. Play until everyone has been frozen once—the last one becomes "It." 🦋

Move ahead (or not)

Try this twist on Mother, May I. One player is the "Friend." The others line up opposite him and take turns asking permission to move forward—using a number and a movement. *Example:* "Friend, may I take 6 giant jumps forward?" "Friend" says "Yes" or gives an alternative ("No, but you may take

Why is the grass wet?

Give your junior scientist the opportunity to discover *morning dew* with this activity.

1. Suggest that she pick two matching objects (say, tennis balls) and place one outside. Keep the other inside.
2. First thing tomorrow morning, have her touch both items. Are they wet or dry?
3. Let your child repeat this for several days. Help her record the daytime and nighttime weather and whether the outdoor item is damp. If it didn't rain, why might the one outside be wet?

What's the science? When the air cools down at night, water condenses from the air and clings to grass, spiderwebs, and toys your youngster leaves outside overnight! 🦋



Graphing, back-to-school style


Pencils, markers, glue sticks, and crayons may mean the start of the school year, but they can also mean the start of a fun graphing project for your youngster.

Create it. Have your child gather back-to-school supplies and sort each type into a different pile. Help her use yarn to make a giant grid with even columns and rows. To make her graph, she should put markers in one column, crayons in another, and so on, one item per box.



Analyze it. Let her use her 3-D graph to tell you about her supplies. Which column has the fewest items? The most? Are there more markers or crayons? How many more markers are there than crayons?

Draw it. Now your youngster could turn her 3-D graph into a picture graph. On a sheet of paper, she can label columns (“markers,” “crayons”) across the

bottom. Then, have her draw a picture representing each item (example: 8 markers in the markers column, 12 crayons in the crayons column)—again lining them up evenly. Now when she puts her supplies away, she’ll still know how many she has of each! 

MATH CORNER Number sandwiches

When do 3 numbers make a sandwich? When the middle number is “sandwiched” between the other two! Help your child learn about “greater than” and “less than” with this game.


Materials: deck of cards (face cards removed, ace = 1)

Deal each player 2 “slices of bread” (cards) faceup. Stack the remaining cards facedown.

Each person puts his smaller number on the left. *Note:* If the numbers are the same or 1 number apart (like 4 and 5), draw a different card.



Take turns drawing a “sandwich ingredient” (1 card) from the deck. If it “fits,” (it’s greater than the lower card and less than the higher card), it’s a number sandwich! *Example:* 7 fits between 4 and 8. The player keeps all 3 cards and takes 2 new cards to start another sandwich. If the one he draws doesn’t fit, he returns the card to the bottom of the deck, and his turn ends.

When the deck is gone, the player with the most sandwiches wins. 

OUR PURPOSE

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


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www.rfeonline.com
ISSN 1942-910X

PARENT TO PARENT

Photos full of math

My son Sammy came home excited about an activity at school where “we saw math in all the pictures!” He said his class looked through books and made up “math captions” for the illustrations.

He wanted to show me how, so he pointed to a picture in his favorite book and said, “Four people are fishing, and 2 are boys.” Then, Sammy asked me for a caption, and I said, “Half of the people fishing are girls.” We were surprised by how many “math things” we noticed. When he said, “With 4 people, there are 8 eyes,” I added, “There are 2 blonds, 1 person with brown hair, and 1 person with no hair.”

We had so much fun that now at bedtime we read each book twice—once for the story and once for the math! 



SCIENCE LAB

No brown apples, please

Encourage your child to enjoy apples at snack time with this experiment that keeps them from turning brown.


You’ll need: 2 freshly cut apple slices, lemons, bowl, 2 paper plates, marker

Here’s how: Let your youngster put one apple slice in a bowl and squeeze lemon juice to cover it. After 1 minute, have her move the slice to a paper plate labeled “lemon juice.” The other slice goes on a plate labeled “no lemon juice.” Ask her

to set a timer for 60 minutes. What color are the slices when it rings?

What happens? The plain apple slice will turn brown. The slice with lemon juice will not.

Why? Apples contain an enzyme that reacts with the oxygen in air to turn them brown. Lemon juice stops that reaction.

Idea: Suggest that your child try the experiment with other juices, milk, or vinegar. What are the results? 



Recipes for Success

Practical Activities to Help Your Child Succeed

SEPTEMBER 2017

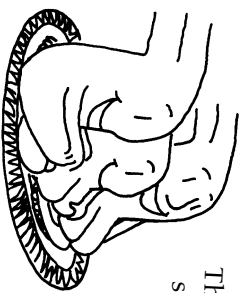
READING

Stage a puppet show

Using puppets to act out a story is a creative way to stretch your youngster's reading comprehension and oral language skills.

Ingredients: book, markers, craft supplies, old socks, large cardboard box

First, ask your child to pick a story. Read it together until she knows the plot well. Next, help her make puppets and a stage. For the characters, she can draw eyes with markers on socks and glue on yarn for hair or fur. A big cardboard box with a window cut out of it, or a table with a sheet draped over it, will make a great puppet theater.



Then, have your youngster rehearse, rereading the story as she practices. Finally, gather an audience, and let the show begin!

SCIENCE

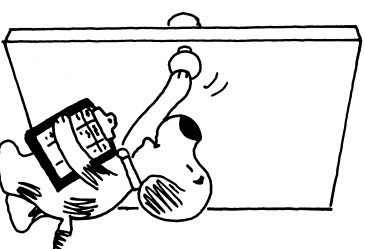
Thumbs up

What would life be like without *opposable thumbs*? After all, most animals don't have thumbs that can touch their other fingers and easily grasp objects like ours do.

Ingredients: paper, pencil

Help your youngster list 10 everyday activities he does with his hands (opening doors, eating with a fork, typing). On another sheet of paper, he can make three columns labeled "Easy," "Hard," and "Impossible."

Next, let him try each activity without using his thumbs and rate it. For instance, he could put waving hello in the "Easy" column, tying shoes in the "Hard" column, and buttoning a shirt in the "Impossible" column.



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."

MEMORY

Mnemonics help cement

facts in your child's mind. How many can he come up with? To remember when to use *principal* or *principle*, he might say the school principal is his pal. "FACE" could remind him that the musical notes on the spaces of the treble clef are F, A, C, and E.



SEQUENCING

Look at family photos with your youngster. See if she can put them in order from longest ago to most recent. Ask questions to help her decide. ("Was your brother's birthday before or after our summer picnic?") *Idea:* Have her arrange the pictures in a photo album and write a caption for each one.



MATH

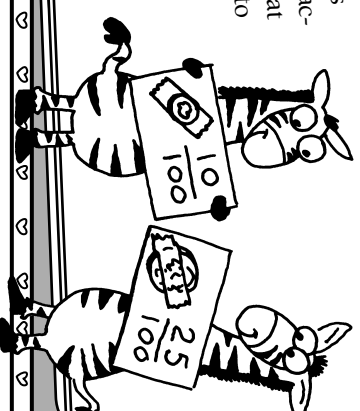
Fractions of money

Pocket change can help your child learn to add fractions.

Ingredients: coins (at least one penny, nickel, dime, and quarter), tape, index cards, pencils, paper

Have your youngster tape each coin to a separate index card. Next to the coin, she should write the fraction of a dollar that the coin represents (penny = $\frac{1}{100}$, nickel = $\frac{5}{100}$, dime = $\frac{10}{100}$, quarter = $\frac{25}{100}$). Stack the cards facedown. Give each person pencil and paper for scoring. Players take turns drawing a card, adding the fraction to their score, and putting the card at the bottom of the pile. The first person to reach or go over $\frac{100}{100}$ (\$1.00) wins.

Example: If a player draws a penny ($\frac{1}{100}$) and then a quarter ($\frac{25}{100}$), her score is $\frac{26}{100}$ ($\frac{1}{100} + \frac{25}{100}$).



Recipes for Success

Practical Activities to Help Your Child Succeed

SEPTEMBER 2017

Character Corner

FRIENDLINESS

Help your youngster practice ways to make friends. Together, brainstorm three things to do when she meets someone new. She might introduce herself, invite the other child to play, or offer to share a favorite book.



CITIZENSHIP

Good citizens take care of their homes and communities. Discuss ways to do your part. For instance, raking leaves keeps them from blowing into neighbors' yards, and returning library books means others can read them.



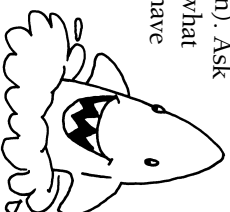
EMPATHY

Find everyday opportunities to teach your child empathy. Ask how he would feel if he were being teased or if he got a paper cut. Then, encourage him to think of a way to make a friend or sibling in that situation feel better (stick up for his friend, get a bandage).



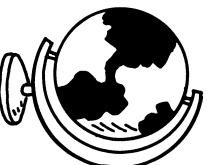
LOGIC

Sharpen your youngster's thinking skills with this contest. Name three objects that have something in common (comb, shark, person). Ask your child to guess what they share (they all have teeth). Then, switch roles, and she can come up with three objects for you.



GEOGRAPHY

Encourage your child to find the names of places on a globe or the world map with this challenge. List 10 things to locate (a sea, the word north), and give each person a copy. See who can check off the most places.



WRITING

Words that persuade

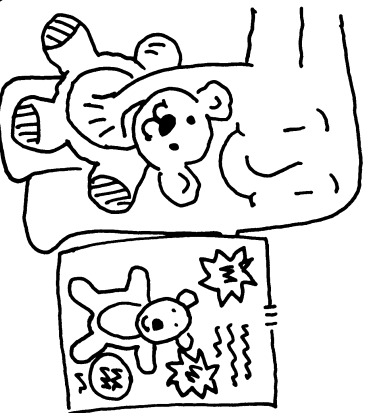
"Toys for sale!" Let your child practice persuasive writing by creating an advertisement for a favorite toy.

Ingredients: magazines, pencil, paper, crayons

With your youngster, look through magazines for ads that catch his attention. Ask him which words and phrases might persuade readers to buy the products. *Examples:* "Provides hours of fun play" or "Recommended by more dentists!"

Then, suggest that he write an ad of his own.

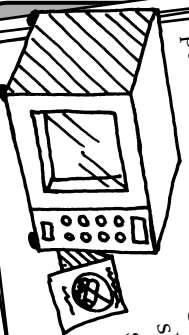
Maybe he'll advertise "The fastest truck in the toy box" or "The softest teddy bear you can find." Encourage him to illustrate his ad—pictures can help persuade, too!



SAFETY

Talk with your child about ways for her to stay safe in the kitchen, and come up with rules ("Use the stove only with an adult," "Don't put aluminum foil in the microwave").

Suggest that she make safety signs to display.



Congratulations!

We finished _____ activities together on this poster.

Signed (parent or adult family member)

Signed (child)

DIVISION

Have your youngster turn a sheet of paper into a baseball diamond, coloring the corners for home plate and three bases. Let him put a token "at bat" while you call out a division problem ($36 \div 4$). For each correct answer (9), he moves the token to the next base. When he has scored three runs, trade roles.

$$64 \div 8$$