

# Dennis-Yarmouth Title I

From the Title I Coordinator

Volume 1, Issue viii

April 2018

*For those of you with 3rd graders, the mathematics portion of the MCAS will be given in May. (ELA MCAS will be given in April) With that in mind, I thought I would give you a little brain teaser to work on problem-solving skills, measurement, and gathering and interpreting data.*

Shannon is one of the greatest cookie bakers of all time. Aside from such obvious ingredients as flour, butter and eggs, her true secret ingredient is water. Shannon says that her cookies must have exactly four ounces of water. To hold the water, she uses a jar that will contain, when full, exactly five ounces and a jar that, when full, will contain exactly three ounces. There are absolutely no markings on either jar other than their 5 oz. and 3 oz. labels. As stated earlier, Shannon



wants to have exactly four ounces of water to support her baking needs.

Please know that Shannon has access to all the water she may need by using the tap in the kitchen sink.

Also know that there are no other jars available to her. The problem is therefore, with all of this water available and only a five-ounce and a three ounce jar, how can Shannon be sure that she will have **exactly four ounces of water?**

**Hint:** This requires some thinking and using your head! Anyone interested in the answer, please check the newsletter next month!

**Dennis Town Meeting May 8th**



**answers to your questions, please contact me, Cookie Stewart at 508-778-7599 or [stewartv@dy-regional.k12.ma.us](mailto:stewartv@dy-regional.k12.ma.us) Or at MES 440 Higgins Crowell Rd. West Yarmouth, MA 02673**

**REMINDER: Yarmouth Town Meeting May 5th**

**Voting in both towns on May 15th**
































# Digital Parenting BINGO

I created the Digital Parenting Bingo card as a way to easily show some talking points for parents that are dealing with either school-issued devices and/or personal mobile devices. [CARL HOOKER](#)

Digital Parent				
B	I	N	G	O
 Devices in a common space	 Check filter settings	 Turn devices off 30 min before bed	 Guided Access for additional focus	 Charge the device nightly
 Rules at a friend's house	 Know their account information	 Be a good role model	 No devices at dinner table	 Spot check the photo roll
 What happens if they come across inappropriate content	 Discuss how the device is being used	 FREE WiFi	 Who are they sharing their data with?	 Balance entertainment vs. educational screen time
 Check battery usage for which apps they are using	 Set limits	 Check browser history	 Create a tech-use agreement with your child	 Enable restrictions if necessary
 Balance between tech and non-tech times	 Encourage problem-solving	 Keep device protected	 What happens when they come across an online stranger	 Spot check email and social media accounts

CC BY @mrhooker

**Devices in a common space** – whenever possible, try and keep devices in an open, common, shared space. Even with the best filters, it's a good idea to not allow devices behind closed doors. **Check filter settings** – While devices are filtered on campus, they are on your network at home. Check your filter settings with your Internet Service Provider. Many provide free filtering software or you could use a service like [OpenDNS](#) or [Disney's Circle](#) to help monitor and regulate activity on your home network. **Turn off devices 30 minutes before bed** – The brain comes equipped with a circadian rhythm that adjusts based on the day-night cycle of the sun. In [his TED Talk](#), Dr. Russell Foster suggests that ideally, you should turn off bright lights and screens at least 30 minutes before bed to get a better night's sleep.

# Home & School

## Working Together for School Success

### CONNECTION®

April 2018

Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program



#### SHORT NOTES

**"I remember that!"**

Your child may recall information better if she uses strategies to cement facts and details in her mind. For example, she might close her eyes and visualize each type of coin with its value written on it. Or she could silently repeat instructions immediately after the teacher gives them.

#### Learn about birds

Making a bird feeder will encourage your youngster to observe nature. Have him coat an empty toilet paper tube with peanut butter and roll it in birdseed. Hang it from a tree branch. Then, your child can sketch his feathered visitors and try to identify them using a library book or website.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day is April 26. If your employer allows it, give your youngster an on-site glimpse of your job. Show her what you do, and try to assign her a special job. She might help with a window display or organize your files, for instance.

#### Worth quoting

"We all live with the objective of being happy; our lives are all different and yet the same." *Anne Frank*

#### JUST FOR FUN

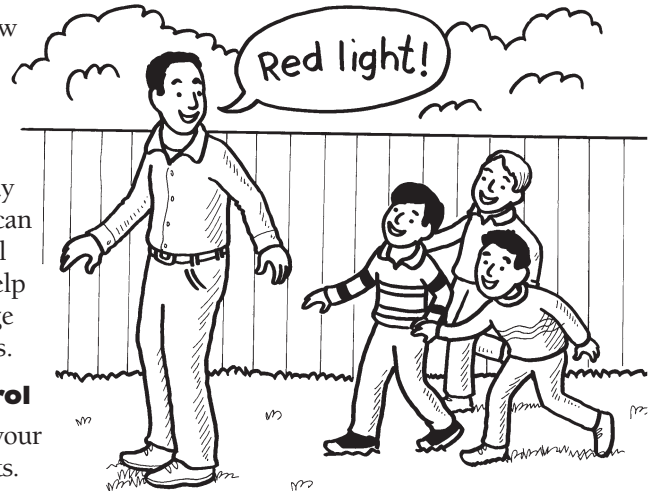
**Q:** You can see me in water, but I never get wet. What am I?

**A:** My reflection.



## In charge of me

If your child knows how to manage his emotions and behavior, he'll do better at getting along with others and handling the ups and downs of everyday life. These skills, in turn, can make him more successful in school and at home. Help your youngster take charge of himself with these ideas.



#### Encourage self-control

- Play games that require your child to think before he acts. For instance, try Red Light, Green Light. Name a way for him to cross the room or yard (skip, hop, tiptoe). He'll have to resist the urge to move unless you give him the "Green light" and make himself stop when you say "Red light."
- Tell your youngster what you expect before heading into situations that are hard for him. Maybe he tends to put random items in the grocery cart. Describe what you want him to do instead, such as getting permission before taking groceries off a shelf. Then, let him know you notice when he does what you asked.

#### Be a coach

- Ask questions or make gentle suggestions when your child is frustrated. Say he's upset because he can't solve a math problem for homework. You could ask, "Where could you find help?" Or recommend that he take a break or temporarily switch to another assignment.
- Talk about how you deal with your own feelings. You might say, "I'm aggravated about this notice from the cable company. I'll call customer service once I've had a chance to calm down."♥

## Play it safe

Visiting playgrounds gives your youngster a chance to be active and social. Keep her safe with these precautions.

**Supervision.** Watch your child closely as she plays. Or consider taking turns with a neighbor who has kids—that gives your youngster the added benefit of having a playmate.

**Equipment use.** Remind her to go down the slide instead of up it and to swing from monkey bars rather than climbing on top of them. Also, she should stand or walk a safe distance away from swings that other children are using.

*Note:* Tell your youngster never to chase after a ball that rolls into the street. She can ask you or another adult to get it for her.♥





## Kindness: Spring into action

Being kind is always in season—and it can give your child a more positive outlook and help her think of others. Try these tips for encouraging kindness.

**Surprise, surprise!** Together, brainstorm ways your youngster could surprise someone with kindness. She might leave a cheerful message for a neighbor (“You



brighten my day”) with sidewalk chalk and sign her name. Or perhaps she’ll make a list of things she admires about a sibling and put it where he will find it. At school, maybe she’ll let a classmate go ahead of her at the water fountain.

**Reach out.** As a family, think about how to show

kindness in your community. Deliver Meals on Wheels, and have your child decorate place mats to include. Or save spare change in a jar—when it’s full, buy crayons and coloring books from the dollar store and donate them to a children’s hospital.♥

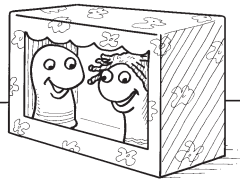
## ACTIVITY CORNER

### A passion for hobbies

Having a hobby gives your youngster a productive way to spend free time while building skills he can apply in school. Encourage him to develop a hobby with this advice.

#### Find a good fit

Notice what your child is interested in. If he likes putting on puppet shows or building things, look for supplies at home or visit a craft store. He might discover odds and ends to make a puppet theater or discover a robot-building kit.



#### Provide opportunity

Make sure your youngster has time to explore his hobby—limiting screen time can help! Also, give him a portable container for storing supplies or his collection of trading cards or stamps. He’ll have an easy way to enjoy his hobby wherever he goes.

#### Boost knowledge

Suggest that your child read books or watch how-to videos. A hobby shop may offer free classes. Or the school, library, or community center might have a club or class related to his hobby.♥

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Resources for Educators,  
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128 N. Royal Avenue • Front Royal, VA 22630  
800-394-5052 • rfeustomer@wolterskluwer.com  
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## PARENT TO PARENT

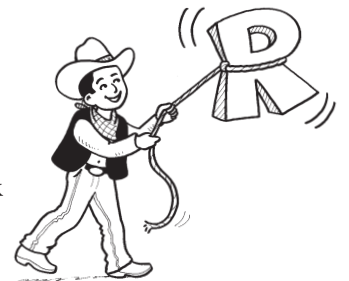
### How to give effective feedback

My third grader, Jack, gets speech therapy to help him say his Rs. His therapist shared ideas for giving him feedback when I work with him at home—and her suggestions are useful for more than just speech practice.

First, she recommended that I be specific so Jack knows exactly what he did well. I might tell him, “You said your Rs correctly at the beginning and the end of river.” I’ve been trying out the therapist’s advice in other situations, too. Recently, I said, “It was nice of you to help your brother reach that toy,” instead of, “You’re a good brother.”

I also encourage Jack by being positive. When he mispronounces a word, I’ll say something like, “You’ve almost got it! Try again.” That strategy also comes in handy when he wipes down the kitchen table but leaves a few crumbs, for example.

The more I use these techniques, the more natural they feel. Jack’s speech is improving, and I feel like my parenting is, too.♥



## Q & A Reading between the lines

**Q:** My daughter’s teacher said the class is learning to make inferences—or, as Sadie explained it, “read between the lines.” What are fun ways to work on this at home?

**A:** Try using everyday situations to let your child practice inferring. You might have family members put umbrellas and rain boots by the door before bed and ask, “What can you infer?” (It’s supposed to rain

tomorrow.) Or set out a colander, and boil a pot of water. She might infer that you’re making macaroni for dinner.

When your daughter makes a statement like “The dog sure doesn’t like thunder!” say, “How can you tell?” She may point out that he hides under the table or is glued to your side during storms.

Ask these same questions when you read together: “What can you infer?” and “How can you tell?” Her real-life practice is sure to come in handy.♥



# Math+Science Connection

Beginning Edition

Building Excitement and Success for Young Children

April 2018

Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program

## TOOLS & TIDBITS

### Think before you roll

Your child will practice thinking like a mathematician with this game. Each player lists the numbers 1–12 on his paper. Take turns rolling either 1 or 2 dice, and cross out the number rolled. If he only has the number 8 left, how many dice should he roll? That's where the strategy comes in. The first person to get every number wins.

### Changing seasons

How are winter and spring the same and different? Encourage your youngster to compare the seasons by drawing a Venn diagram with one circle



labeled "Winter" and the other "Spring." The shared part in the center is for both. She might draw icicles in the winter circle, flowers for spring, and rain in the middle.

### Web picks

Have a soccer shootout, race cars, or play tic-tac-toe with math problems at [funbrain.com/numbers.html](http://funbrain.com/numbers.html). Adjust the game levels to match your child's growing skills.

Your youngster will learn all about animals at [switchzoo.com](http://switchzoo.com). Activities include building a habitat and listening to animal sounds.

## Just for fun

**Q:** When I point up, it's bright. When I point down, it's dark. What am I?

**A:** A light switch!



## Steps to mental math

Learning to add or subtract in your head doesn't happen overnight. Instead, it's a gradual process that starts with objects you can touch and pictures you can see. Help your youngster make her way to mental math with these steps.

### Step 1: Use objects.

Let your child draw a ladder with the rungs numbered 1–10 for a small toy to "climb" up and down. Then, say a problem, such as  $7 - 2$ . Have her put the toy on the rung labeled 7 and make it climb down 2 rungs. What number did she land on? (5) That's her answer!

### Step 2: Draw a picture.

Give your youngster another problem ( $4 + 5$ ), and encourage her to sketch or paint a picture to find the solution. For example, she might paint 4 blue butterflies and 5 yellow butterflies and say, "There are 9 butterflies in all."

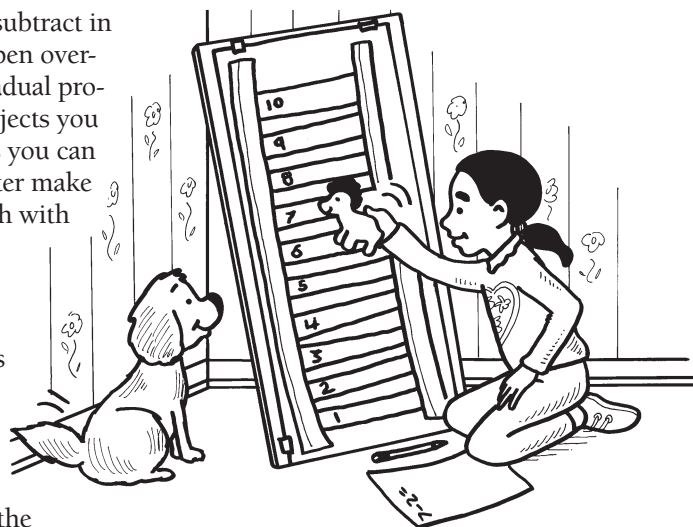
## Fun with sun prints

Here's a science project that's powered by the spring sunshine!

Have your child gather objects from the ground (leaves, twigs, rocks). Then, he can place one piece of black construction paper in the sun and another in the shade, and arrange a few items on each paper.

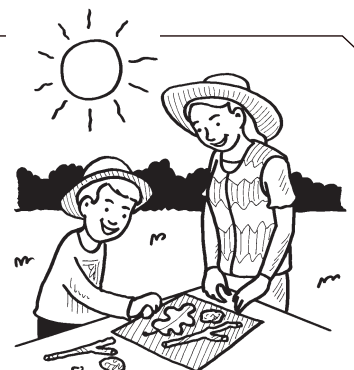
Check back in 3–4 hours. When your youngster removes the objects, he'll see the paper left in the sun is lighter in the areas that weren't covered up. That's because the items blocked the sunlight, keeping it from bleaching the paper. The paper in the shade stayed the same because there was no sunlight to bleach it.

**Idea:** Your child's project can be a puzzle, too! Put the objects in a bag, and have him pull out one at a time and match them up with their sun prints.



### Step 3: Visualize it.

To imagine and solve a problem in her head, your child could start with small numbers, perhaps  $3 + 1$ . Have her picture her toy climbing a ladder, starting on 3 and counting 1 more rung (answer: 4). Or she could make a "drawing" in her mind. Give each other different kinds of problems and use bigger numbers as she gets more comfortable with mental math.



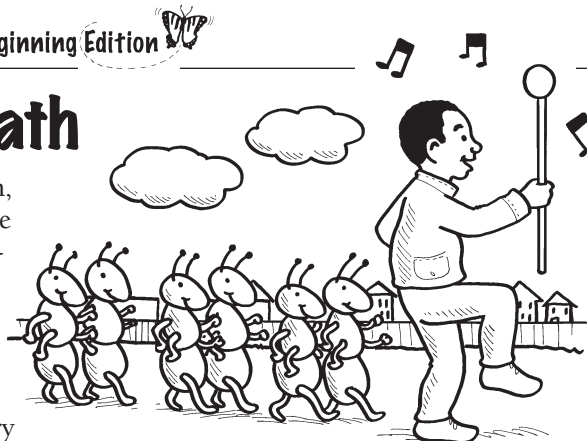


# Sing a song of math

"The ants go marching 2 by 2, hurrah, hurrah..." Many children's songs include numbers, making them ideal for practicing counting out loud. Try these musical activities with your youngster.

**Sing and clap.** Ask your child to choose a counting song like "The Ants Go Marching" or "Hickory Dickory Dock." Whenever he sings a number, have him clap that many times. That means he gets to clap once after singing "The clock struck 1" and 12 times for "The clock struck 12."

**Pick new numbers.** Substitute more challenging numbers for the ones in a song. Your youngster might sing "One Hundred



Little Monkeys" instead of "Ten Little Monkeys" and count backward by 10s ("10 fell off and bumped their heads...90 little monkeys jumping on the bed"). Or name a random number to start with in a song like "This Old Man" so he can count on from numbers other than 1. ("This old man, he played 17...")

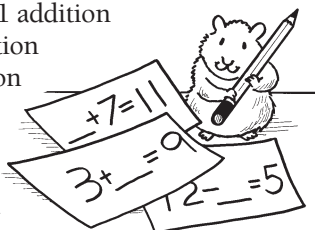
**Make your own.** Turn regular songs into counting songs by putting numbers into the lyrics. For example, the passengers in "The Wheels on the Bus" could count ("The people on the bus count 1, 2, 3...") or skip count ("2, 4, 6...").

## MATH CORNER

### Be a math detective

Help! Some numbers are missing! Your youngster can use early algebra skills to find them.

Write 11 addition or subtraction problems on separate index cards, but leave a different number from 0 to 10 missing from each problem. Vary the locations of the missing numbers ( $3 + \underline{\quad} = 9$ ,  $\underline{\quad} + 7 = 11$ ,  $12 - \underline{\quad} = 5$ ).



Next, ask your child to number 11 clothespins, 0–10. While she closes her eyes, hide them around the house or yard. To play, have her search for the clothespins and clip them into the correct spots in the math problems. She might use small objects, such as marbles, to help her solve them. For  $8 + \underline{\quad} = 10$ , she could count 8 marbles and then count to see how many more she'll need to equal 10 (answer: 2).

## SCIENCE LAB

### The harder you push...

When your child pushes a wagon, it moves forward. But how far can she make it go? With this experiment, she'll see the relationship between force and motion.

**You'll need:** sidewalk chalk, wagon or another toy with wheels, measuring tape, paper, pencil

**Here's how:** On a flat sidewalk, let your youngster draw a starting line with chalk and place the wagon behind it. Then, have her push the wagon gently. She can draw a line where it stops and label the line "1." Ask her to repeat this several times, pushing the wagon harder each time. Finally, help her measure each distance and record the results on paper.

**What happens?** The harder your child pushes the wagon, the farther it moves.

**Why?** A push is a force. The energy from that force transfers to the wagon. The more force used, the more energy transferred, and the farther the object will travel.



## Q & A Everyday measuring

**Q:** My son is learning about measurement in school, and he wants to measure things at home, too. I love his enthusiasm—any ideas?

**A:** It's great that your child likes to measure. Luckily, it's easy to make measuring a part of his daily life.

Appoint him the "measurer" when you cook. Let him use measuring cups and spoons, and encourage him to say the measurement's name. Example: "Here is  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of flour."



When you finish dinner, ask your youngster to put away leftovers. He'll learn about volume (the space taken up by something) as he decides which container to use for leftover rice.

Another idea is to help your son make his own "ruler." Trace his hand on a piece of cardboard, and cut it out. Then, he can use his "hand ruler" to measure household items. The coffee table might be 17 hands long and 8 hands wide, for example. Encourage him to measure everything from the vacuum cleaner to his little brother!

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# BUILDING READERS®

How Families Can Help Children Get Ready to Read

Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District  
Title 1

## Try teacher tips for picking out books to read with preschoolers

There are so many books for young children—how do you choose what to read with your preschooler? Here are some teacher-tested strategies:

- **Select books** that match your child's interests. Look for stories with interesting characters and eye-catching illustrations.
- **Match the story length** with your child's attention span. Consider two or three very short stories instead of one long one.
- **Don't worry** about how old the book is. A story is new to your child if she hasn't heard it before.
- **Stop reading** if your child decides she doesn't like the book. It's OK if you are already a few pages in. Just pick up another book and start again!



*"When I am reading a book, whether wise or silly,  
it seems to me to be alive and talking to me."*

—Jonathan Swift

## Teach your child to take care of books

Learning how to take responsibility for property is an important step for school success. Use books as an example to show your preschooler how to take care of items that belong to him and others:

- **Show him how to use items properly.** If he looks at a book, he should put it away when he's finished. He should not leave it where it might get damaged.
- **Take special care with things that belong to others.** Teach your child to treat library books carefully. Take him to the library when books are due and have him hand them to the librarian himself.

## Celebrate National Poetry Month with your child

April is National Poetry Month, so it's an ideal time to read some poems with your child. Check out a book of silly poems from the library by a poet such as Shel Silverstein or Jack Prelutsky.

When you read with your child, help her listen for patterns and rhymes within the text. Not only will you and your child enjoy reading together, you'll also be creating a poetry lover!



## Let your preschooler turn the pages

When reading with your child, have him turn the pages of the book. This builds important motor and attention skills.

Your child will have to pay close attention to your verbal cues and pauses to figure out when to flip each page!



## Prepare for summer reading fun

No, preschool isn't over. But now is the time to start thinking of ideas for keeping your little one immersed in reading over the summer break.

Be sure to ask your child's teacher for suggestions for:

- **What kinds** of books to read together.
- **Where you** and your child can attend reading events in the community.
- **Which language-learning activities** to do together.



## Spice up your preschooler's language awareness with games

Who said learning to recognize words and sounds is boring? Get your child to love letters and words with these playful activities:

- **Same or Different?** Name two words for your child, and ask her to tell you whether they start with the same sound or different ones. For instance, say, "Pie and potato." See if your child recognizes that they both begin with the *ppp* sound.
- **Word Circle.** Show your child an easy word (such as *and* or *to*) and see how many times she can find it in a short article or piece of junk mail. Each time she spots the word, have her draw a circle around it.



### Nouns are all around!

It's not too early to start teaching your preschooler about grammar. Start with the basics. Explain that a *noun* is a person, place or thing. Together, search the house for a few nouns.



The couch? It's a thing—and a noun. The bathroom? Absolutely—places are nouns, too. And Mommy? She's a person—and the best noun of all!

## Big writing tools can make writing easier for preschoolers

Most preschoolers love to write, even if some of their masterpieces are mostly just scribbles. But not every child this age is good at holding and controlling skinny pencils or crayons.

To inspire your junior scribe to keep trying, offer him other types of writing instruments, including:

- **Chunky crayons,** markers or highlighters.
- **Sidewalk chalk.**
- **Thick pencils** (both regular and colored).

Using bigger, thicker tools can do more than just boost your child's efforts. Each time he picks one up, he is strengthening his fine motor skills—which may help him master those thinner pens and pencils later on!



## Books to delight your early reader

- ***Maybe a Bear Ate It!*** by Robie H. Harris (Orchard Books). What happened to a young cat's favorite book? He can't find it anywhere. A bear must have eaten it—or maybe a stegosaurus stomped on it!
- ***Fletcher and the Springtime Blossoms*** by Julia Rawlinson (Greenwillow Books). The tiny fox is sure those swirling white blossoms are snow. But, wait! They're really flower petals—spring is finally here!
- ***A Leaf Can Be...*** by Laura Purdie Salas (Millbrook Picture Books). A leaf is more than just a leaf. It can be lots of different things! This beautifully illustrated book includes interesting facts about leaves as well as a glossary of leaf-related terms.



**Q:** I have a preschooler and an infant. How do I find time to read to each of them every day?

**A:** You don't always have to squeeze in separate story times for your children. Instead, read together as a family! Give your preschooler the "big kid" job of choosing the books, and then snuggle up and share them with both kids at once.

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

### Building Readers<sup>®</sup>

How Families Can Help Children Get Ready to Read

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# Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

April 2018

Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program

## Book Picks



### Read-aloud favorites

#### ■ **We Dig Worms!**

(Kevin McCloskey)

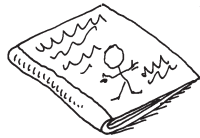
Little wiggly worms have big important jobs. This comic-style nonfiction book blends humor and facts to teach your youngster about earthworms. She'll learn where they live, how they help the soil, why they come out when it rains, and more.



#### ■ **Daisy Dreamer and the Totally True Imaginary Friend**

(Holly Anna)

Daisy is a daydreamer and doodler who spends most of her time pretending. When she receives a magic journal, Daisy's doodle of her imaginary friend Posey comes to life. Now she's off on a trip to the World of Make-Believe! The first book in the Daisy Dreamer series.



#### ■ **Life in Numbers: Write Haiku**

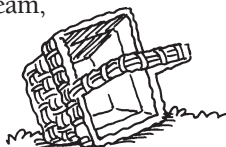
(Lisa Holewa)

Haiku are short poems that follow a pattern. This guide explains the history of haiku and gives your child advice for writing them. He'll find tips for finding topics, choosing words, and playing with structure to create powerful poetry. (Also available in Spanish.)

#### ■ **The Lost Picnic**

(B. B. Cronin)

Two children and their grandfather set off on a picnic, but along the way, their lunch falls out of the basket. Your youngster will enjoy using clues from the story to spot the missing watermelon, ice cream, and other foods in the busy illustrations.



## Writing: Inspired by nature

Spring is the perfect time to head outside and encourage your youngster to use nature as inspiration for writing. Here are ideas for enjoying different types of writing in the great outdoors.



### Rainbow list

Let your child decorate the sidewalk with a colorful list of nature words. Help him use green chalk to write the names of green things he spots (*grass, leaves, caterpillar*) and yellow chalk to list yellow things (*daffodil, butterfly, sun*). Can he find and list something for every color in his box of chalk?

and black feather. I think it came from a blue jay.")

### Nature guide

Give your youngster a basket for collecting items like pebbles, feathers, and twigs. Then, suggest that he use the collection to write a nature guide. He could sketch each object in a notebook and add a description. ("This is a blue

### Animal tales

What is that cute little chipmunk thinking about as he scurries around? What is the grasshopper doing? Your child can work on creative writing skills by writing a story from an animal's point of view. Maybe the chipmunk is training for a marathon. Or the grasshopper is having a jumping contest with his friends. Let your youngster illustrate his story and read it to you.♥

## Read how-to books

Crafts, science experiments, drawing...there's a how-to book for just about every young reader. Try these tips for introducing them to your child:

- Encourage your youngster to choose books based on her interests. If she loves magic, she may like a book on performing tricks. If she's into science, she might pick a book of experiments.
- Help your child see how words and illustrations work together to explain things. For example, she could read the text and then follow a diagram to make a tricky fold for a paper airplane.

*Idea:* Suggest that your youngster write and illustrate her own how-to book about something she enjoys—perhaps building marble runs or making jewelry.♥



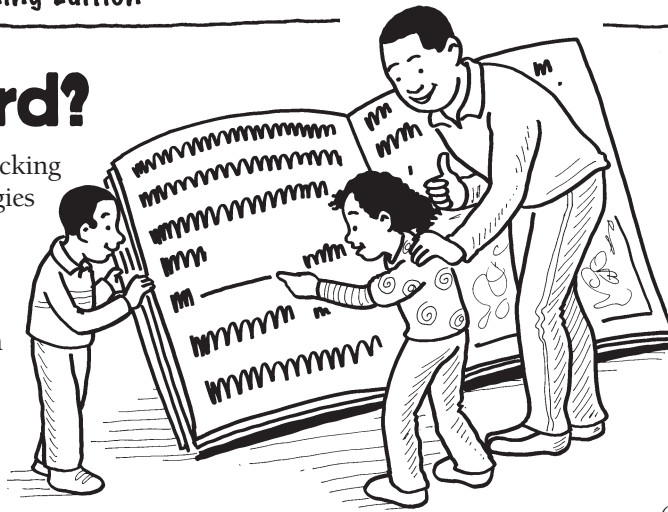
# What's that word?

Reading new words is kind of like cracking a code. Share these code-breaking strategies with your youngster.

**Break it up.** Help your child split a longer word into separate syllables. Ask her to cover up the word with her hand. She can slide her fingers to reveal each syllable, reading them in slow motion as she goes. (“Un-der-cov-er. Undercover!”)

**Switch vowel sounds.** Long and short vowel sounds sometimes make words tricky. For instance, your youngster might misread *robot* as

*fff.*”) Then, have her think of a word that starts with that letter and makes sense in the sentence (*fence*). She can try reading the sentence with the word to decide whether it's right. ♥



*rowboat* if she thinks both Os are long. If a word doesn't sound right, she could substitute a different vowel sound to see if that works better.

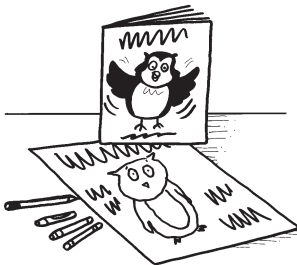
**Leave a blank.** When your child comes across a word she can't easily sound out, suggest that she read the entire sentence, saying only the first sound of the unknown word. (“The dog jumped over the

## Characters with character

Storybooks are full of good role models for your child. This activity will get him thinking about positive character traits he has in common with his favorite fictional friends.

### Identify traits

First, read a book together. Ask your youngster to pick a character to draw a picture of. Then, help him think of good traits the character showed. For instance, maybe an owl demonstrates perseverance and a positive attitude about learning to fly. Help your child write the character traits in the margins around the drawing.



## Fun with Words

### Musical chairs

Put on a little music, and let your youngster and his friends practice spelling words they're learning in school with this version of musical chairs.

Set chairs (one per player) in a circle, and pick one player to be the leader. That person will be in charge of starting and stopping the music and calling out spelling words from a list.

To play, the leader turns on music. The children walk around the chairs and freeze in place when he stops the music. Then, the leader gives each person a different word to spell. If the speller gets it right, he sits down in the nearest chair. If not, he's out and removes a chair from the circle.

Once everyone has had a chance to spell, the leader restarts the music. Play until one person is left—he wins and becomes the new leader. *Note:* If you use up all the words on the list, play regular musical chairs with the remaining players to find the winner! ♥



### Look at me!

Next, have him draw a “character sketch” of himself showing the same traits, say, while learning to roller-skate. As he discovers examples of good character in other books, he can draw more sketches. ♥

## OUR PURPOSE

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

Resources for Educators,  
a division of CCH Incorporated

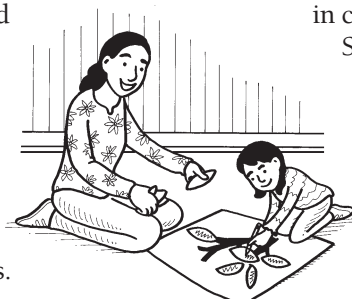
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800-394-5052 • rfeustomer@wolterskluwer.com  
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## Parent to Parent

### Our family tree

My daughter Tara recently had an interesting homework project—to make a family tree.

She had drawn a tree trunk and bare branches on paper, and she brought home a stack of green construction paper leaves. Her assignment was to write each family member's name on a separate leaf and put them in the right spots.



I helped Tara spell the names of her grandparents, great-grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. Then, she glued the leaves on the branches.

After Tara shared her finished tree in class, she got to bring it home. She likes to practice reading the names, and she takes pride in showing off the tree when relatives visit. Recently, she was excited to find out she'll soon need to add a new leaf—for her baby brother or sister! ♥

# BUILDING READERS®

How Families Can Help Children Become Better Readers

Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District  
Title 1

## Journals can improve comprehension

To boost reading comprehension, encourage your child to take notes in a journal as he reads. Writing down characters' names, places, situations and problems will help him remember these details and follow the material better.

When he finishes reading a section, encourage him to write down additional notes about his observations:

- **What did he think** of what he read?
- **What details are important?** Why does he think so?
- **What questions** does he have?
- **Can he relate** to the characters in the story? If so, how?
- **Does the story** remind him of something else he has read?
- **What was the funniest,** saddest, strangest or most exciting thing that happened in the story?



*"The books that help you most are those which make you think the most."*

—Pablo Neruda

## Stand up to the 'fourth-grade slump'

Interest in reading often drops as students move from early elementary school to the upper grades. Some experts say fourth grade tends to be when this starts.

To maintain your child's interest, make sure home reading time is frequent and fun. Keep irresistible materials around the house, such as:

- **Novels** related to your child's interests.
- **Kid-friendly news articles** and comics.
- **Biographies** of role models.
- **Magazines** about your child's favorite topics.
- **High-quality graphic** (comic) novels.
- **Cookbooks** and other how-to books.
- **Books** and articles *you'll* enjoy—so you can set a good example!

## Make reading a late-night treat

It's important for your child to spend time reading for pleasure every day at home. But some kids resist this activity.

Try letting your child stay up at least 10 minutes later at night to read. Make this treat even more exciting by reading together or giving her a flashlight to use. You may be surprised to hear, "Please, Mom! Just five more minutes!"



## Enjoy ranking book titles

Next time you're at a bookstore or library, suggest that your child take a closer look at book titles. Which five or 10 titles does he like best? Why?

What's his top pick? Suggest that he try the book and see if it lives up to its name!



## Ask 'what if?' questions

Reading and writing go hand in hand. The more your child writes, the better her vocabulary and reading skills will be. Ask a few "what if?" questions to spark her creative imagination. Then, challenge her to write short stories explaining her answers.

To start, ask questions like:

- **What if oranges** were purple?
- **What if dogs** could talk?
- **What if everyone** had the same name?





## Help your child develop research skills for now and the future

A solid understanding of how to conduct research will come in handy for your child's entire academic career. When he needs to research something for a school assignment, share these strategies:



- **Define the task.** Help your child figure out exactly what he needs to research. By narrowing down key words to search for, your child's research will be more focused.
- **Use reliable sources.** Together, determine if a source is appropriate and factual. Recently published reference books and websites that end in .gov or .edu are generally reliable sources.
- **Take notes.** Whether your child writes key facts on index cards or on a piece of paper, keeping track of information—and its source—will help him stay organized.

### Launch your family toward reading!

Have a question about how to help your child with reading? Visit Reading Rockets online, which is funded by the U.S. Department of Education. The site aims to "launch young readers," and it motivates parents, too! Find it at [www.readingrockets.org](http://www.readingrockets.org).



## Flowers can help your child explore genres

Spring is here and flowers are in bloom—in gardens, in planters and even in books. Take this opportunity to learn more about flowers *and* about different genres (categories) of literature.

With your child, read a:

- **Fiction book** about a flower. Talk about how you know it is fiction. For example, do the flowers speak?
- **Nonfiction book** about a flower. Discuss what makes this book nonfiction. Are there photos or realistic illustrations? Did you learn facts?
- **Poem** about a flower. How do you know that this is poetry? Do the words follow a pattern or rhyme?



### For lower elementary readers:

- ***Stealing Home: Jackie Robinson: Against the Odds*** by Robert Burleigh (Paula Wiseman). Burleigh uses poetry and narratives to tell the story of Jackie Robinson, the first African American to play major league baseball.
- ***A House for Hermit Crab*** by Eric Carle (Aladdin). Hermit Crab outgrows his shell and finds a new home. Kids will relate to the discomfort and value of change.



### For upper elementary readers:

- ***The Have a Good Day Cafe*** by Frances Park and Ginger Park (Lee & Low). Every day, Mike's family sells food from their food cart. But when business starts to slow, Mike and his grandma come up with a plan.
- ***Bread and Roses, Too*** by Katherine Paterson (Clarion). During a mill-worker strike in 1912, a young girl must live with another family.



**Q:** My child is not very sure of himself when he reads aloud. What can I do to help build his confidence?

**A:** Encourage your child to practice! Read to and with your child every day. Show him how to pronounce words he is unsure of. Help him understand what he reads by encouraging him to ask plenty of questions.

Keep talking with your child every day to strengthen his language and vocabulary skills.

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

### Building Readers®

How Families Can Help Children Become Better Readers

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# Reading Connection

Ideas para triunfar en la lectura

Beginning Edition

Abril de 2018

Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program



## Libros del mes

Para leer en voz alta

### ■ *We Dig Worms!* (Kevin McCloskey)

Los pequeños y serpenteantes gusanos desempeñan un trabajo importante. Este libro informativo en forma de cómic mezcla el humor y la información para enseñar a su hija sobre las lombrices. Aprenderá dónde viven, cómo ayudan a preservar el suelo, por qué aparecen cuando llueve y mucho más.



### ■ *Daisy Dreamer and the Totally True Imaginary Friend* (Holly Anna)

Daisy sueña y hace garabatos y se pasa la mayor parte del tiempo imaginando cosas. Cuando recibe un diario mágico, el garabato que hizo Daisy de Posey, su amiga imaginaria, cobra vida. ¡Y entonces se va de viaje al Mundo de la Fantasía! El primer libro de la serie Daisy Dreamer.

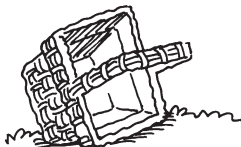


### ■ *Life in Numbers: Write Haiku* (Lisa Holewa)

El haiku es un poema breve que sigue un patrón fijo. Esta guía explica la historia del haiku y explica a su hijo cómo escribir estos poemas. Encontrará consejos para encontrar temas, elegir palabras y jugar con la estructura para crear poesía con intensidad. (Disponible en español.)

### ■ *The Lost Picnic* (B. B. Cronin)

Dos niños y su abuelo se van de merienda, pero por el camino la comida se les cae de la cesta. Su hija disfrutará encontrando pistas en el cuento y usándolas para localizar en las abigarradas ilustraciones la sandía, el helado y los otros alimentos perdidos.



## Escribir: Inspirados por la naturaleza

La primavera es la estación perfecta para salir al campo y animar a su hijo a que emplee la naturaleza como fuente de inspiración para la escritura. He aquí ideas para disfrutar al aire libre de distintos tipos de escritura.



### Lista de arcoíris

Que su hijo decore la acera con una lista de palabras relacionadas a la naturaleza en colores vistosos. Ayúdalo a que use tiza verde para escribir los nombres de las cosas verdes que ve (*hierba, hojas, gusano*) y tiza amarilla para hacer una lista de cosas amarillas (*narciso, mariposa, sol*). ¿Puede encontrar y añadir a la lista algo para cada color de su caja de tizas?

pluma azul y negra. Creo que es de un arrendajo azul".)

### Historias de animales

¿En qué piensa esa pequeña ardilla listada mientras corretea por todas partes? ¿Qué hace el saltamontes? Su hijo puede practicar la escritura creativa escribiendo una historia desde el punto de vista del animal. Puede que la ardilla listada esté entrenándose para el maratón. O que el saltamontes celebre un concurso de saltos con sus amigos. Que su hijo ilustre su historia y se la lea a usted. ♥

### Guía de la naturaleza

Dele a su hijo una cesta para que recoja objetos como guijarros, plumas y ramitas. A continuación, sugiérale que use la colección para escribir una guía de la naturaleza. Podría dibujar cada objeto en un cuaderno y añadir una descripción. ("Esto es una

## Leer manuales

Las manualidades, los experimentos de ciencias, el dibujo... existe un manual de instrucciones prácticamente para cada joven lector. Ponga a prueba estos consejos para presentárselos a su hija:

- Anime a su hija a que elija libros basándose en sus aficiones. Si le encanta la magia, puede que le guste un libro sobre cómo hacer trucos de magia. Si le atrae la ciencia, podría elegir un libro de experimentos.

- Ayude a su hija a ver cómo las palabras y las ilustraciones se combinan para explicar las cosas. Por ejemplo, podría leer el texto y luego seguir un diagrama para realizar un doblez complicado necesario para su avión de papel.

*Idea:* Sugíérale a su hija que escriba e ilustre su propio manual sobre algo que le guste, tal vez para construir un circuito de canicas o para hacer abalorios. ♥



## ¿Qué es esa palabra?

Leer palabras nuevas en inglés es un poco como descifrar un código. Comparta con su hija estas estrategias para descifrar códigos.

**Descífrala.** Ayude a su hija a que divida una palabra larga en sílabas separadas. Dígale que cubra la palabra con su mano. Puede deslizar los dedos para revelar cada sílaba, leyéndolas muy despacio según van apareciendo. (“Un-der-cov-er. Undercover!”)

**Cambien sonidos de vocales.** Las vocales largas y breves del inglés a veces complican las palabras. Por ejemplo, su hija podría confundir *robot* y



desconocida. (“The dog jumped over the ffff.”) A continuación, que piense en una palabra que empiece con esa letra y que tenga sentido en la frase (*fence*). Pueden intentar leer la frase con la palabra para decidir si es correcta.♥

*rowboat* pensando que las dos O son largas. Si una palabra no le suena bien, podría pronunciarla con una vocal distinta para ver si el cambio funciona mejor.

### Deja un espacio en blanco.

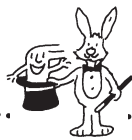
Cuando su hija se encuentre con una palabra que no puede pronunciar con facilidad, sugiérale que lea toda la frase, conservando sólo el primer sonido de la palabra

## Personajes con personalidad

Los libros de cuentos están repletos de buenos modelos para su hijo. Con esta actividad pensará en rasgos positivos de su personalidad que comparte con sus amigos de ficción favoritos.

### Identifiquen rasgos

En primer lugar, lean un libro juntos. Dígale a su hijo que elija un personaje y que lo dibuje. A continuación, ayúdelo a que piense en rasgos buenos que ve en ese personaje. Por ejemplo, un búho demuestra perseverancia y una actitud positiva para aprender a volar. Ayude a su hijo a escribir los rasgos de la personalidad en los márgenes alrededor del dibujo.



## Jugando con palabras

### Sillas musicales

Pongan un poco de música y con esta versión de las sillas musicales su hijo y sus amigos practicarán la ortografía de las palabras que aprenden en la escuela.

Coloquen las sillas (una por jugador) en círculo y elijan al jugador que será el líder. Esta persona se encargará de poner y de parar la música y de leer de una lista las palabras que han de deletrear.

Para jugar, el líder pone la música. Los niños caminan alrededor de las sillas y se detienen cuando él quite la música. En ese momento el líder da a cada participante una palabra distinta que tiene que deletrear. Si la persona la deletrea correctamente, se sienta en la silla más próxima. Si no, queda eliminado y quita una silla del círculo.

Cuando todos hayan deletreado, el líder vuelve a poner la música. Jueguen hasta que quede una sola persona: es el ganador y se convierte en el nuevo líder. *Nota:* Si usan todas las palabras de la lista, jueguen a las sillas musicales normales con los jugadores restantes para conseguir un ganador.♥



### ¡Mírame!

En segundo lugar, pídale que haga un “boceto de la personalidad” de sí mismo mostrando los mismos rasgos, por ejemplo aprendiendo a patinar. Al ir descubriendo más ejemplos de buenos rasgos en otros libros, puede dibujar más bocetos.♥

### NUESTRA FINALIDAD

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

Resources for Educators,  
una filial de CCH Incorporated

128 N. Royal Avenue • Front Royal, VA 22630  
800-394-5052 • rfeustomer@wolterskluwer.com  
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## De padre a padre

Hace poco a mi hija Tara le pusieron de deberes un proyecto interesante: hacer un árbol genealógico.

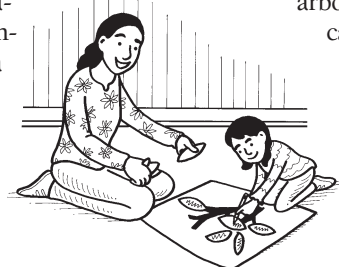
Dibujó en un papel un árbol con su tronco y las ramas desnudas y trajo a casa un montón de hojas de cartulina verde. Su tarea consistía en escribir el nombre de cada miembro de su familia en una hoja distinta y en colocarla en su lugar adecuado.

## Nuestro árbol genealógico

Hace poco a mi hija Tara le pusieron de deberes un proyecto interesante: hacer un árbol genealógico.

Le ayudé a Tara a escribir los nombres de sus abuelos, bisabuelos, tías, tíos y primos. Luego ella pegó las hojas en las ramas.

Después de compartir con su clase el árbol completo, lo pudo traer a casa. Le gusta leer los nombres y se siente orgullosa de mostrar su árbol cuando algún familiar nos visita. ¡Hace poco se puso muy contenta pues pronto podrá añadir una nueva hoja para un hermanito o hermanita!♥





# Recipes for Success

Practical Activities to Help Your Child Succeed

APRIL 2018



## READING AAA: Absolutely appealing acronyms

With this activity, your children will learn about acronyms—and create some of their own.

**Ingredients:** newspaper, paper, pencils, timer

Give each person a section of the newspaper. Set a timer for 3 minutes. Search your sections for acronyms, and list as many as you can find. *Hint:* Explain that an acronym is an abbreviation formed from the initials of several words. For example, NASA is the acronym for National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

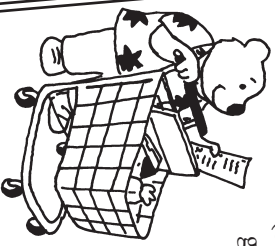
Trade papers, and try to identify what each acronym stands for. Then, have fun inventing acronyms of your own. Maybe your youngsters will come up with “MUM” for Mom’s Unbeatable Mealloaf!



## WRITING

Have your child help you make a more organized grocery list. Together, write down the departments or aisles found in the store (dairy, canned goods, produce).

Name items you need, and ask her to write each one under the correct category.



## MUSIC

Let your youngster make his own kazoo. He can cover one end of a toilet paper tube with waxed paper and secure it with a rubber band. Help him use a pencil to poke a hole in the tube near the covered end. To play his kazoo, he should hum into the open end. What happens if he puts his finger over the hole?



## SOCIAL STUDIES Family bill of rights

Teach your youngster about the Bill of Rights by making one for your family.

**Ingredients:** copy of the Bill of Rights (from a history book or the internet), paper, pencil, paper grocery bag, marker

Together, look over the Bill of Rights. Explain that it describes the basic rights of Americans, such as freedom of speech and freedom of the press.

Next, your youngster could ask everyone what would be included if your family had a bill of rights. Have her take notes as family members share ideas (right to privacy, right to help choose family activities). Finally, cut one large panel from a grocery bag, and let your child use the notes to write your family’s bill of rights on it.

## GEOMETRY

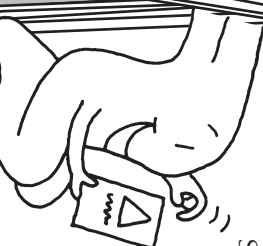
### Speaking of shapes

Can your child spot an octagon? Use this activity to help him recognize shapes he sees every day.

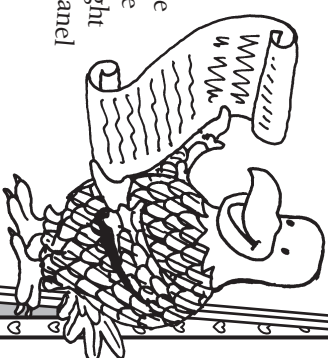
**Ingredients:** index cards, pencil, crayons

Have your youngster draw a shape (circle, square, rectangle, triangle, octagon) on separate index cards and label each one. An older child might also draw and label solid shapes (sphere, cone, cylinder).

Shuffle the cards, and stack them facedown. Turn over the top card. The first person to think of an object that matches the shape keeps the card. For a circle, your child might shout out “plate” and take the card. For cone, you could say “traffic cone.”



**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.”



# Recipes for Success

Practical Activities to Help Your Child Succeed

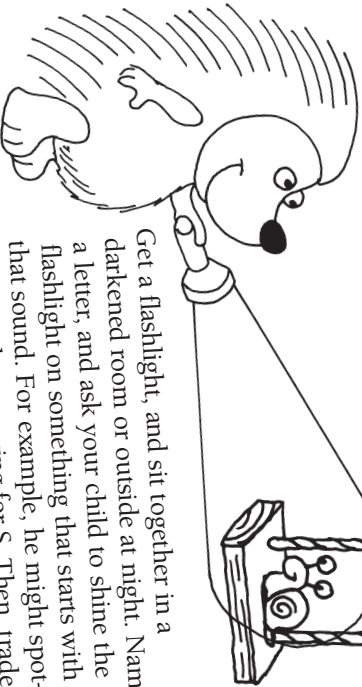
APRIL 2018

## Character Corner

### PHONICS Spotlight on sounds

Beginning letter sounds get the spotlight when your child practices them in the dark.

**Ingredients:** flashlight



Get a flashlight, and sit together in a darkened room or outside at night. Name a letter, and ask your child to shine the flashlight on something that starts with that sound. For example, he might spotlight a sock or a swing for S. Then, trade roles, and let him say a letter for you to shine a spotlight on.

**Variation:** Name a short word (*cat*), and have your youngster find objects whose first letters spell it (*couch, apple, table*).

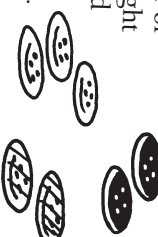
### MEASUREMENT

Does your child know how much his backpack weighs? Have him weigh himself with the backpack and without it. Then, he can subtract the second weight from the first one. Say he weighs 75 pounds with it and 70 without. That means his backpack weighs 5 pounds ( $75 - 70 = 5$ ).



### SORTING

How many ways can your youngster sort buttons or crayons? Perhaps she'll separate buttons into small, medium, and large or into four holes vs. two holes. Crayons could be sorted according to color or whether they're light or dark. Your child will learn to look for common traits.



### SCIENCE

Have your youngster learn about liquids and solids by "churning" her own butter. Let her pour whipping cream into a jar and screw on the lid. Take turns shaking the jar for about 10 minutes. Explain that the fat and protein molecules in the liquid (cream) are getting closer together, forming a solid (butter).



## Congratulations!

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

Signed (parent or adult family member)

Signed (child)

### RESPECT FOR THE EARTH

Celebrate Earth Day with your family this month by finding ways to protect the environment. For instance, you might turn off the water while you brush your teeth or walk to the store instead of driving.

### CONCENTRATION

Sit in a circle, and hold a ball. Tell about your day, and roll the ball to someone else. Keep going until everyone has had three turns. Your child will need to pay attention so he'll be ready when the ball comes his way.



### COURAGE

Encourage your youngster to try something new that she's hesitant about. Maybe she wishes she could swim but doesn't like getting her face wet. Help her follow through by signing her up for swim lessons.



### THINKING

Try this idea to build your child's critical-thinking skills. Challenge him to a game of checkers—but instead of trying to capture your pieces, he tries to get you to capture his. The winner is the first player to lose all his checkers.

