

Dennis-Yarmouth Title I

From the Title I Coordinator

We all know the importance of reading to our children, but how many of us realize that it's equally essential to help our children understand mathematics—both math concepts and how it's a part of our everyday lives?

Here are some fun, easy ways to incorporate mathematics learning into your family life—without a lot of time, effort, or expense.

IN THE KITCHEN



Cooking and baking using a recipe not only is a terrific way to help children better understand fractions, it's a great bonding time. With younger children show them all the different sizes of measuring cups and spoons and show them how measuring two half-cups of flour or sugar gives them exactly the same amount as one full cup. Ask older children to help you cut a recipe in half or double a recipe. Have them write down the new measurements and double check them together—making sure they understand that, when you cook, it's important to get your math just right.

MONEY IS A POWERFUL TEACHER

If your children are trying to save up to buy something special for themselves or other, keep a chart of how much money they will need and what they have saved to date.

WHEN IT'S TIME TO RELAX

Look for games and activities that reinforce math skills, whether they're computer games (like Math Blaster, on line programs (there's a great list at www.kidsites.com/sites-edu/math.htm) or old favorites like dominoes, card games or puzzles.

Below are some sites to visit to find some mathematics games to play with your children:

<http://illuminations.nctm.org/ActivityDetail.aspx?ID=198>

<http://illuminations.nctm.org/LessonDetail.aspx?id=L167>

How to Grow Lifelong Readers Tips from an inspired educator

We know that instilling a lifelong love of reading is important to our members. Educator, Brian Smith, was able to get over half of his fourth graders reading 10 books a month by introducing them to books they would love to read. Here are his tips for making reading fun and growing lifelong readers:

Pick a series- Introduce kids to a series of books so they will get hooked and read more and more!

Create healthy competition- Kids will become more familiar with the content because they have a chance to win a prize!

Use Books that are accessible to more kids- Graphic novels are a great way to get reluctant readers excited about reading.

Get fellow educators involved and excited- Having books accessible in every classroom creates an environment that makes kids excited to read.

Read
Bri-
to
read-

[Book](#)



more about
an's journey
get his kids
ing on
the [First
Blog!](#)

Volume 1, Issue vi

February 2018



Reminder: Schools will be closed Friday February 19 to Friday February 23rd for Winter vacation.

As always, for further information, or answers to your questions, please contact me, Cookie Stewart at 508-778-7599 or stewartv@dy-regional.k12.ma.us

Or at MES

440 Higgins Crowell Rd.

West Yarmouth, MA 02673

REMINDER

The Title I Board of Directors will be meeting on March 7th (Wednesday) at 3:00—4:00 at the District Central Office at 296 Station Ave. South Yarmouth. All interested are invited to attend.

Home & School

Working Together for School Success

CONNECTION®

February 2018

Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program



SHORT NOTES

I love you because...

Family members can share what they love about each other with this writing activity. Have your youngster cut out paper hearts. Write love notes on them and hide for others to find. For example, maybe your child will put one under her sister's placemat that says, "I love you because you make me laugh."

On the road again

Carpooling with other parents is a great way to save time and money—and to get to know your youngster's classmates. When you drive, you'll probably hear them discuss school, sports, and friends. *Note:* Ask parents about booster seats—if a child uses one in his parents' car, he'll need one in yours, too.

Indoor "recess"—at home

When winter weather keeps your family inside, ask your child to show you what she does during indoor recess at school. She could teach you games, crafts, or songs she enjoys. Then, encourage her to come up with new ideas to try at home or in class.

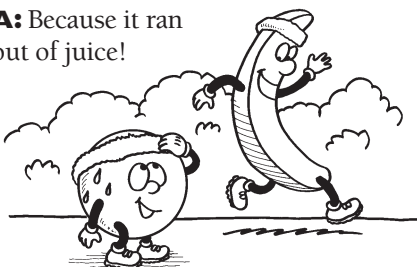
Worth quoting

"Life itself is the most wonderful fairy tale." *Hans Christian Andersen*

JUST FOR FUN

Q: Why did the orange lose the race?

A: Because it ran out of juice!



Olympic-sized learning

While the 2018 Winter Olympic Games are taking place thousands of miles away, your child can earn a "medal" in learning at home. Turn Olympic magic into educational gold with these suggestions.

Reading

Speed skating, ski jumping, luge...which Winter Olympics sports does your youngster enjoy watching? Head to the library together to pick out books about their history, the rules, and how the athletes train. *Idea:* Hold a "reading Olympics." Let family members count the books they read in February. At the end of the month, everyone can award medals to their three favorites.

Math

Your child will practice gathering, recording, and calculating data to find out which of his favorite countries wins the most medals. Encourage him to divide poster board into four columns: "Country," "Gold," "Silver," "Bronze." In column one, he can list teams he'd like

to follow. Every day, have him check a newspaper or olympic.org and add tally marks for each country's medals. After the Olympics end, he can total them up to see who got the most in each category.

Social studies

Where in the world do the Olympic athletes come from? To explore geography, help your youngster use a map to find countries represented in the Olympics. He might put star stickers on the countries on a wall map. Or let him print out a world map and make a dot on each competing country.♥



Decisions, decisions

Learning to make smaller decisions now will prepare your youngster to make bigger ones later. Here are ways to build her decision-making skills:

- Hearing you think through your choices gives your child an example to follow. You might say, "I'd like to visit Aunt Sue tonight, but then I might not finish this proposal for work. I'll go Saturday instead."
- When possible, give your youngster two to three specific options. That way, she can make a decision without feeling overwhelmed. *Example:* "Do you want to sweep or dust?" rather than "Which chore would you prefer to do?"♥



An anti-bullying attitude

Having a positive attitude toward others can help to keep your youngster from participating in bullying. With these ideas, she'll be more apt to be kind to others and want them to feel included.

1. Watch your words. Let your youngster know you expect her to speak kindly. Before she says something she's unsure about, she could ask herself if she would want *you* to hear it. If she overhears another



join someone who normally sits alone on the bus. Or she could invite a new student to her birthday party. She'll see how good it feels to make someone's day—and perhaps she'll even gain a friend!♥

student calling a classmate names or gossiping, she could counter the unkind words with nice ones. ("I hear you're really good at gymnastics.")

2. Accept everyone.

Leaving people out on purpose is a form of bullying. Suggest that your child look for chances to make others feel that they belong. For example, she might ask to

ACTIVITY CORNER

Inspired by art

Art unleashes your child's imagination and lets him practice fine-motor skills. Try these tips to encourage him to experiment.



Use natural supplies

Challenge your youngster to find free art materials right in your backyard! For instance, he might use sticks or feathers as paintbrushes. Or he could draw on rocks with colored chalk.

Try new formats

Suggest that your child arrange objects (toys, fruits) on a table and sketch a *still life*. Or go outdoors where he can paint a *landscape* of natural scenery like trees or a pond. If he wants to draw a *portrait*, he could ask a family member to pose—or look in a mirror and create a self-portrait.♥

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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PARENT TO PARENT

Safe to make mistakes

My third grader, Mark, gets discouraged when he can't do something correctly right away. While he was practicing his typing skills, he said, "Forget it, I'm no good at this," and walked away from the computer.

I told Mark that mistakes are part of learning. I admitted that when I was his age, I wanted to quit the violin because I couldn't get the notes right on my favorite piece. Luckily, the school music teacher encouraged me to continue, and Mark knows that I enjoy playing the violin to this day.

To show Mark his mistakes were "stepping-stones," I drew circles across a sheet of paper. Each time he made a mistake while typing, I suggested he cross out a stepping-stone and start the sentence again. I knew that if he kept trying, he'd type an error-free sentence before he got to the last stone—and I was right.

Now Mark has a way to track his progress with typing and other things that require persistence.♥



Q & A

Study with a pencil in hand

Q: When my daughter studies for a test, she simply reads through her notes or textbook chapter once and announces she's finished. How can I help her study more effectively?

A: Reading is an important part of studying. But writing and drawing can help cement the information in her mind—in fun and interesting ways.

For example, if she's studying a textbook chapter, she could write answers to

the end-of-chapter questions or even design her own quiz. When she studies with a classmate, they might write questions on index cards and play "quiz show."

Sketching pictures is another good study strategy. To prepare for a test on planets, she can draw and label the solar system. Or she could draw pizzas and write fractions on the slices while studying for a math test.♥



Math+Science Connection

Building Excitement and Success for Young Children

February 2018

Beginning Edition



TOOLS & TIDBITS

Laundry fractions

Let your child help you fold laundry, and talk about *halves* and *fourths* as you work. This will get him ready to learn about fractions. You might show him how to fold pants in half before you put them on hangers, or ask him to fold washcloths into *quarters*.

Head in the clouds

Encourage your youngster to be a sky watcher and record how clouds change



throughout the day. Each day for a week, have her draw the clouds she sees in

the morning, afternoon, and evening. What patterns does she notice? Perhaps she saw more clouds in the afternoons or pinkish clouds at sunset.

Web picks

☞ Your child can play math games at math.rice.edu/~lanius/counting/index2.html. There are pattern blocks to explore, graphs to make, and ten frames to compare.

☞ Have a race in space, put together a skeleton, and find many more exciting science activities at static.lawrencehallofscience.org/kidsite.

Just for fun

Q: Six kids were trying to walk under one umbrella.

Why didn't anyone get wet?

A: It wasn't raining.



Count on it

Counting requires your youngster to do many things at once! She has to say numbers in the right order while matching each number with each object that she counts. Try these activities to help her count with confidence.

Play dough smash

With this activity, your youngster will be sure to slow down and touch each object as she counts it. Work together to roll play dough into 10 tiny balls. Line them up on a table. Ask her to count them, squishing each ball as she says its number. Next time, have her roll 15 balls to count and squish, and then 20. This helps her practice *one-to-one correspondence*—matching the number to the object.

Stuffed animal school

Suggest that your child play school with her stuffed animals. She could put them in a circle and give each one 1 book, 1 paper, and 1 pencil. If she has 6 animals, she'd need 6 of each supply.



Encourage her to count the objects as she sets each one in front of an animal ("1 book, 2 books, 3 books..."). *Idea:* Perhaps she'll read a counting book aloud to her "students"!

Heart puzzles

Let your child practice matching numerals to the number of objects they represent. Help her cut out 20 construction paper hearts and draw a zigzag down the center of each. She should write a number, 1–20, on the left halves. Then, she can count aloud as she draws tiny hearts on each right half to match (on the "4 heart," draw 4 little hearts). Cut the hearts apart, mix them up, and ask her to put them back together correctly. ♀

My book about animals

Observing animals helps your child learn about the natural world around him. When he notices a squirrel munching on an acorn or a bird landing on a tree branch, have him describe what he sees—and then make a "shape book" about the animal.

Draw the shape. Let him fold a sheet of construction paper in half, draw the animal, and cut it out. Help him staple the two shapes together to create a front and back cover, and glue white paper inside for writing.

Write the words. Encourage him to write about the animal's behavior, appearance, and habitat. He might say, "A squirrel stuffs a lot of acorns in its cheeks" or "A cardinal is bright red." Listen as he reads his book aloud. ♀



Engineer at play


Your child can think like an engineer by building the strongest possible bridge for his toy cars to drive across. Suggest these steps.

1. Have your youngster design a bridge by sticking together marshmallows and toothpicks. He might make it wide or narrow, build one layer or several layers, or include arches or support beams.



2. Let him arrange two chairs or two tables several inches apart and balance his bridge across the span.


3. Now your child can cut a piece of cardboard to fit on his bridge and add toy cars, one at a time. How many cars will the bridge hold before it collapses?

4. Encourage him to redesign and rebuild his bridge to try to support more cars. Which design holds the most cars? 

MATH CORNER On a math mission

Your youngster's mission: to locate numbers all around town. With this idea, she will see that numbers are everywhere and learn about different ways they are used.

Help her make a list of things to find. Then, go for a walk, drive, or bus ride together, and let her check off each item she spots. Here are ideas to start with:


- A one-digit number (Highway 1)
- A number that's part of a business name (Route 28 Diner)
- An ordinal number (4th Street)
- A number word ("Buy one, get one free!")
- A house with an even-numbered address (42 Maple Avenue)
- Three numbers in order (24th on a street sign, 25 on a speed limit sign, 26 on a license plate)
- The answer to $7 + 5$ (Exit 12)
- A five-digit number (Population: 10,971)
- A price (\$2.50 per gallon) 

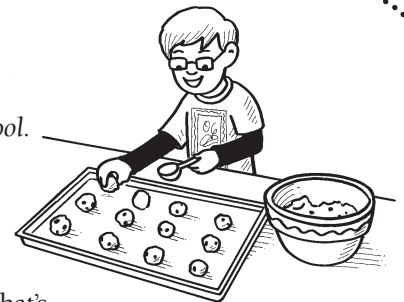


Q & A Baking up arrays

Q: My son is learning about arrays in school. What are these exactly, and how can we work on them at home?

A: An array is an arrangement with equal rows and columns. For instance, if your child's classroom has 6 rows with 4 students in each, that's an array. He could think, " $4 + 4 + 4 + 4 + 4 + 4 = 24$ "—and that helps him get ready for multiplication ($6 \times 4 = 24$).

Baking cookies together is a yummy way for your son to explore arrays. Let him place tablespoons of dough on a cookie sheet in rows and columns. Now he can add to figure out how many cookies you're going to bake. He might see 3 rows of 4 cookies ($4 + 4 + 4 = 12$) or 4 rows of 3 cookies ($3 + 3 + 3 + 3 = 12$). Either way, he'll get the same answer—12—and your family will have 12 cookies to enjoy with milk! 



SCIENCE LAB How sound travels best


What can go through air, water, and even walls? Sound! This experiment will show your youngster which kind of *matter*—gas, liquid, or solid—conducts sound the best.

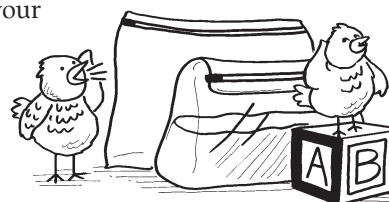
You'll need: 2 sealed plastic zipper bags, 1 empty (filled with air) and 1 filled with water; 1 wooden block; 1 pencil

Here's how: Have your child predict whether a noise will sound louder when it travels through air (a gas), water (a liquid), or a block (a solid).

Then, she can check her prediction. First, let her hold the bag of air close to her ear while you gently tap the bag with the pencil. Try again with the bag of water and then with the block.

What happens? Your youngster will notice that the sound is loudest through the block—a solid.

Why? Sound travels best through solids because the molecules are packed more tightly in solids than in liquids or gases. The sound has more particles to bounce off of, creating a louder noise. 



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BUILDING READERS®

How Families Can Help Children Get Ready to Read

Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District
Title 1

Focus on the story when reading e-books with your preschooler

We live in a digital age. From tablets to websites full of e-books (electronic books), reading online is different than opening a traditional book with your child. Instead of turning the page, your child may be swiping across a screen.

To make sure your child gets the most out of reading e-books:

- **Listen to the book** in “read-only” mode first. While e-books are often full of exciting and fun interactive features, they can distract from what’s most important: Reading the story!
- **Talk about the story.** Reading an e-book will let your child interact with the book, but it’s not a substitute for interacting with you. As you do with all books, engage your child while you read by talking about what you see and asking questions.

Source: L. Lowry, “E-Book or Paper Book – What’s Best for Young Children?” The Hanen Centre, niswc.com/BR-RR_ebook.



“I read for pleasure and that is the moment I learn the most.”

—Margaret Atwood

Look for these reading milestones

As a budding bookworm, your child is learning new reading-readiness skills every day. In fact, by the time he starts kindergarten, he’ll probably be able to:

- **Repeat** sentences up to nine words long.
- **Grasp** time-related concepts like *later* and *soon*.
- **Name** common objects in picture books or magazines.
- **Understand** and use prepositions (like *on*, *off* and *under*).
- **Use** grammatically correct speech (at least most of the time).

Still, these milestones are only guidelines. Every child develops at his own pace. That goes for your child, too.

Help your child establish responsible reading habits

Did your child just jump up to grab a board game and leave the books he was reading scattered on the floor? If so, tell him to come back and clean up! Preschoolers need to learn to be responsible with their books and to put them away when they are finished reading them.



Boost creativity by creating a new story!

Pick one of your child’s favorite stories, then help her think of a new adventure for the characters. Ask her to draw pictures to illustrate her story. Help her write a caption for each picture. Then, read her new story together.



Rereading favorite books creates positive reading experiences

When your child chooses the book he wants to read, chances are it’ll be one you’ve read over and over. And that’s actually a good thing!

Children often choose familiar books to read and reread because they enjoy having a sense of control over the experience. When a child knows what to expect in a book, he can anticipate what will come next and feel satisfied by knowing the outcome.



Source: S. Lazrow, “Read It Again, Please! The Benefits of Repeated Read Alouds,” Children’s Literacy Initiative, niswc.com/BR-RR_again.

Rhymes get your child ready for reading

Did you know that children's ability to learn and recite nursery rhymes is closely related to their overall development of language skills? The experts agree: Rhymes are a terrific tool for teaching kids about words and sounds.

Along with being fun to hear and recite, nursery rhymes can increase your child's:

- **Understanding of the sounds letters make.** This is called *phonemic awareness*.
- **Memory.** The nursery rhymes' rhythmic patterns make words easier to remember.
- **Knowledge of story structure.** Rhymes are often tales with beginnings, middles and ends.
- **Critical-thinking skills.** Many rhymes are riddles, too. Your little thinker will need to use his brain to solve them!



A scrapbook builds language and motor skills

When your child has a new experience—like going to the dentist or visiting a farm—make a page for her scrapbook. She can draw a picture, which builds pre-writing skills. Talking about what she saw and did strengthens her vocabulary and oral language skills.

Every so often, pull the scrapbook out and have your child tell you what she remembers.



Language skills are linked to reading

Children who have many opportunities to have conversations with others gain speaking and listening skills that are crucial for learning to read and write.

To help your preschooler develop these skills:

- **Talk with him every day.** Ask questions that require him to think: "Why did you paint the bird green?" "Why do you think that character did that?"
- **Have him make predictions** about what might happen next in a story based on what he's heard so far.
- **Play listening games.** Have him close his eyes, then see if he can identify various sounds (an ambulance, wind chimes, a ticking clock, etc.).



Books to delight your early reader

- **ABC Love** by Christiane Engel (Walter Foster Jr.). This beautifully illustrated book promotes family togetherness and connects each letter of the alphabet to an important concept, such as love, affection and warmth.
- **Ollie's Valentine** by Olivier Dunrea (HMH Books for Young Readers). Join Ollie as he searches for a valentine of his very own.
- **My Heart Is Like a Zoo** by Michael Hall (Greenwillow Books). Heart shapes are repeated throughout this graphic collection of zoo animals. Simple rhymes will have your preschooler joining you in reading aloud.



Q: I try to read to my child every day, but sometimes I just don't have time. Does it really matter if I skip some days?

A: In a word, yes! You teach your child things like honesty and kindness by modeling those traits each day, right? Well, it's the same with reading.

If you want her to view words and language as vital parts of life, expose her to reading every day.

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

Building Readers®

How Families Can Help Children Get Ready to Read

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Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

February 2018

Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program

Book Picks



Read-aloud favorites

■ *The Invisible Boy* (Trudy Ludwig)

Brian is not really invisible, but he certainly feels that way. His classmates never pick him for kickball teams, invite him to birthday parties, or notice his drawing talent. When the other students tease a new boy named Justin, Brian draws a picture for him and finally makes a friend. A story about acceptance.

■ *Hooray for Chefs*

(Kurt Waldendorf)

Tucked away in the kitchen, a chef prepares meals for others to eat. This nonfiction book takes readers behind the scenes to see how chefs follow recipes, use special tools, and serve up delicious food. (Also available in Spanish.)



■ *Mercy Watson to the Rescue*

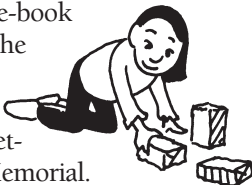
(Kate DiCamillo)

Oh, no! Mr. and Mrs. Watson's floor is collapsing, and they're counting on their pet pig, Mercy, to save them. Instead of going for help, however, the pig goes looking for breakfast and gets into mischief. The first book in the Mercy Watson series.



■ *Maya Lin: Artist-Architect of Light and Lines* (Jeanne Walker Harvey)

When Maya Lin was a little girl, she built buildings and towns made of paper and dreamed of being an architect. This picture-book biography tells the story of the girl who grew up to design the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.



I ♥ poetry

Colorful descriptions, kid-friendly topics, and playful language make children's poems a fun tool for boosting your youngster's reading skills. Welcome poetry into your family's reading routine, and use these activities to enjoy it together.

Notice descriptions

If a poem mentions "pretty painted horses" and "spinning dizzily 'round and 'round," will your child guess that the verse is about a carousel? Call his attention to descriptive language with this idea. Secretly choose a poem, and read a few lines without telling him the title. Ask him what it's about. Now have him read a poem aloud so you can figure out its topic.

Bring poetry to life

Your youngster may understand a poem better—and appreciate it more—if he explores its subject firsthand. After reading about "a stack of fluffy pancakes with a melting square of butter," plan a



pancake breakfast. Or read a poem about "prickly pinecones," and let your child collect pinecones outside to examine how prickly they feel.

Play with words

Poets might swap beginning sounds in words (*puddly cuppy* instead of *cuddly puppy*) or rhyme words at the ends of lines ("I'd love a bowl of *custard*, but you can hold the *mustard*"). Encourage your youngster to listen for wordplay like that when you read poetry to him. Then, have fun making up your own silly words or rhyming pairs together. ♥

Listen while you walk

Encourage your little one to practice listening while you take a walk together. Try this twist on I Spy.

Tell your child you're going to walk quietly so you can hear sounds all around you. Choose a sound to imitate, and have the other person try to identify it.

You might say, "I hear, with my little ear, a sound that goes *ring ring*." Can she guess that you're hearing bells or wind chimes? Or your youngster may say, "I hear, with my little ear, something that sounds like *rumble-rumble-rumble*." You might say a garbage truck or a motorcycle.

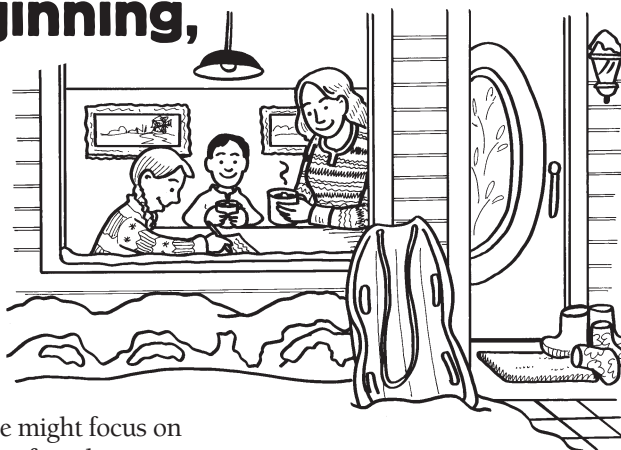
The next time, take a new route or walk at another time of day so your youngster can listen for different sounds. ♥



Story writing: Beginning, middle, end

Your youngster probably has lots of exciting stories in her head. Help her write them down with these tips for getting started, adding details, and wrapping things up.

● **Beginning.** Starting her story will be easier if your child zeroes in on a specific event. Encourage her to “think small.” Instead of writing, “We had a snow day,” she might focus on one part of her day: “I went sledding with my friends on our snow day.”

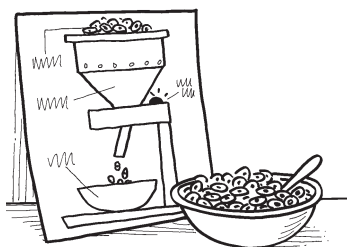


● **Middle.** Ask your youngster questions that will help her find at least two or three details to include. You could say, “How did you feel while you were soaring down the hill?” or “What happened that you didn’t expect?” She may write about snow flying into her face or spotting a deer.

● **End.** A new writer may need help deciding how a story should end. Try asking, “What’s the last thing you remember?” Perhaps she’ll complete her tale with a sentence about going inside to drink hot chocolate with you!♥

Engineer and write

A machine that pours cereal and milk? A robot that tracks down missing socks? Drawing and labeling diagrams of imaginary devices encourages your child to combine engineering and writing skills.



First, explore a few diagrams for real machines together. You can often find these in instruction manuals for household items like a vacuum cleaner or a blender.

Next, ask your youngster to draw a diagram of a contraption he would like to own. Suggest that he label each part. His “cereal maker” could include a timer you set the night before so cereal is ready at breakfast time. Or his “sock finder” might feature a radar dish for zeroing in on any sock without a partner.

Finally, have him walk you through his design and describe how the machine works. What else can he invent?♥



Parent to Parent

Reading the forecast

My daughter Ava was fascinated by the idea of a groundhog “predicting” the weather on Groundhog Day. I decided to have her read a forecast so she could see how people really get information about the weather.

Together, we looked at the weather page of the newspaper. She figured out that a sun symbol with a tiny cloud means mostly sunny, and I explained that a squiggly line tells us it’ll be windy. Then, I had her read the high and low temperatures. Finally, we read tomorrow’s full forecast together.

When I mentioned this to Ava’s teacher, she said it was a great way for my daughter to see nonfiction reading as useful in everyday life—and to practice reading words, numbers, and symbols. Now Ava checks the forecast as part of her bedtime routine and proudly reports the weather so we know what to wear.♥



Q&A From pictures to words

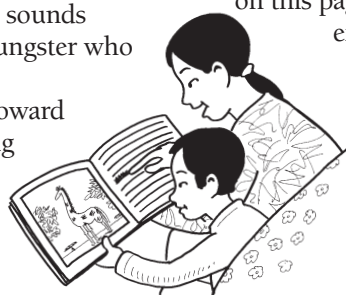
Q When my kindergartner “reads,” he often ignores the words and makes up his own story based on the pictures. What should I do?

A Your son’s behavior sounds totally normal for a youngster who is just learning to read.

Gently nudge him toward the next step—noticing words—by running your finger under the text as you read aloud to him. When you come to a word that’s

illustrated (say, *giraffe*), tell your son, “This word starts with G. Can you look at the picture and figure out the word?”

You can also say, “Do you see a word on this page that you know?” He’ll be excited to point out ones he has learned in school like *the*, *and*, and *friend*. Another idea is to ask a librarian to help you find a book with a character who shares his name—he’s guaranteed to spot at least one word he recognizes throughout the book!♥



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BUILDING READERS®

How Families Can Help Children Become Better Readers

Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District
Title 1

Cook up some reading and math success

What simple daily activity involves reading and math? Cooking! And it's something you and your child can do together.

When you prepare a dish:

- **Take turns reading the recipe.** Ask your child to read the list of ingredients aloud, for example, while you collect them.
- **Let your child measure.** Set out measuring cups and spoons and teach your child how to use them.
- **Use math terms.** Say things like, "We need to *add* sugar," "Let's *divide* that into *quarters*" or "That's *half* of what we need."
- **Make more—or less.** Take an uncomplicated recipe and double—or halve—it. Do the math together. How many people will it serve?



"The greatest gift is the passion for reading. It is cheap, it consoles, it distracts, it excites, it gives you knowledge of the world and experience of a wide kind."

—Elizabeth Hardwick

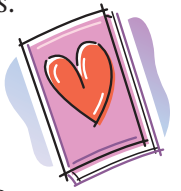
Descriptive words make your child's writing more interesting

People, places and things come alive when writers use descriptive words. Here's a fun way to give your child practice writing interesting sentences:

1. **Write several short sentences** on a piece of paper. For example: "The dog ran to get the ball." "The cat lay on the window sill."
2. **Ask your child to enhance** each sentence by adding some adjectives and adverbs. Encourage her to use a thesaurus to replace some words, too.
3. **Have your child read** her new sentences out loud. For example: "The *huge yellow* dog ran *quickly* to *fetch* the *red* ball." "The *fat striped* cat *lounged* on the *large sunny* window sill."

Ask questions about what your child is reading

To show your support and interest in reading, ask your child questions about the things he reads. Ask, "What page are you on?" "Who's the main character?" "How did you pick that book?" Pay attention to his answers. Does he seem to be enjoying the book? Does it sound like he understands it? Find ways to help if needed.



Sound effects increase attention

Here's an engaging way to help your child think about stories you read aloud: Make an audiobook, and have her add sound effects. While you record the story, your child can create thunder or wail like a siren.

Listening carefully will help her add the right noises—and later, she'll have fun hearing the results!



Make words meaningful to help your child recall information

To help your child remember what he reads, show him how to make words memorable.

Encourage your child to:

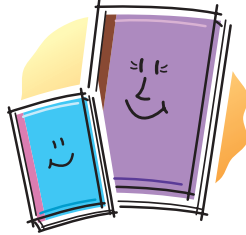
- **Draw pictures** that represent new or difficult words.
- **Use mnemonic devices** to remember lists or spelling words.
- **Add excitement.** If he's learning about another country, suggest he learn a traditional song from that country.



Make the most of your library visits

Encourage your child to take full advantage of all that the library has to offer. Try some of these activities during your next trip to the library:

- **Have a scavenger hunt.** Write down a list of facts that your child should look up, such as Thomas Jefferson's birthday, the tallest mountain in the world and the capital of Thailand. Help your child learn to navigate the reference section of the library.
- **Check out the news.** Grab a newspaper and an atlas. Locate the places where news events are happening around the world.
- **Explore different resources.** Does your library have a genealogy room? What about a special section with information on your town's history? Check out these parts of the library together.



Have your child read a wide variety of books

Encourage your child to read about different people, places and things. And tell him not to worry: He doesn't have to finish a book if he doesn't like it.

Reading different kinds of books will help your child discover new interests and ideas. And he'll be strengthening his reading skills in the process!



Introduce your child to the world of poetry

There are countless types of poetry. Explore several of them with your child!

First, read a few books of poetry together. Notice elements of each poem such as the rhythm of words, repetition or the location of line breaks.

Then, experiment with reading and writing different types of poems, including:

- **Haiku.** This Japanese form of poetry consists of three lines, with a specific number of syllables on each line.
- **Song lyrics.** Have your child write down the lyrics to a favorite song, then compare the structure of the lyrics to that of some of the poems she's read.



For lower elementary readers:

- **Looking at Lincoln** by Maira Kalman (Nancy Paulsen Books). Follow along as a young girl researches Abraham Lincoln's early life, political career and more.
- **I Stink!** by Kate and Jim McMullan (Weston Woods). In this audiobook, listen to the sounds of jazz and the city as a garbage truck eats trash while people sleep.



For upper elementary readers:

- **Black and White** by David Macaulay (HMH Books for Young Readers). Four different stories are interwoven in this story—or are they? Can your child make sense of this unusual book?
- **Fort** by Cynthia DeFelice (Farrar, Straus and Giroux). Two friends spend a summer building a fort and protecting a boy from bullies.



Q: My first-grader's teacher says I should not worry about misspelled words in writing homework. Won't that affect my child's ability to write—and read—well later on?

A: When children first begin to write, they use *invented spelling*. They write words the way they sound.

When they don't have to worry about spelling, kids are more likely to write freely and think writing is fun. As children get older, learning to spell correctly is important. In the meantime, continue to practice reading correctly spelled words with your child.

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

Building Readers®

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Reading Connection

INTERMEDIATE EDITION

Working Together for Learning Success

February 2018

Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program

Book Picks

■ *A Dog's Life: The Autobiography of a Stray* (Ann M. Martin)

What does a stray dog think about? This story is told from the view-point of a dog named Squirrel. As a puppy, he became separated from his mother. Now he must search for a permanent home—while avoiding dangers along the way.



■ *Eye of the Storm: NASA, Drones, and the Race to Crack the Hurricane Code* (Amy Cherrix)

Young weather buffs can follow hurricane hunters and NASA scientists doing the difficult work of predicting when and how hard a hurricane will hit. Also explains how smartphones and social media have saved lives and improved emergency preparedness.



■ *Smile* (Raina Telgemeier)
Sixth grade isn't off to a great start for Raina, especially since she lost her two front teeth when she tripped and fell. This funny and colorful graphic memoir is based on the author's middle school dilemmas. (Also available in Spanish.)

■ *Lives of the Presidents: Fame, Shame (and What the Neighbors Thought)* (Kathleen Krull)
Celebrate Presidents' Day with these profiles that focus on fun facts. Kids will enjoy discovering how one president got stuck in the bathtub, another had a beard that was so long it dipped into his soup, and much more.



Background knowledge builds comprehension

"I saw a shark just like that at the aquarium."

"I camped out under the stars once."

"I always want to win big prizes at carnivals, too."

When your child connects what he already knows to something he's reading, his comprehension can soar. Try these ideas to activate his background knowledge.



Brainstorm word associations

Before your youngster starts reading a book, ask him to scan the cover for an interesting word or picture—and use it to trigger associations with words he knows. For *Treasury of Greek Mythology* (Donna Jo Napoli), he might target *mythology* and come up with a string of words like *stories*, *legends*, *heroes*, and *old*. This kind of brainstorming gives him a general idea of what to expect from the book.

Visualize the setting

Having an image in his head increases your child's understanding. As he reads, he could jot down places mentioned in

the text (examples: castle, island). Every time he adds a setting to the list, he can ask himself: Does this place remind me of any place I have visited or that I've seen in a TV show or movie?

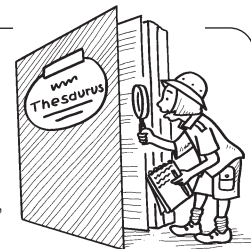
Think about other books

When your youngster starts a new book, encourage him to look back on similar books he has read. For example, if he's reading historical fiction, he might relate it to a textbook chapter he read about the same time period. Before reading the second book in a series, he can skim through the first installment to recall details about the characters' personalities and the plot. ■

Just-right words

Encourage your child to stretch her vocabulary by going on a "word quest." She'll see how papers and other written assignments can be more interesting when she uses a variety of words.

1. Ask your child to write three sentences and underline at least one word in each. Examples: "The ugly monster roared." "The little rabbit ate." "The leaves blew in the dark forest."
2. How many synonyms can she list for each underlined word? Perhaps the rabbit *nibbled* and the leaves *rustled*. (Hint: If she's stuck, suggest that she use a thesaurus.)
3. Now she can try the new words in her sentences. Which ones sound best? ■



Picture this! Write that!

Looking for a way to inspire your youngster's creative writing abilities? Photos can do the trick. Here are ways to get started.

Photo walk. Go for a walk together, and let your child take pictures of scenes that might lead to a story. She could snap a photo of a fire truck speeding past with its lights flashing or of a frozen lake shimmering in the sun. At home, she



can look at the pictures and write a story about a courageous rescue or an ice hockey game.

Magazine clippings. Have your youngster cut out pictures of people, places, animals, and objects from old magazines. Next, suggest that she put the pictures in a paper bag, reach in, and pull out three at random. She can challenge herself to write a story to go with all three pictures. If she pulls out a photo of a cat, a backpack, and a little girl sitting in a classroom, your youngster may write about a cat who sneaks into his owner's backpack so he can go to school, too. 📖

Q&A Never too old for read-alouds

Q Now that my daughter can read by herself, should we still read aloud?

A Reading aloud—at any age—is great for parent-child bonding and for boosting your child's reading and listening skills.



Let her choose books she might not read on her own, perhaps ones with more complex stories or longer chapters. Mix

things up by having her read a page or section to you, too. Or choose characters for you each to “play,” and read their lines in different voices.

Another way to liven up read-alouds for this age is to read in various places and at different times. Reading before bed is great, but you could also read to her in the kitchen over snacks, on the front steps on an unexpectedly warm day, or while waiting for a relative at the bus station. 📖

OUR PURPOSE

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

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Parent 2 Parent

Watch out for spell-check

For the longest time, I couldn't get my son Max to understand the importance of proofreading his writing. He would roll his eyes and insist that spell-check and autocorrect were there to do the job for him.

Then one day, he read a story he had written to our family. He kept tripping over sloppy mistakes—and he couldn't believe how much they changed the meaning of his story. The first one was kind of funny: “I didn't know he was a police officer because he wasn't wearing his *unicorn*.” It was obviously supposed to be *uniform*. We laughed about what autocorrect had done to his story, but he quickly realized that proofreading wasn't a laughing matter.

Now when Max writes, he likes to share funny examples from autocorrect. But I'm glad to hear them, because finding the mistakes means he is proofreading his work carefully. 📖



Fun with Words

A new kind of word puzzle

What in the world is a *ditloid*? It's actually a rather funny name for a clever kind of word puzzle. Simply put, you combine numbers and letters to represent a familiar phrase, date, or fact. For example, *24 H in a D* is a ditloid for *24 hours in a day*. (Note: Common words like *the*, *in*, *a*, *an*, *of*, and *to* usually aren't abbreviated.)

You and your youngster can take turns making up ditloids for each other to solve. He'll practice creative thinking, and you'll enjoy a fun game together. Score one point for each one you get right.

Idea: If you need hints, sketch pictures to go along with the clues. 📖



Try these!

- 50 S on the F
- 27 A in the C
- 52 W in a Y
- 101 D
- 1 F 2 F RF BF
- A the W in 80 D

- Around the World in 80 Days
- Blue Fish
- One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish,
- 101 Dalmations
- 52 weeks in a year
- Constitution
- 27 amendments in the
- 50 stars on the flag

Answers

Recipes for Success

Practical Activities to Help Your Child Succeed

FEBRUARY 2018

READING

Character comparison

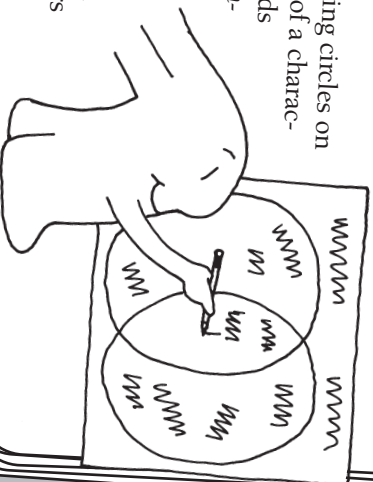
Encourage your youngster to think about the similarities and differences between two characters from a story by creating a Venn diagram.

Ingredients: book, paper, pencil, markers

Read a book aloud to your child, or have him read one himself. Ask him to pick two characters to compare.

Then, he can draw two big overlapping circles on paper and label each with the name of a character he chose. Next, he can write words describing each character (*tall, adventures, lonely*) in the appropriate circle. Features that are similar go in the overlapping area.

Now, let your youngster use his Venn diagram to tell you how the characters are the same—and different.



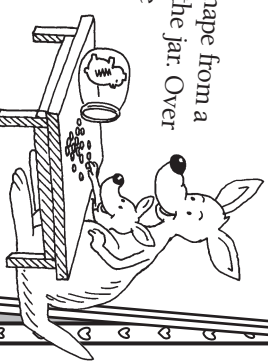
MATH

Piggy bank jar

Help your child learn that “a penny saved is a penny earned” with this money-saving lesson.

Ingredients: pencil, paper, scissors, tape, empty jar, marker, pennies

Have your youngster draw and cut out a piggy bank shape from a piece of paper, label it with today’s date, and tape it to the jar. Over the next week, your child can look around the house for pennies to add to her jar. Suggest that she invite family members to drop in their spare pennies, too. After a week, it’s time for her to dump out the pennies and count them. Then, she can record the amount, put the pennies back in, and save again the next week. She’ll see that over time the pennies add up—especially when nobody spends them!



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.”

FITNESS

Here’s a fun way for your child to get physical activity as she practices her ABCs! While lying on her back, she can use her legs to “draw” the alphabet in the air. Then, she could stand up and ———— try again, this time using her arms to go from A to Z.



MEASUREMENT

A polar bear on its hind legs can stand 9 feet tall. Help your child figure out how many inches that equals ($9 \times 12 = 108$). Then, have him measure the heights of various things around the house (a table, the fish tank) with a measuring tape. How much taller is a polar bear? He can subtract each measurement from 108 inches to find out.



SCIENCE

Sudsy sailing

Your youngster can experiment with science by using dish soap to power a “foam boat.”

Ingredients: foam plate, scissors, liquid dish detergent

Let your youngster make a “boat” by cutting a foam plate into a triangle. He should cut a V-shaped notch on one side of the triangle (the back of the boat).

Fill a sink with water. Have your child place the boat in the water. It will float. Then, ask him to put one drop of dish detergent in the water where the V-shaped notch is. The boat will zip across the water!



What happened? *Surface tension* makes the water molecules stick together on top of the water. The soap causes those molecules to separate, reducing the surface tension. As the molecules move away from each other, the boat moves faster.

Recipes for Success

Practical Activities to Help Your Child Succeed

FEBRUARY 2018

Character Corner

☐ PATIENCE

Some things are worth the wait. Help your youngster become more patient by talking about things that get better with time. For instance, homemade soup is tastier after it simmers. How many ideas can he come up with?



☐ GENEROSITY

Teach your child to be generous by suggesting that she donate a toy, book, or game to a hospital for patients to use. She can choose a gently used item or save her allowance to buy something. *Tip:* Call your local hospital to ask what kinds of things are needed.



☐ TRUSTWORTHINESS

Help your child learn about trust with this activity: Cover his eyes with a blindfold (scarf, tie), and steer him through a room safely. Switch roles, and he can guide you next.



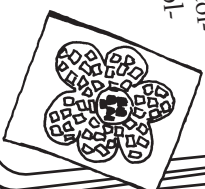
MULTIPLICATION

Try this “sweet strategy” for multiplication practice. Make a toaster waffle, and ask your child to show you 4 x 2—in chocolate chips. She would arrange the chips to cover four rows and two columns on the waffle. Now she gets to eat her problem!



CREATIVITY

Encourage your young artist to create his own mosaics—pictures made of small pieces of tile or other materials. Simply gather colored paper, glue, and a coloring book. He can tear the paper into tiny bits and glue those “tiles” onto coloring book pictures.



SPELLING

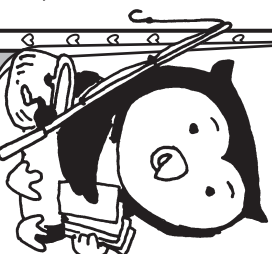
Fishing for words

This version of Go Fish will help your child spell tricky words correctly.

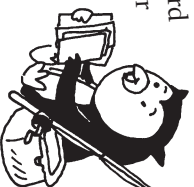
Ingredients: 2 dozen index cards, pencils

Together, list 12 pairs of homophones (words that sound the same but have different spellings and meanings). *Examples:* *ate/eight, paws/pause.* Have your youngster write each word on a separate index card.

Shuffle the cards, and deal five to yourself and five to her. Stack the rest facedown beside the list. Take turns trying to make a pair. For example, if your child has *pearl*, she would ask, “Do you have p-e-e-k?”



If you have the card, give it to her, and she will lay down the pair. If not, say, “Go fish!” and she draws one card from the pile. Then, it’s your turn. The first player to get rid of all her cards wins.



LISTENING

Play this listening game with relatives or friends. Quickly whisper a sentence or friends. Quickly whisper a silly sentence (“Patrick ate 37 plates of green and purple macaroni”) in the first person’s ear. Have each person whisper it to the next person. The last person announces the line out loud—will he get it right?



Congratulations!

We finished _____ activities together on this poster.

Signed (parent or adult family member)

Signed (child)

READING

Audiobooks let your youngster explore more difficult books than she might normally read. At the library, have her choose a couple to listen to in the car or at bedtime. Check out the print versions, too, so she can follow along with the words.

