Dennis-Yarmouth Title I

May 2018
VOL.I Issue IX

Begin with the basics

Know the language of math

Good readers have good vocabularies. This is true for math reading as well. Your child will need to know and apply many words as he learns new math concepts. Here are some of the words she will need to know:

• **Positional words.** These include:

• Above
• Below
• Beside
• Inside
• Outside
• Between

Your child won't be able to set up an addition problem if he doesn't understand that the plus sign (+) sits between the two addends (numbers being added).

• **Words that stand for numbers.** This is one of the trickiest areas of math language. Your child must understand that the word each in a math problem is another way to say one. Many is a counting word, and much refers to amounts.

• **Words that refer to different amounts.** Most common are words such as more, less and fewer. Your child should know that more means a greater amount, while less and fewer refer to smaller amounts. For example, "Sarah had 12 marbles and Ryan had three. Sarah had more. Ryan had fewer."

The best way to help your child is to use words like these in your daily conversation and to point out examples whenever you see them. Make flashcards of math words and symbols and work them into your child's weekly vocabulary lists.

Suggest a strategy for word problems

To solve word problems, your child will need to read carefully. She should:

• **Start** by reading the whole problem.

• **Identify** all numbers in the problem. Look for words (such as dozen) that stand for numbers!

• **Read** the problem again, out loud. Draw a picture of it.

• **Think about** what she needs to do. How should she set up the problem? Which operations does she need to use? Some hints: words like in all or all together means you need to add or multiply.

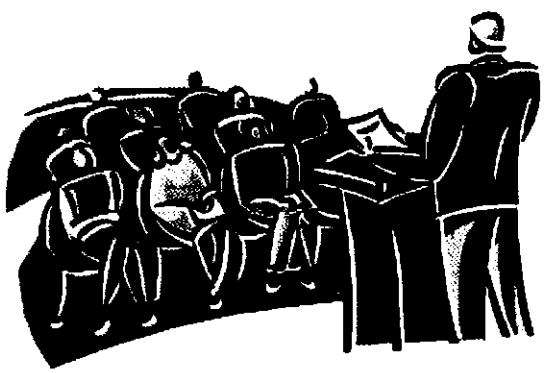
How many are are left or how many more than means you need to subtract. How many or how much when used with the word each means you need to divide.

• **Think** about the answer. Will it be a larger number than the numbers in the problem, or will it be smaller?

• **Act out** the problem. Try using manipulatives, which are simply objects that represent numbers. If you set out two groups of two apples, then count them up to see that they total four, you have just used manipulatives to solve 2 x 2 = 4.

• **Work** out the problem with pencil and paper. Double-check it. Be sure the answer makes sense.

Your child may not need every step in this process, but it helps to be familiar with all of them.



Yarmouth Town Meeting: May 5th Saturday at 9:00 a.m. Mattacheese Middle School.

Dennis Town Meeting: May 8th Tuesday at 6:30 Wixon Middle School.

Dennis and Yarmouth Election Day: Tuesday May 15th.

Remember that voting is a responsibility not a privilege

Home & School CONNECTION®

Working Together for School Success

May 2018

Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program

SHORT NOTES

The art of flexibility

Being flexible will allow your child to switch gears if plans change at the last minute or something doesn't work out as expected. Help him learn to "flex" his mind by playing board games with new rules you make up. Also, discuss how it's possible to do the same thing in different ways, such as taking two routes to the same house.

Hands-on studying

With household materials like sugar or rice, your youngster could add variety to her studying. Suggest that she spread sugar or rice into a baking dish and write spelling words or math facts with her finger. Using her senses can cement the information in her mind.

Annual checkup time?

If your child needs a checkup before school starts in the fall, book his appointment early. Pediatricians' schedules fill up quickly in the summer. *Tip:* Most schools require specific immunizations, so check that your youngster is up to date.

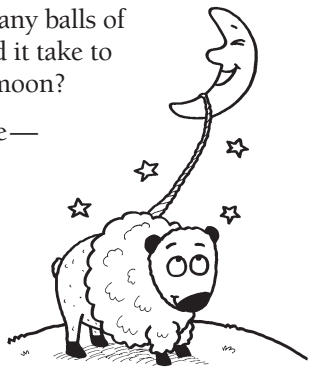
Worth quoting

"If you look the right way, you can see that the whole world is a garden."
Frances Hodgson Burnett

JUST FOR FUN

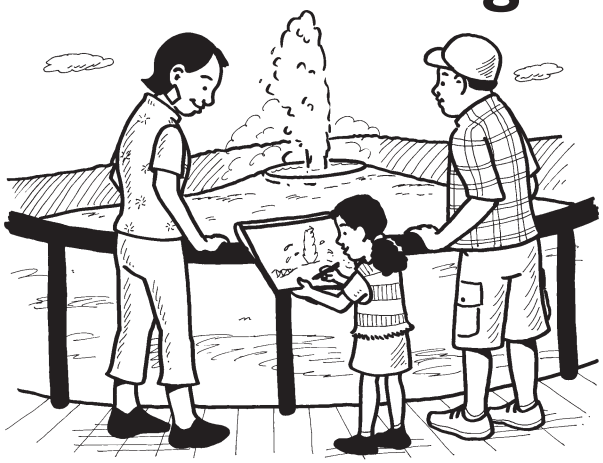
Q: How many balls of yarn would it take to reach the moon?

A: Just one—if it's big enough!



Month-by-month learning

How can you keep the learning going while school is out? Try these fun ideas for taking advantage of monthly celebrations! Your child's skills will stay sharp, and you'll enjoy family time, too.



May

Let your youngster cycle her way to math practice during *National Bike Month*. Encourage her to set a goal for time spent biking, and then take regular family bike rides. She can create a graph to track her progress. Perhaps she'll make a picture graph and draw 1 bike wheel for every 15 minutes of cycling. She'll be able to calculate her time at a glance.

June

Inspire your child to use persuasive writing during *National Safety Month*. Together, brainstorm safe behaviors (wear seat belts in the car, stay indoors during thunderstorms). Next, have her make posters with slogans ("Be on the safe side: Buckle up before you ride!"), facts ("Seat belts save lives"), and photos of family members following the rule.

July

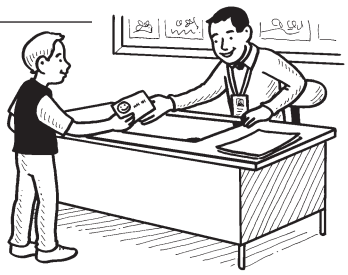
Celebrate *National Park and Recreation Month* by exploring nature. Visit local parks, and have your youngster record her observations and use them to design field guides. Take along paper and colored pencils so she can sketch and label plants and animals, describe streams, or map out trails.

August

Build communication skills with *National Radio Day*. Challenge your child to "launch" a radio station. She should think about her audience and purpose—who her listeners would be and the type of programming they would want. Now she can develop scripts and record broadcasts!♥

It's a wrap

Help your youngster bring the school year to a successful close with this to-do list:



- Thank teachers and other school staff. Your child could make cards or write thoughtful notes to show his appreciation.
- Suggest that he offer to assist his teacher with year-end jobs like taking down bulletin boards or packing up classroom games.
- Have your youngster find and return any books he borrowed from his teacher or the school library.♥

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Gaining life skills

The older your youngster gets, the more he'll be able to do for himself. Teach him basic life skills with these ideas.

Do tasks together. Your child may be too young to cook dinner or clean the entire bathroom by himself, but he can move toward doing those jobs by helping you. Give him a task, such as stirring casserole ingredients and pouring the mixture into a baking dish—then you put it in the oven. Or you might scrub the shower while he wipes down the mirror and sink.

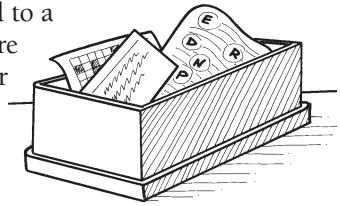
Hand over the reins. Decide what tasks your youngster may be ready for by thinking about what he can already do. If he knows how to make his bed, maybe you'll teach him to change the sheets. Demonstrate putting on the fitted sheet, tucking in the top sheet, and replacing the pillowcase. The next time, let him try it by himself with you nearby for help. Eventually he'll be ready to do it on his own.♥

ACTIVITY CORNER

"Escape" puzzles

Escape rooms, where players have to solve puzzles to get out, are popular these days. Here's a way to bring the idea home for free. The bonus? Your youngster will work on logical thinking as she and her friends play.

1. Choose a story line. Each child should think of a "mission," perhaps one related to a topic they're studying or a book they're reading. *Example:* "Escape Mars before a dust storm strikes." She can write the scenario on an index card and place it in a shoebox.



2. Create clues. Have each player make up five puzzles to put in her box. For a Mars puzzle, your youngster might circle letters in a magazine article that can be arranged to spell *red planet* or make a crossword puzzle with words like *spaceship* and *cold.*

3. Escape! Now the children trade boxes and do the puzzles. The first person to solve all five has "escaped." After they're all finished, they can make new boxes and play again.♥

Q & A

Keep a family journal

Q: *I'd like for my son to write more this summer. Any suggestions?*

A: Your son may be motivated to write more if you make it a family event. Consider starting a household journal, and you'll wind up with a record of your summer together!

Place a notebook and a cup of pens or pencils in a visible spot, maybe on the kitchen counter. Ask everyone to write at least one entry per week. You might write about everyday things, such as swinging on a swing set, or special events like an Independence Day parade. Perhaps your child will add pictures to illustrate journal entries. Or he could tape in mementos like ticket stubs and photographs.

At the end of each week, take turns reading entries aloud. When he goes back to school in the fall, your son may want to share your journal with his new teacher. This is a nice way for her to learn something about your child and his family.♥

PARENT TO PARENT

Talk about drugs

Our local police department held an information night about keeping kids away from drugs and alcohol. My daughter Bella is only 8, so I wasn't planning to attend until a friend asked me to go with her. I'm glad I did.

I found out that it is important to talk to children about drugs early and often. Taking the officers' advice, I went home and brought up the subject in a way Bella could understand. I explained that drugs and alcohol are unhealthy and make it hard for people to do things they enjoy, such as swimming or reading. I also pointed out that these substances are illegal for kids and that if anyone asks her to try them, she should tell me or another adult right away.

Bella promised to say no to drugs. Of course, I know it may not be that easy when she's older and facing peer pressure. But at least the door is open, and we will keep talking about this challenging topic.♥

OUR PURPOSE

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

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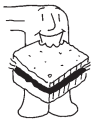
Beginning Edition

Math+Science Connection

Building Excitement and Success for Young Children

May 2018

Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program



TOOLS & TIDBITS

Coin rubbings

Your youngster can practice coin recognition with this activity. Put a penny, nickel, dime, and quarter on a table. Have her cover them with white paper and use an unwrapped crayon to lightly rub over each one. Help her label each rubbing with the coin's name and how many cents it's worth. Then, she could match each coin with its rubbing.

Layers of soil

"Go ahead and play in the dirt!" Let your child dig up enough soil to fill a clear jar halfway and add water. He should leave a few inches of space at the top, screw on the lid, and shake. Leave it overnight, and it will settle into layers. He'll see that soil has different "ingredients"—heavier particles like rocks sink toward the bottom while lighter ones, such as bits of leaves, stay near the top.

Book picks

Is sneaky Triangle going to outsmart his friend Square? Your youngster will laugh at the mischievous shapes in *Triangle* (Mac Barnett).

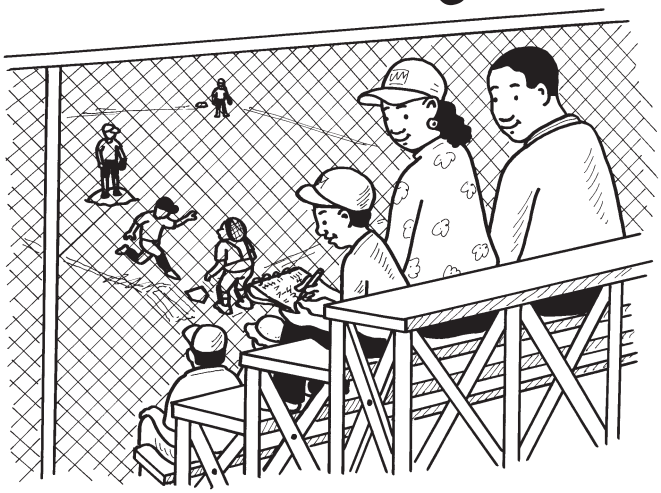
Learn how 3-D printing saved a wounded wild bald eagle in the delightful story *Beauty and the Beak* (Deborah Lee Rose).

Just for fun

Q: What turns everything around but doesn't move?

A: A mirror.

Keep a summer math log



Whether your child is taking a trip in the car, watching sports, or running and playing outdoors, he can do math this summer! Have him turn a notebook into a log for recording math activities like these.

Find numbers and shapes

Help your youngster draw a bingo card in his log with number-related objects to find while riding in the car (1 bank, 3 fire hydrants, 35-mph speed limit sign). Can he cross out all the boxes before you reach your destination?

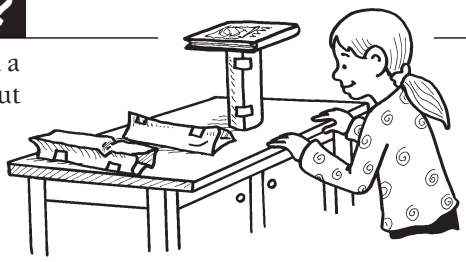
Count and subtract

At a baseball or basketball game, suggest that your child keep score by making a tally mark for each run or point. When the game ends, he should count the tally marks and write the final score. Have him announce who won and by how much. ("The Robins scored 7 runs and the Tigers got 4. The Robins won by 3, because 7 – 4 = 3.")

Estimate and measure

Have your youngster estimate how many jumps it would take to get from the front door to the mailbox. He can check his estimate by counting his jumps. Help him estimate time, too. How long will it take him to run once around the house? Time him, then he could write his estimates and the actual numbers in his math log.

Which column is strongest?



How can one piece of paper support a heavy book? Let your youngster find out with this engineering challenge.

Have her fold one sheet of construction paper lengthwise into thirds and tape the ends together to make a triangular prism. She should fold a second piece into fourths to create a rectangular prism and roll the last sheet to form a cylinder. Now ask your child to predict which column is strongest.

She can test her prediction by standing up each column and placing a book on top. The triangular and rectangular prisms will buckle. While they're strong at their corners (vertices), their edges are weak. The cylinder is equally sturdy all the way around, so it supports the book's weight evenly. What kind of column does your child think engineers prefer for buildings?

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Graph animal friends

"I saw 3 butterflies, 5 squirrels, and 3 birds at the park!" Your child can keep track of animals she spots by making this picture graph.

1. Let your youngster bring pencil and paper to the park. Have her draw lines to divide her paper into three columns.

2. Help her label the columns with the names of three animals she spots. Then, each time she sees one of those animals, she draws a picture to represent it in the correct column. So if she sees 5 squirrels, she would draw 5 of them in the squirrel column.

3. Take turns asking each other questions that can be answered using her graph. *Examples:* "Which animal did you see the most of? The least?" "How many more squirrels than butterflies did you see?"

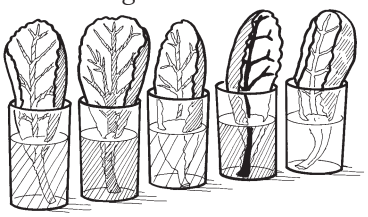
Idea: If you travel this summer, your youngster could repeat this activity in another area. Or she might wait and try again in fall and winter. Does she observe different types and numbers of animals?

SCIENCE LAB

Thirsty leaves

Plants need water to live. Let your youngster see for himself how plants "drink" their water.

You'll need: 5 green cabbage leaves, 5 glasses, measuring cup, water, 4 colors of food coloring



Here's how: Have your child pour 1 cup water into each glass and add food coloring to four glasses (a different color for each). He should leave the fifth glass of water clear. Now let him put a cabbage leaf, stem down, in each jar. Every day, he can observe the leaves and sketch what he sees.

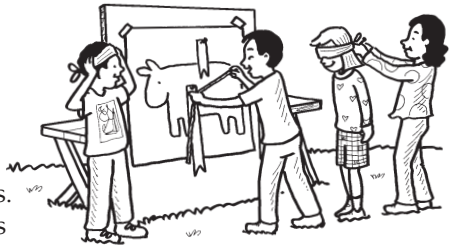
What happens? After a few days, the leaves in the colored water will turn the color of the water. So if your youngster added red food coloring, the leaf will be red. The leaf in plain water won't change.

Why? In plants, water moves up through the roots, stem, and leaves—this is called *capillary action.* Food coloring shows your child this process.

MATH CORNER

Throw a math party

Celebrate math this summer by letting your youngster host a party for family or friends. From snacks to games, this bash is all about math.



Eat shapes and patterns

Set out cookie cutters or plastic knives. Encourage guests to cut their sandwiches into shapes like circles, squares, and triangles. Or have partygoers thread fruit and cheese onto toothpicks in a pattern (melon ball, cheese cube, strawberry, melon ball, cheese cube, strawberry).

Use math for games

Put math twists on traditional party games. For Pin the Tail on the Donkey, each player could use string to measure how close he came to the target and cut his piece to that length. After everyone has had a turn, line up the strings on the floor. The player with the shortest string wins.

PARENT TO PARENT

My mathematics lab

My daughter Aeisha loves to read in a cozy corner of her room on her beanbag chair. I thought adding math tools to her special spot might encourage her to practice math, too.

We cleared off the top of her bookcase and stocked baskets with pencils, crayons, paper, a calculator, and a ruler. Aeisha added dice, pretend money from old board games, and a deck of cards. At the dollar store, we bought a magnetic white board and a set of number magnets to put in her corner.

Now my daughter calls the spot "Aeisha's Math Lab." She often does activities she enjoys in school like making up math problems on her white board and sorting playing cards. She's having fun with math—and she has a great place to do homework, too.

OUR PURPOSE

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

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BUILDING READERS®

How Families Can Help Children Get Ready to Read

Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District
Title 1

Keep your preschooler's thinking skills sharp during the summer

Don't let your little thinker's brain turn to mush over the summer! Read together every day and:

- **Introduce your child** to new things. Explore a new park or playground. Take a trip to an age-appropriate theater or art gallery. Pay a virtual visit to another country online.
- **Investigate the wonders** all around him. Point out the constellations to your child on a clear night. Identify the trees in your backyard. Go on a bird-watching expedition around the block.
- **Help your child learn a new skill.** Enroll in a parent-child class. Teach him how to prepare a simple recipe.

Be creative! *Any* activity that makes your child think will help strengthen his thinking skills.

Create a picture book with your child

Young children love picture books. They also love to create their own stories. With all the new experiences that this summer will bring, it is a great time to encourage your child to draw and write.

Each time your child does something fun this summer:

1. **Give her a piece of paper** and ask her to draw you a picture about it. Fold under the bottom third of the paper so that it remains blank.
2. **Have your child tell you** about the picture when she finishes it. On the bottom third of the paper, write down exactly what your child says. Have her use a marker to trace over the letters you have written.

At the end of the summer, staple all the pages together to create your child's very own summer picture book! Have her "read" her summer book to you often. Use it to revisit the warm summer days when the weather turns cold!

Promote reading this summer

It is important to maintain your preschooler's interest in books and reading over the summer months.

Plan to:

- **Visit the library** every week. Encourage your child to check out a new genre each time you go. Ask the librarian for suggestions.
- **Pack books** to help pass the time on trips and errands.
- **Enroll your child** in a summer reading program.

Enthusiasm builds enthusiasm!

Want your preschooler to get excited about books? Get excited about them yourself! Along with reading stories to her, sharing your enthusiasm for books is one of the most effective ways to nurture your child's love of words!

Use the colors of the rainbow to practice letters

Help your child review the letters of the alphabet—and make a piece of art! Pick a word, such as his name. Then:

1. **Print the word** lightly on a piece of paper.
2. **Have your child** trace the letters several times, each time using a different color crayon.
3. **Read each letter aloud** as your child traces it. Make sure he says the letter with you!

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Listening skills build reading skills

Listening is an important part of your child's language development and a key step to building reading skills. To help her become a better listener:

- **Speak to your child** in a clear and simple manner using correct grammar. Avoid using baby talk.
- **Model good listening** for your child. Make eye contact and repeat what you have heard to show you understand.
- **Ask your child questions** that require her to make a choice. "Would you like to wear your red shirt or your green shirt today?"
- **Play games that use listening** and following directions, such as Simon Says.

Talking leads to 'incidental teaching'

What's one of the most effective ways to boost your child's word smarts? According to research, it's talking to her!

When you speak with your child, you're engaged in something called "incidental teaching."

Here's how it works:

1. **Your child introduces a topic.** "I went on the swings today."
2. **You encourage her to elaborate.** "Wow! What else did you do?"
3. **Your child replies.** "We went down the slide and played tag."
4. **You praise her language.** "You did a great job describing your day!"

The conversation is quick, simple, and ideal for getting your child to think about—and use—different words.

Source: V.J. Carbone, Ed.D., "Natural Environment Teaching," niswc.com/BR-RR_incidental.

Q: My son is only in preschool, but I'm already concerned about his doing well in elementary school and beyond. How can I set him up for success?

A: By making him *want* to learn! Surround your child with books and other types of reading materials. Talk to him every day. Draw and count together. Sing the alphabet. Paint pictures. Basically, ignite a "knowledge spark" in him!

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

Help your child identify rhymes

Rhymes emphasize the *phonemes* (the sounds that letters make) that words have in common.

To have your child practice identifying rhymes, say three words aloud. Two of the words should rhyme and one should sound very different, like *cat, hat, tree*. Say each word slowly, and ask which one sounds different. Exaggerate *cat* and *hat* so he can hear the *at* sound.

Books to delight your early reader

- ***Oh, No!*** by Candace Fleming (Schwartz & Wade). When Frog falls into a deep hole, Mouse tries to help him out … but then Mouse falls in, too! Will the animals make it out?
- ***Jack's House*** by Karen Magnuson Beil (Holiday House). Jack says he built a house—but Max the dog knows the true story. Hear Max's take on the construction in this funny adaptation of the classic tale, "The House that Jack Built."
- ***The Pirate of Kindergarten*** by George Ella Lyon (Atheneum). Ginny has a problem: She sees two of everything! A nurse diagnoses her problem and fixes it with an eye patch. Will this Kindergarten Pirate be able to enjoy the rest of the year?

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Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

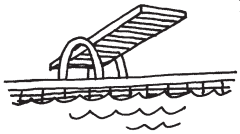
May 2018

Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program

Book Picks

Read-aloud favorites

■ ***Jabari Jumps*** *(Gaia Cornwall)*
Jabari loves swim lessons. But now it's time for the final test—jumping off the diving board. Suddenly, Jabari can think of a dozen things he needs to be doing instead of diving into the pool. With a little help from his dad, Jabari finds a way to overcome his fear.



■ ***Judy Moody & Stink: The Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad Treasure Hunt*** *(Megan McDonald)*
A trip to Ocracoke Island, North Carolina, turns into a pirate adventure for Judy Moody and her brother. Readers join the fun of following a map and discovering clues in a search for buried treasure. (Also available in Spanish.)

■ ***Me…Jane*** *(Patrick McDonnell)*
As a little girl, Jane Goodall dreamed of growing up and living in Africa where she would help all the animals in the jungle. This picture-book biography tells the story of how Jane studied animals and nature and grew up to be a scientist famous for her work with chimpanzees.

■ ***Money Madness*** *(David A. Adler)*
Rocks, feathers, animals, and food have all been used as money throughout history. A cartoon Uncle Sam character leads this lively tour of currency geared toward young readers. The author uses humor to explain how money has changed over the years and the role it plays in our economy.

Adventures in reading

Reading during summer break can help your child maintain—and even strengthen—her skills for the coming school year. Make books a part of summer with these activities.

Go "on location"

Take family field trips inspired by book settings. Maybe you'll stop by a construction site or go out for ice cream. Have your youngster make real-life connections by pointing out things that remind her of the book (workers wearing hard hats, a display of sundae toppings).

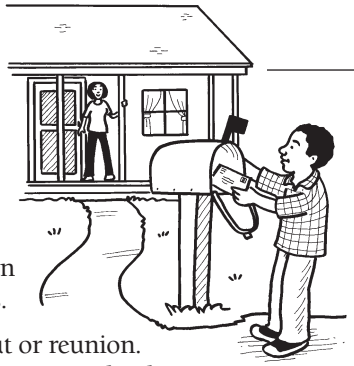
Aim for variety

Encourage your child to explore different topics and types of books with this idea. Put magnetic letters in a bag. Take turns drawing a letter and listing a topic that starts with it (*dancer* for D, *elephant* for E). When you visit the library, your youngster can use the list to choose books like a biography of a dancer or a story about elephants.

Achieve a goal

Join another family to meet a shared reading goal. Together, choose a target, such as 50 books or 1,000 pages, and throw a celebration when you reach it. You could hold a game night or a taco party, for instance. Let your child keep track of your progress and check in with the other family regularly.♥

Reach out and write



Staying in touch with friends and relatives gives your youngster practical reasons to write. Suggest these projects:

- Exchange weekly letters or emails with a classmate or cousin. Your child will work on asking and answering questions as he and his pen pal learn about each other's summer experiences.
- Use a computer to write invitations to a cookout or reunion. Help your youngster mail or email them to guests. Typing the date and time of the event and the addresses lets him practice writing numbers.
- Design greeting cards for birthdays or other celebrations. Your child can write a cute poem on the front, then add a personal message on the inside.♥

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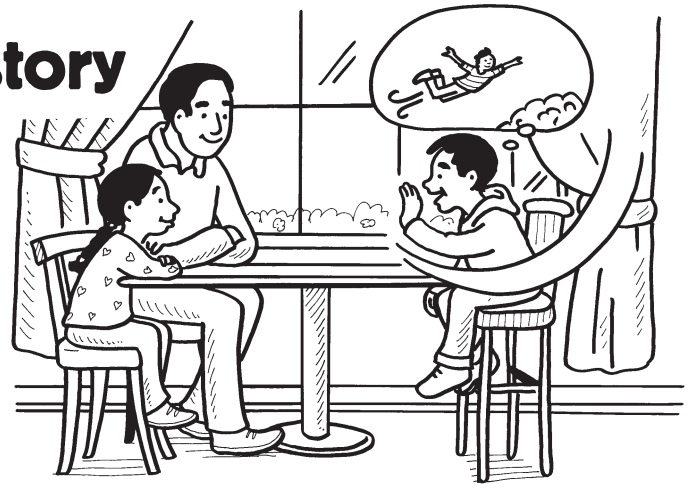
Once upon a story



Telling stories improves your youngster's creativity and communication. Use these ideas to inspire him.

Patchwork stories. Take turns being the storyteller and letting your listener choose the setting, character, and problem. Perhaps your child will pick the ocean, a dog, and a lost toy. You could begin, "Once upon a time, a polka-dotted puppy went to sea in a submarine. At the bottom of the ocean, he found his red ball that had been missing."

Now trade roles, and it's your youngster's turn to weave a setting, character, and problem into a story.

Tall tales. Stretch a real-life event into a tall tale, or a story that includes exaggeration. You might say, "One day, I went down the slide, floated off the end, and started to fly." Your child picks up where you left off and adds his own exaggeration. "I flew up to the top of a tree and played tag with a squirrel." Keep going wherever the tale leads until someone can wrap it up with "The end."♥

Fun with Words: My picture thesaurus

Draw, *doodle*, and *sketch* are all slightly different words for *illustrate*. Your youngster will practice writing and discover more synonyms, or words with similar meanings, as she creates her own picture thesaurus.

Materials: *paper, stapler, crayons*

Staple together several sheets of paper to make a book. On each page, help your child write three words that have similar meanings. *Examples: cold*, *frosty*, *frozen*. (You could use a real thesaurus for ideas.)

Next, have her illustrate each word. She might draw a glass of lemonade for *cold*, a milkshake for *frosty*, and an ice cube for *frozen*.

Let her read her thesaurus to you. As she comes across new words, she can add them and their synonyms. *Idea:* Encourage her to use her thesaurus when she writes stories—she'll have a variety of words to choose from, which will make her writing more interesting.♥

Parent to Parent: Read...and reread

When my son Tyler read aloud, he would say one word at a time, so his sentences sounded choppy. I told his teacher that he was so focused on figuring out the words, he'd lose track of what the story was about.

She said she was working with Tyler to help him recognize more words automatically, which will improve his fluency. She explained that repeated reading could make him more fluent, too, and she suggested this strategy.

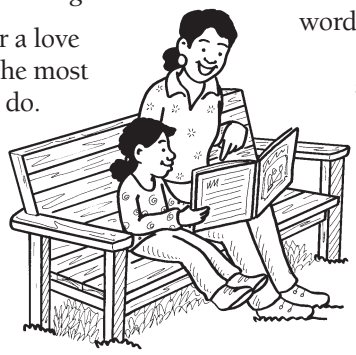
First, Tyler reads a sentence from a book the way he normally does. Then, I pretend to "change the channel" by clicking on an imaginary remote control three times. After each click, I name a character, such as a mouse or a lion, and Tyler rereads the sentence in that voice.

Using silly voices makes it fun for Tyler to practice repeated reading. Now each time he rereads a passage, he reads a little more smoothly and with better expression.♥

Q&A: Ready for kindergarten

Q *My daughter starts kindergarten in the fall. What should I be doing to get her ready for reading?*

A Giving your daughter a love of books and reading is the most important thing you can do. The best way to accomplish that is to read with her every day.



When you read together, point to the words as you say them. Your child will learn that we read books from top to bottom and from left to right. She'll also pick up the idea that letters on the page make words that tell the story.

Talk about stories and ask questions, too. Simply inviting your daughter to describe her favorite parts or predict what might happen next gives her a stronger connection to books and will deepen her love of reading.♥

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Elementary School • May 2018

BUILDING READERS®

How Families Can Help Children Become Better Readers

Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District
Title 1

Promote reading as a summer activity

To keep your child reading over the summer, treat it like a fun summer activity. Let it be something she can do whenever she feels like it. Show her that reading is fun—and never make it feel like homework.

To encourage reading:

- **Connect books** with summer activities—sports books for a summer league player, for instance, or camping books for a camper.
- **Let your child stay up** past bedtime when a book is just too good to put down.
- **Help your child find** a series of fiction or thriller books. These page-turners hook kids into a reading habit.
- **Share favorite books** and magazines with your child.
- **Encourage a change** of venue. Read books at the beach or pool, in a tent or at the park.
- **Watch a movie** based on a children's book. Then read the book together and discuss the differences between the two.

Reading can lead to test success

Students often have to tackle multiple-choice questions on tests. Putting their reading skills to work can help. Share these tips with your child:

- **Read each question carefully.** Your child should notice key words, such as *who*, *what*, *when* and *where*. He should also pay attention to tricky words like *not* and *except*.
- **Think about the answer.** Before looking at the choices, your child should put the answer in his own words. Then, he can see if an option matches what he was thinking.
- **Read every choice.** If your child thinks he sees the answer immediately, he should still consider all the possibilities. One answer may be more complete than another.
- **Eliminate wrong answers.** Even if your child doesn't know the right answer, he may recognize wrong answers. He should cross them off to boost his chances of guessing correctly among the remaining answers.

Build thinking skills with analogies

Expand your child's thinking skills by practicing *analogies*, comparisons between pairs of words that have a relationship with each other—like *dog* is to *fur* as *bird* is to *feather*.

Have your child fill in the missing word in these analogies:

- *Sand* is to *beach* as _____ is to the *North Pole*. (*snow*)
- *Fly* is to *airplane* as _____ is to *car*. (*drive*)
- *Good* is to *wonderful* as _____ is to *terrible*. (*bad*)

Conversations strengthen vocabulary

Talk with your child as you do your daily activities together. Ask her questions. It's one of the most important ways to help her build a strong vocabulary. And that's part of building a strong reader!

Set goals for summer reading

As summer approaches, encourage your entire family to set some reading goals. Family members could:

- **Read a certain number** of books each week.
- **Read all the books** by a favorite author.
- **Read to learn** a new skill.
- **Read for a certain** amount of time each day.

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Encourage your child to keep a summer log

Summer is a great time for your child to start keeping a log. All she needs is an empty notebook and a few ideas to get started. Here are some suggestions:

- **A research log.** Have your child pick a subject she loves, such as skateboarding. Over the summer, she can research and write about it. What are some cool skateboard tricks? Who holds records for skateboarding?
- **A travel log.** Each time she goes somewhere special—whether it's far away or close to home—your child can keep a record by taking photos, drawing or journaling. What did she see? Who did she meet? What did she think about what she saw?
- **An observation log.** Suggest that your child observe something over a period of time, such as a summer vegetable as it grows. Or, she can pick something to describe in detail, such as a bug or an animal.

A storytelling game develops imagination

When children tell stories, they practice using their imaginations. They learn to play with words and structure their thoughts. As a family, try this storytelling game:

1. **Select five words** that have no connection to each other, such as *dragon*, *song*, *tree*, *happy* and *confused*.
2. **Write the words down** and post them for all to see.
3. **Have each player** create a story that includes all the selected words. The story must make sense but it can take any form—drama, comedy, fairy tale, etc. Make sure each player includes a title and conclusion.
4. **Have family members** tell their stories, then vote for the best one.

THE READING ADVISOR

Q: My child gets frustrated when she can't read unfamiliar words. What can I do?

A: When your child comes across an unfamiliar word, have her read it slowly to identify the sounds of the word. Then ask, "What word would make sense in the story?" A guess based on context may be correct. Giving her time to figure it out lets her feel more in control of her reading process. Be available for your child when she needs help.

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

Use the five W's to ask questions

When you discuss a story with your child, ask him about the Five W's: Who? What? When? Where? Why? These questions help readers focus when they read and retell a story.

For example, ask: *Who* is the main character? *What* is the story about? *When* does it take place? *Where* does it happen? *Why* did the characters make certain choices?

For lower elementary readers:

- ***Uh-oh, Cleo*** by Jessica Harper (Putnam). Uh-oh! A minor accident sends eight-year-old Cleo to the doctor for stitches. This amusing story is a good introduction to chapter books.
- ***Ike's Incredible Ink*** by Brianne Farley (Candlewick). Ike sits down to write a story and decides to make his own ink. But before he can make it, he'll have to collect just the right ingredients.

For upper elementary readers:

- ***Running Shoes*** by Frederick Lipp (Charlesbridge). Sophy receives the most wonderful gift—a pair of running shoes—and is inspired to do great things.
- ***Storyteller*** by Patricia Reilly Giff (Wendy Lamb Books). When young Elizabeth goes to live with her aunt and uncle, she discovers fascinating stories about the past.

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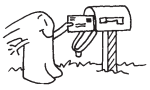
INTERMEDIATE EDITION

Reading Connection

Working Together for Learning Success

May 2018

Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program



Book Picks

■ ***The Great Treehouse War*** *(Lisa Graff)*
Winnie has an unusual living arrangement after her parents' divorce. She's supposed to spend three days a week with her mom, three days with her dad, and one day in a treehouse near both homes. Frustrated by her parents' efforts to outdo each other, Winnie decides to stay in the treehouse—but the situation gets out of hand when 10 of her friends move in!

■ ***I Will Always Write Back: How One Letter Changed Two Lives*** *(Caitlin Alifirenka and Martin Ganda with Liz Welch)*

This inspiring true story describes the friendship between two unlikely pen pals: Caitlin, a 12-year-old from suburban Pennsylvania, and Martin, a 14-year-old from a poor village in Zimbabwe. The friends tell their tale through alternating points of view.

■ ***Peak*** *(Roland Smith)*
Climbing is in Peak Marcello's genes.

But when he is arrested for scaling a skyscraper, he realizes he has taken his passion too far. He's sent to live with his long-lost father, who runs an adventure company. Is he really up to the challenge of being the youngest boy to climb Mount Everest?

■ ***Girls Think of Everything*** *(Catherine Thimmesh)*
This biography collection describes the inventions of a dozen women and girls. Through hard work and creativity, they developed items ranging from chocolate chip cookies to solar-heated houses. Includes a time line of important inventions by females.

Read around your community

Now starring: Reading! Keep books front and center this summer with community outings that will motivate your child to read.

At the library

Kick off the season with a trip to the library, where your youngster can sign up for the summer reading program. Ask a librarian if there's a kids' book club—or encourage your child to start her own. Discussing books with others is fun, and it boosts comprehension.

In the bookstore

Explore local book shops, and browse the shelves for used books or low-cost paperbacks. Also, plan to attend events they sponsor like author visits, poetry readings, or puppet shows. If you're going to meet a children's writer, your youngster may want to read one of his books ahead of time and write down questions to ask him. *Idea:* Traveling this summer? Tour bookstores in other towns.

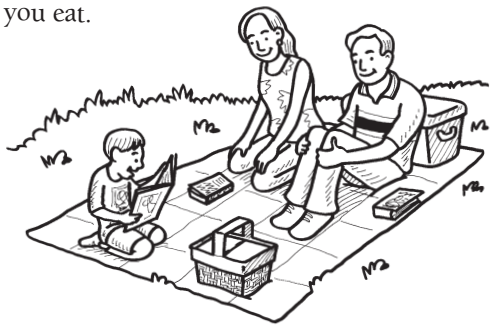
Onstage

Help your child read the newspaper or look online to find concerts or plays. Pick one to see, and get in the spirit by reading a related book. Before a bluegrass concert, your child could read about the history of that style of music. Or for a community theater production of *Alice in Wonderland*, you might read the Lewis Carroll classic together.

Celebrate books

Create your own family fun by inviting books to your summer activities. Consider these tips:

- Pack a picnic basket with lunch *and* books. Head to a nearby park, and enjoy reading outside. Your youngster might read aloud a chapter from a novel before lunch. Then, let each person relax with his own book after you eat.



- Add reading to a family gathering like an Independence Day celebration or a birthday party. Take turns reading from books of jokes, trivia, or world records. *Idea:* Encourage your child to read to younger siblings and cousins.

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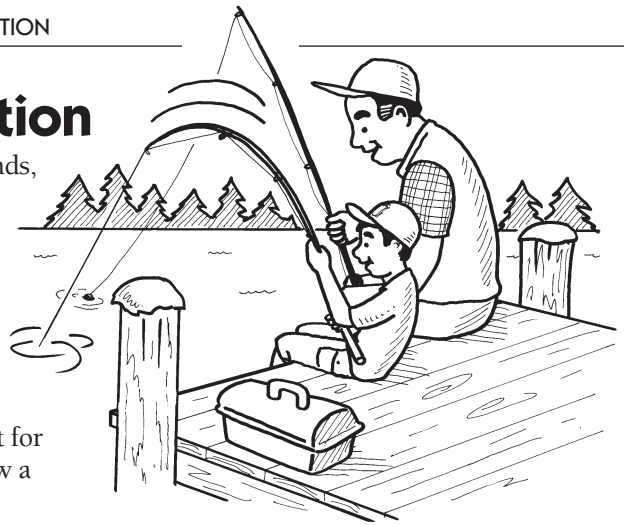
Write creative nonfiction



Whether your child is swimming with friends, stargazing at camp, or visiting grandparents, special memories make great nonfiction writing material. Share this advice to help him write a true story.

Find an exciting angle. Encourage your youngster to pick out something fun or unusual about an event and build his story around it. Maybe his friend brought a cool raft for everyone to float on, or perhaps your child saw a shooting star.

Create images. Your youngster can help readers "see" the story by setting the scene. Rather than "I caught a fish," he might write, "Grandpa and I sat on the wooden dock overlooking the clear blue lake when, suddenly, I caught a big fish!"

Share the emotion. Suggest that your child describe how people in his story felt. His characters will seem more real if he writes a sentence like "The campers gasped in awe as the starlight soared across the night sky" or "Grandpa's face shone with pride when he saw my catch."

Fun with Words — Road trip games

Word games are a tried-and-true way to strengthen vocabulary and pass time in the car. Here are two to try.

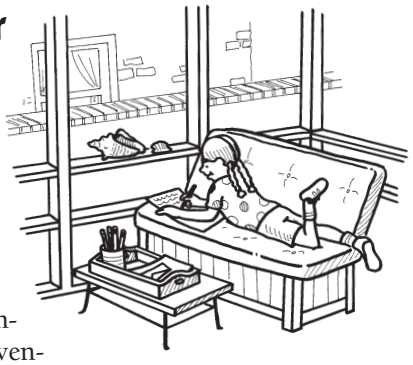
Buzzwords

Let your child choose an interesting word on a sign, such as *delicatessen* or *boulevard*. You say a word that her word brings to mind (*pastrami*). Your youngster adds a word that's related to yours, and so on. Continue until no one can think of a word. The player who said the last one picks a new word. Then, play again.

License plate words

Ask your youngster to read the letters on a license plate. Take turns saying a word that includes all the letters in the order they appear. For TLB, you might pick ***t**oll**b**ooth*, ***t**ool**b**ox*, ***t**ail**b**one*, and ***t**rail-**b**lazer*. If you say a word that doesn't contain those letters in that order, or you can't think of a word, you're out. The last player remaining is the winner.

A household writing center



Families can share ideas and stories with this interactive writing center. Have your youngster set aside a spot that includes paper, pencils, pens, and envelopes. Together, enjoy these suggestions.

- **Fill an "idea envelope."** Jot ideas on slips of paper, and put them in an envelope. ("We should go tubing!") Visitors to the writing center can build on the ideas. ("The Outdoor Adventure Center offers discounts on tubing on Sunday afternoons.")
- **Provide inspiration.** Place a seashell, a photo of a cute baby animal, or another item in the station. Each person writes a story about the object and seals it in an envelope. When everyone is finished, read your tales aloud to each other. You will see all the different stories the same item can inspire!

Q&A — Should my child try e-books?

Q *I've recently started reading e-books. I enjoy them, so I thought I might suggest that my fourth-grade son try some. But are print books better for kids?*

A For many people, there's something special about holding a book and turning the pages. This is especially important for beginning readers. But since your son is older, he might experiment with both print and e-books.

One advantage of e-readers is that they hold a large number of books. If you travel, your child can "pack" as many titles as he likes. Also, by downloading books from the public library for free, he'll have a huge selection available at the touch of a button.

On the other hand, youngsters can easily be distracted by apps while they're reading e-books. So have your son either turn off internet access or use a device that's just for reading.

Regardless of which book format your child likes, he'll be reading—and that's what's most important.

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Recipes for Success

Practical Activities to Help Your Child Succeed

MAY 2018

Refrigerator Poster

Just hang your *Recipes* poster on the refrigerator and sneak in an activity when you have a few minutes. These fun activities will help develop school success and positive behavior. Check off each box as you complete the "recipe."

READING
Utter nonsense

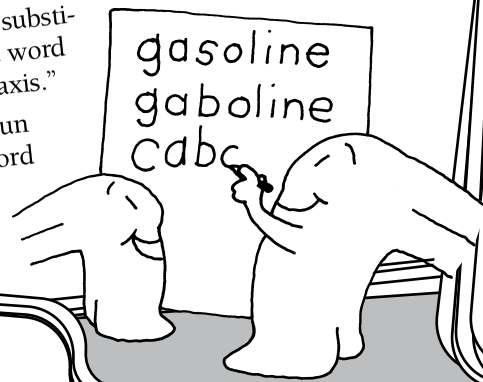
Build your child's reading skills by encouraging him to pay attention to letter sounds and word meanings.

Ingredients: *paper, pencil*

Ask your youngster to write any word with three or more letters (*gasoline*). You change a letter, and write the new word and a silly definition for it. Read your creation aloud. *Example:* "*Gaboline*: Fuel for nonstop talkers."

Now it's your child's turn. He gets to substitute a letter to make a new nonsense word and definition. "*Caboline*: A line of taxis."

Keep changing the word until you run out of ideas. Then, choose a new word to turn into nonsense!



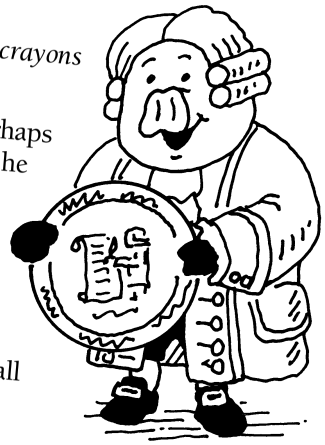
HISTORY
Travel through time

Help your youngster "travel" to a historical event. She'll work on her research skills—and even make a souvenir from her journey.

Ingredients: *books or internet access, paper plate, crayons or markers*

Suggest that your child pick an event to visit, perhaps the signing of the Declaration of Independence. She can pretend to be a time traveler and learn about the event by reading books or websites.

Then, let her make a "commemorative plate." She could draw a picture of the event in the center of a paper plate and write interesting facts around the rim. Have her use her plate to tell you all about her "adventure."



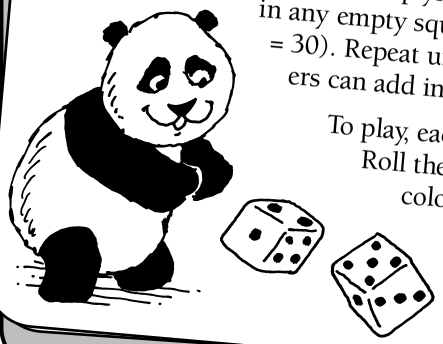
MATH
Capture the squares

Here's a colorful competition for practicing multiplication facts.

Ingredients: *graph paper, pencil, crayons, 2 dice*

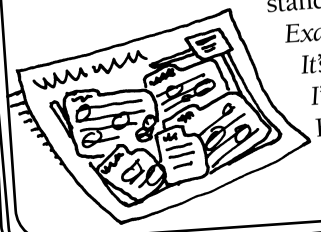
To make a game board, have your child draw a 10 x 10 box on graph paper. Take turns rolling the dice, multiplying the 2 numbers, and writing the product in any empty square (roll 6 and 5, and write 30, since 6 x 5 = 30). Repeat until the board is filled. *Note:* Younger players can add instead of multiplying.

To play, each person gets a different-colored crayon. Roll the dice and multiply again—but this time color a square with your product. If no square has that number, your turn ends. When the board is completely colored, count your squares. The player with the most is the winner.



GRAMMAR

Set a timer for 4 minutes, and have your youngster find as many contractions as he can in this issue of *Recipes for Success*. He should write each one and the words it stands for. *Examples:* *It's = it is*, *I'm = I am*. How many did he find?



SCIENCE

Does your child know that a sliding board is considered a "simple machine"? It's an example of an inclined plane—a flat surface that's higher on one end—and is used to move objects or people to a higher or lower place. See if she can find other inclined planes (wheelchair ramp, stairs).

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Recipes for Success

Practical Activities to Help Your Child Succeed

MAY 2018

PATTERNS

Hop-along patterns

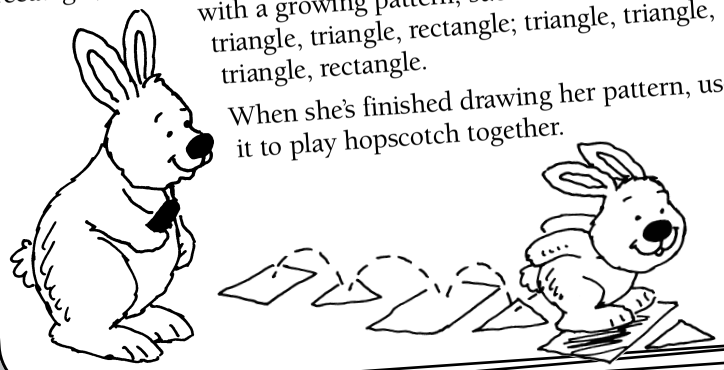
Play hopscotch with an added twist—by creating patterns with shapes.

Ingredients: *sidewalk chalk*

Have your child use sidewalk chalk to draw a pattern of triangles and rectangles. Explain that players will hop on a triangle with one foot and jump on a rectangle with both feet.

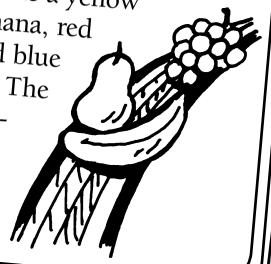
Let her decide how big to make the board and how many times the pattern will repeat. She might draw a pattern of rectangle, triangle, rectangle, triangle, for example. *Tip:* Suggest that she create a board with a growing pattern, such as triangle, rectangle; triangle, triangle, rectangle; triangle, triangle, triangle, rectangle.

When she's finished drawing her pattern, use it to play hopscotch together.



NUTRITION

Eat the rainbow—and be healthier! Each time your youngster eats a fruit or vegetable, she could add a stripe of its color to a sheet of paper. She'd make a yellow stripe for a banana, red for tomato, and blue for blueberries. The goal? Eat a rainbow every day.



WRITING

Pretend no talking is allowed for 15 minutes. To communicate, you and your child must write. Take turns making up questions that require more than a yes or no answer. For instance, if you write, "What's the funniest thing that happened today?" he might answer, "When I peeled my orange, the juice squirted everywhere!"

Character Corner

RESPONSIBILITY

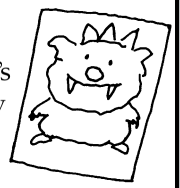
Encourage your youngster to make a "Summer Responsibilities List." *Examples:* "Put away my bike." "Hang wet swimsuit to dry." Have him post his list as a reminder.

GRATITUDE

Help your child realize what she appreciates. Every night at dinner, take turns naming three things you are each grateful for that day (a funny friend, sunny weather, a special dessert).

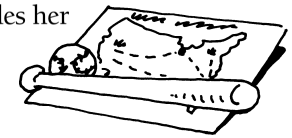
TOLERANCE

Draw silly creatures, and describe them. ("Mine has big fangs." "She has sharp claws.") Now share things the pictures don't show. ("She's kind." "He loves puppies.") This shows your child that you can't judge what's inside a creature (or person) by what's on the outside.



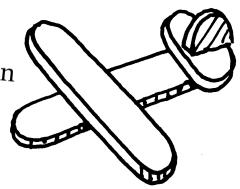
GEOGRAPHY

Let your youngster keep track of where her favorite baseball team plays away games and look up each city on a map. She could use the map's scale to determine how many miles the team traveled. *Idea:* Suggest that she keep track of the miles her team travels in a month—or all season!



ENGINEERING

Try this challenge that boosts thinking skills and engineering know-how. Ask your child to name something to build; he might choose a bridge or an airplane. Both of you design the object using only craft sticks and tape. Test it. Redesign to make improvements, and test again.



Congratulations!

We finished _____ activities together on this poster.

_____

Signed (parent or adult family member) Signed (child)

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