



Dennis-Yarmouth Title I

From the Title I Coordinator

Volume 1, Issue v

January 2019

I hope that you all had a wonderful Holiday Season, and welcome to 2019!

Now is the time for some real hard work for the Title I children. Holidays are out of the way, and we now have a large block of time to use to get all the children onto the right track.

I would hope that you as parents are reading with your children for at least 1/2 hour each evening, and working on their mathematics facts for at least 20 minutes per day. Establishing a homework time is a wonderful way to accomplish this. If you establish this time when your children are young, you will save yourself a lot of problems when they become teenagers. The time you establish should always be the homework time. If your child comes home and says, "I have no homework," then you simply tell them to read a book, or write in a journal. By doing this, you establish this time as sacred homework time. When they become teenagers, they will be in the habit of doing homework at the established time, and your life will be much easier.



NOTICE: The Title I Board of Directors Meeting will be on **Thursday Feb. 6th from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the District Central Office at 296 Station Ave. in South Yarmouth. All interested parties are invited to attend.**

THE READING-WRITING CONNECTION

The writing your child does now will help prepare him/her for producing longer and more sophisticated pieces. Here are some ideas to help you help your child with writing:

Use writing for family communication. Keep a family message board. Leave daily notes for each other.

Give your child a notebook

Encourage your child to use it as a journal. Assure your child that no one will read it without permission

Encourage social writing

If your child has just started school, have him sign his name to birthday cards and thank you notes. If older, encourage him to write notes with his signature

Ask for a story

Tell your child that you would like nothing better on a birthday or holiday than a story he has written

Be a model

Nothing will teach your child the value of writing as much as seeing you write every day.



Reminder: Schools will be closed Friday, January 18th, for teacher in-service day, and Monday, January 21st for Martin Luther King Day .

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
408 Higgins Crowell Rd.
West Yarmouth, MA
02673



Math+Science Connection

Beginning Edition

Fomentar el interés y el éxito en los niños

Enero de 2019

Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program



HERRAMIENTAS Y TROCITOS

Usa la cabeza

Anime a su hijo a que haga de

cabeza problemas sencillos de matemáticas. Diga, por ejemplo, "La tía Christine y el tío Larry vienen a visitarnos. ¿Cuántas personas seremos?" Su hijo podría pensar: "Nosotros somos 4. La tía y el tío son 2 más. $2 + 4 = 6$ ". Los cálculos mentales lo prepararán para las matemáticas que hará en la escuela y en casa.

Poderes de observación

Pula las dotes de observación de su hija con esta idea. Seleccione en secreto la foto de una revista que muestre algo de



la naturaleza como un animal, una manzana o una ola del océano. Recorte un trocito de la foto y vea si por ese

trozo su hija puede adivinar de qué se trata. Si ve rayas negras y blancas podría decir que es una cebra o un zorrillo.

Libros para hoy

■ Sus hijos pueden contar cambio suelto con Pauline y John-John que venden bebidas frías en *Lemonade in Winter: A Book About Two Kids Counting Money* (Emily Jenkins).

■ *Over and Under the Snow* (Kate Messner) revela las maravillas de la naturaleza para proteger y abrigar a los animales en el mundo que se esconde bajo la nieve.

Simplemente cómico

P: ¿Por qué son tan inteligentes los peces?

R: Porque aprenden en bancos.



365 días de matemáticas

Tiene hasta 31 números y lo usamos cada día del año. ¿Qué es? ¡Un calendario! Cuelgue uno donde su hija pueda verlo y hagan estas actividades.

Frasco del calendario

Coloquen un frasco transparente y una bolsa de objetos pequeños (bolas de algodón, gomitas dulces) cerca del calendario. Su hija debería llenar el frasco cada día con el número de objetos correspondiente a la fecha. Por ejemplo, añadirá 6 bolitas de algodón el 6 de enero. El día siguiente las sacará y meterá contando 7 bolitas de algodón para el 7 de enero. Desarrollará el sentido del número cuando cuente y vea cada día el aspecto de las distintas cantidades.



Número del día

Dígale a su hija que busque formas creativas de usar la fecha de cada día. El 20 de enero podría poner un cronómetro y leer 20 minutos. El 24, podrían hornear 2 docenas (24) galletas. Y el 30, sugiérale que haga un castillo de Lego con 30 piezas.

Cuenta atrás especial

Que su hija coloque pegatinas o dibuje imágenes en fechas especiales como cumpleaños, fiestas y eventos escolares. Luego puede llevar la cuenta de cuántos días quedan hasta cada fecha. Tal vez hoy es el 8 y su cumpleaños es el 18. Podría contar desde el 8 al 18 o usar la resta ($18 - 8 = 10$) para descubrir que su cumpleaños es en 10 días. 🦋

Atentos al invierno

"¡Encontré un carámbano!" "Hay escarcha en esa hoja".

Vaya de paseo con su hijo y busquen señales del invierno. Antes de salir, dígame que prediga lo que verá. En una lista podría escribir nieve, hielo, ramas sin hojas, bellotas, nidos, huellas de animales e incluso gente vestida con abrigos, gorros y guantes.

Puede llevarse la lista al paseo y tachar cada objeto que vea. Por el camino podría añadir otros signos del invierno que no tenga en su lista como bayas, palas o humo saliendo de una chimenea.

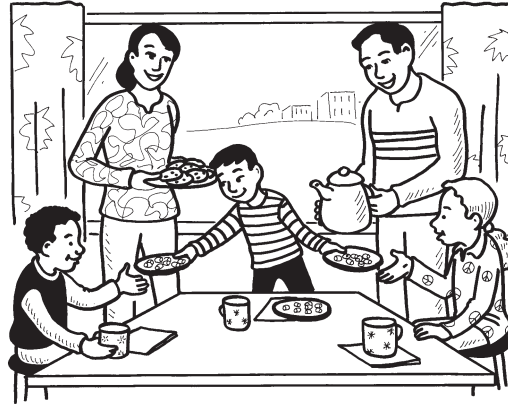
Idea: Mientras su hijo entra en calor después del paseo, animelo a que dibuje o pinte una escena invernal que incluya todas las señales que observó. 🦋



¿Es igual?

El concepto de *igual* es importante para los niños desde pequeños, ¡especialmente cuando deben comparar golosinas! He aquí ideas para ayudar a su hijo a que explore grupos iguales y partes iguales.

Fiesta de chocolate caliente. Su hijo puede invitar a sus amigos a tomar en su casa chocolate caliente y golosinas. Puede dividir un tazón de mini esponjitas dulces para hacer grupos iguales. Si tiene 25 esponjitas y 2 invitados (más él), ¿cuántas esponjitas dulces dará a cada



persona? Sugírela que las reparta entre todos y que retire lo que quede. Verá que cada amigo recibe 8 mini esponjitas y que les sobra 1.

Formas de rompecabezas. Ayude a su hijo a cortar círculos y cuadrados de cartulina. A continuación, dígame que corte algunas formas en 2 partes iguales (mitades) y otras en 4 partes iguales (cuartos). Mezclen todas las partes y reconstruyan en equipo las formas. ¡No se olviden de usar palabras de fracciones! Podría decir: “Tengo una mitad de este círculo rojo. ¿Tienes tú la otra mitad?” Consejo: Cuando se sienta seguro con mitades y cuartos podría cortar las formas también en tercios.

LABORATORIO DE CIENCIAS



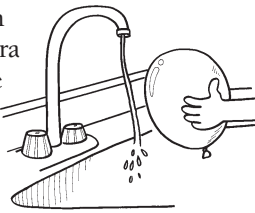
Mira cómo se dobla el agua

Entusiasme a su hija por la ciencia con este experimento que muestra cómo la *electricidad estática* puede doblar el agua.

Necesitarán: un gorro de lana (u otra prenda de vestir de lana), globo inflado, lavabo

He aquí cómo:

Dígame a su hija que se ponga el gorro y que frote el globo en el gorro rápidamente mientras cuenta hasta 20. Dejen que corra el agua del lavabo en un chorro lento y constante y que su hija sujete el globo tan cerca del agua como pueda pero sin tocarla.



¿Qué sucede? El agua se curva y se dobla en dirección al globo.

¿Por qué? Al frotar el globo en el gorro de lana se produce electricidad estática. Las partículas negativas (electrones) del gorro se mudan al globo, “cargándolo”. El agua tiene tanto electrones como partículas positivas (protones). El globo cargado negativamente atrae los protones en el agua, tirando de ellos hacia el globo.

NUESTRA FINALIDAD

Proporcionar a los padres con ocupaciones ideas prácticas que promuevan las habilidades de sus hijos en matemáticas y en ciencias.

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www.rfeonline.com
ISSN 1946-9829

P & R

Habilidades motoras finas y STEM

P: ¡A mi hija le encanta el laboratorio de STEM en la escuela! Su maestra mencionó que los niños están practicando las habilidades motoras finas junto con los proyectos de STEM. ¿Cómo podría practicar en casa mi hija estas habilidades?

R: La maestra de su hija sabe que la fuerza y la coordinación de las manos son importantes en STEM. Por ejemplo, en matemáticas su hija necesita contar y ordenar objetos pequeños y medir correctamente. También usa las habilidades motoras finas para ciencias y actividades de ingeniería, como plantar semillas, verter líquidos y pegar palitos de manualidades para construir puentes. Finalmente, tareas de tecnología como mecanografiar y usar un ratón requieren buen control de las manos.

Para practicar, su hija puede ver lo alta que puede hacer una torre de centavos, luego contar las monedas mientras las mete de una en una en una hucha. También puede organizar abalorios por color, usando pinzas para colocarlos en secciones distintas de una cubitera y ensartarlas en un cordón formando una secuencia.

Pídale también que ayude con tareas de casa relacionadas con STEM como la jardinería, servir y medir ingredientes para recetas y escribir correos electrónicos a sus abuelos. Desarrollará las habilidades motoras finas a la par que descubre la importancia de STEM en la vida cotidiana.



RINCÓN MATEMÁTICO

¿Qué número falta?

Su hijo practicará la identificación de *sumandos* (un número añadido a otro número) con este juego.

Materiales: baraja de cartas (sin figuras, as = 1)

Una persona reparte 1 carta boca abajo y 1 carta boca arriba a los otros jugadores y coloca el resto de las cartas boca abajo en un montón. A continuación cada jugador se coloca en la frente la carta que tiene boca abajo (sin mirarla), con el número hacia fuera.



La persona que reparte le dice al jugador la suma de sus dos cartas. Así que si ve un 7 en la frente de un jugador y un 2 en la mesa frente a él, dirá “9” (porque $7 + 2 = 9$). Ahora el jugador tiene que decir el número que tiene en la frente (7). Si es correcto, se queda las dos cartas. Si no, las devuelve al fondo del montón.

Cambien de repartidor en cada turno y jueguen hasta que se terminen todas las cartas. Gana el jugador con más cartas.

Home & School

Working Together for School Success

CONNECTION®

January 2019

Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program



SHORT NOTES

A fresh start

Help your youngster begin 2019 on a positive note. As she returns to school after winter break, have her ease back into familiar routines. She may need gentle reminders to resume habits like setting an alarm before bed, packing a snack in the morning, or showing you papers from her backpack after school.

Everyday fitness

To inspire your child to lead an active lifestyle, look for ways to fit physical activity into his day. For instance, turn on upbeat music and dance while the two of you do chores. Or he could do jumping jacks while waiting for the microwave to beep.

DID YOU KNOW?

Laughing releases feel-good hormones that relieve stress. Take time each day to enjoy a good laugh with your youngster. Write a joke on a sticky note, and put it on her placemat at the dinner table. Share a funny video you find, or play a game that will make everyone laugh, such as charades or Pictionary.

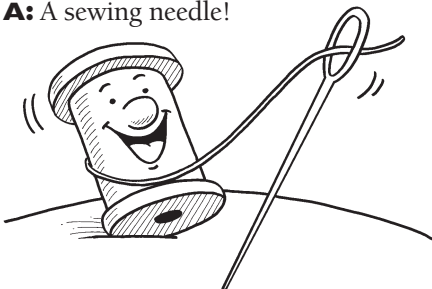
Worth quoting

"Children are our most valuable resource." *Herbert Hoover*

JUST FOR FUN

Q: What has one eye but can't see?

A: A sewing needle!



Read to succeed

Whether your child is solving a word problem in math or following instructions for a science experiment, strong reading skills play an important role. Here are activities to build his comprehension as he learns in three key subjects.

Math

Suggest that your youngster read a math story problem aloud and then retell it in his own words—leaving out the numbers! This allows him to focus on what the problem is asking him to do before he tries to solve it. *Example:* "A panda had a lot of bamboo. Then he ate some. Now he has less. How much bamboo does he have left?" He'll know that he needs to subtract.

Science

Diagrams, charts, tables, and other graphics help your child "see" science concepts. Encourage him to create his own visual aids. If he's reading about the

layers of the Earth, maybe he will draw a diagram and label the *crust, mantle, outer core, and inner core.*

History

Your youngster will go back in time by reading historical fiction about topics he studies. He'll feel as if he's walking the streets of ancient Greece, for instance, while also getting background information on people, places, and events. He might try a series like *Magic Tree House* (Mary Pope Osborne) or *Blast to the Past* (Stacia Deutsch and Rhody Cohon).♥



Stay in touch with teachers

Think of communication with your child's teacher as an ongoing conversation. Consider these tips.

● **Share the good.** Let the teacher know that your youngster enjoyed working on a project or that you liked the class play. Email her, or send a note to school with your child.

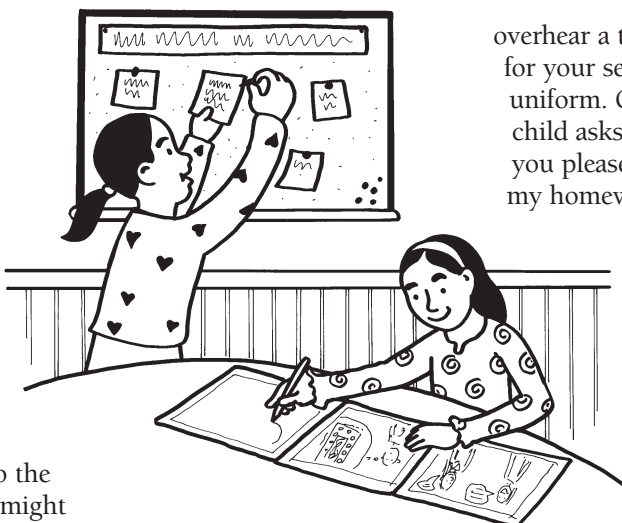
● **Work through problems.** If the teacher contacts you with a concern about your youngster, first listen to what she has to say. Respond calmly, and ask what you can do at home to help. Then, follow up with the teacher regularly to see how things are going.♥



What does respect mean?

Showing respect will be easier for your youngster if she knows what respect sounds like and looks like in everyday life. Try these ideas.

Make a “quote board.” Have your child label a poster board or a bulletin board “The Sounds of Respect.” When a family member hears respectful language, she can write it on a sticky note and add it to the board. For instance, your youngster might



overhear a teller at the bank say, “Thank you for your service” to a customer in a military uniform. Or maybe you’ll notice that your child asks her brother respectfully, “Could you please sing more quietly while I finish my homework?”

Draw a comic strip. Brainstorm ways people show respect, such as by keeping commitments or respecting others’ wishes. Then, your youngster can create a comic strip that illustrates one of the examples. Perhaps she’ll draw one panel that shows her arranging a get-together with a friend, a second panel where a different friend invites her to a movie she’s anxious to see, and a third with her sticking to her original plans.♥

ACTIVITY CORNER

Adventures by mail

Your child can explore the world without leaving home! This activity turns him into a “flat traveler”—like Flat Stanley in the popular book series.

First, let him mail a photo of himself and a letter to a relative or friend who lives out of town. He

could write questions that will help him learn about the place, perhaps about the weather, language, foods, geography, or landmarks.

The person should mail back answers, along with photos and even tourist brochures or postcards. For instance, his aunt may snap a picture of your child’s photo on a snowy mountain or in front of a famous skyscraper.

Suggest that your youngster put everything in a scrapbook that he can read to remind him of the places “he” has been. Then, he can send his photo on another adventure with a different long-distance relative or friend!♥



PARENT TO PARENT

Participating in class

My son, Sam, has always been a quiet kid. This year, his teacher told me that he rarely speaks up in class and prefers to work alone. So together, she and I came up with strategies to help Sam participate more.

Now as part of Sam’s homework, he decides on one question or comment about the material to share in class the next day. Practicing what he plans to say prepares him to speak up. Also, when the teacher assigns group projects, she tries to put Sam on a team that includes at least one student he knows well.

The teacher reports that Sam is speaking up more often. And the other day, he came home excited about a great idea his partner had for the diorama they’re working on together.♥



Q & A

Sharpen critical thinking

Q: At a recent curriculum night, the principal talked about critical thinking. Are there fun ways to work on this at home?

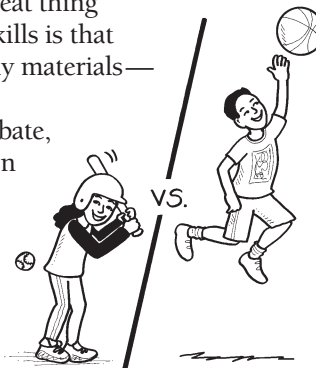
A: Absolutely! And the great thing about building thinking skills is that your child doesn’t need any materials—just her brain.

Try holding a family debate, with a twist. Ask a question like “Which is better, basketball or baseball?”

Let each person answer, then argue in favor of the sport she *didn’t* choose. Your

youngster will need to think critically to take a view that’s the opposite of her own. For instance, a baseball fan might say that basketball is more fast-paced and exciting.

Or encourage your daughter to look at familiar situations in new ways. Have her pick a situation or an event (say, a snowstorm). Now take turns looking at it from others’ perspectives. How would a truck driver, a toddler, or a squirrel feel about the snow?♥



OUR PURPOSE

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

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ISSN 1540-5621

Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

January 2019

Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program

Book Picks

Read-aloud favorites

■ *Creepy Pair of Underwear!*

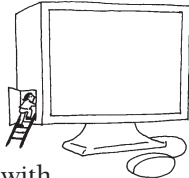
(Aaron Reynolds)

Jasper chooses a pair of neon green underwear when he goes shopping with his mom. That night, after lights-out, he decides that glow-in-the-dark underwear is scary instead of cool. But when he gets rid of it, he misses his "night-light." What will Jasper do next? (Also available in Spanish.)

■ *Hello Ruby: Journey Inside the Computer*

(Linda Liukas)

This book from the Hello Ruby series uses a fictional story to explain how computers work. Follow along with Ruby as she shrinks down and crawls inside her father's broken computer. Includes fun activities that let readers put their new knowledge to work.



■ *Mama's Saris*

(Pooja Makhijani)

On her seventh birthday, an Indian American girl decides she's old enough to wear a sari. She feels proud and special when her mother lets her wear the traditional garment to her party. This sweet story celebrates family traditions.



■ *Hoop Genius: How a Desperate Teacher and a Rowdy Gym Class Invented Basketball*

(John Coy)

In 1891, James Naismith was teaching a gym class full of unruly boys. This nonfiction book tells how Naismith got control of the class by inventing a game with two peach baskets and a soccer ball. Today, we call that sport basketball!



Cozy read-alouds

What's one of the best ways to make your child a better reader? Read to him! Studies show that reading aloud builds youngsters' vocabularies and their reading and writing skills. Snuggle up with your child and a good book, and try these ideas.



Get comfortable

Let your youngster choose a quiet spot, away from distractions like TV or cell phones. Maybe he wants to cuddle under a blanket on the sofa while you read, or perhaps he'd like to pile pillows and stuffed animals on his bed for story time. *Tip:* Hold the book so he can see the words and pictures while you read.

Slow down

Find a time to read when you won't be rushed. Reading at a leisurely pace allows your youngster to absorb the story. Tell him that he's welcome to stop you if he doesn't know what a word means or if he wants more time to look at an illustration.

Asking questions and examining the pictures help him understand and enjoy the book.

Be playful

Use different voices for the characters, or read scary or exciting parts dramatically. For example, use a high, chirpy voice for a parrot or a low, booming voice for a giant. You might even assign him the part of a character. Stop and let him read the dialogue so he practices reading fluently.♥

Build "writing muscles" in the kitchen

Lots of kitchen tasks work the same muscles your child uses for writing. Offer her these jobs.

● **Boost strength.** Let your youngster mash potatoes or stir pancake batter. Or she could decorate cupcakes or cookies. Put frosting in a zipper bag, snip off a corner, and encourage her to squeeze it onto the goodies like a pastry chef!

● **Improve coordination.** Show your child how to roll a ground beef or turkey mixture between her palms to make meatballs. Let her use her fingers to tear lettuce for a salad. Have her hold her wrist steady as she uses a spatula to transfer cookies to a cooling rack.♥



I can read!

New readers are proud of their skills as they go from “reading” pictures to reading words—and then entire stories. Use these tips to support your youngster at each stage.

Pictures. Suggest that your child use the illustrations to tell herself the story. You could point out words she says that appear on the page. For instance,



if she says, “The kids are riding the school bus,” show her the words *school* and *bus*. She’ll begin to connect written words with spoken ones.

Words. If your youngster reads a word incorrectly, help her figure it out. You might say, “Does ‘Everyone got a parking hat’ make sense?” Then, have her reread the sentence—she’ll probably realize that the word is *party*. If not, she could try sounding out the word.

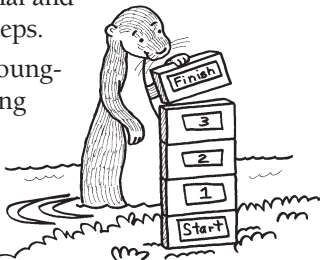
Stories. This is a good stage for getting your child hooked on a series of books. Ask a librarian to recommend one that matches your youngster’s interests. Your child will build confidence as she reads about familiar characters and settings in each new installment.♥

Fun with Words

Why my favorite animal is awesome

With this activity, your child will construct a block tower as he “constructs” an opinion piece. Encourage him to pick a favorite animal and follow these steps.

1. Help your youngster use masking tape and a marker to label five blocks: “Start,” “1,” “2,” “3,” and “Finish.”



2. Let him place the “Start” block in front of himself and then, on a sheet of paper, write (or dictate to you) an opening sentence. (“My favorite animal is an otter.”)
3. Have your child stack the numbered blocks on top of “Start.” As he adds each one, he could write a reason for his opinion. *Examples:* “Otters are cute.” “They like to play.” “They are good swimmers.”
4. Now it’s time for him to put the “Finish” block on top and write his conclusion. (“Now you see why I love otters.”)
5. Finally, invite him to read his opinion piece to you.♥

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Q&A

Becoming a good speller

Q My son misspells a lot of words. For example, he’ll write *frnd* for *friend*. Should I be concerned?

A Your son is using the sounds he hears to figure out how words are spelled—an important strategy at this age.

The fact that he knows *friend* starts with the consonant combination *fr* shows that he’s probably on the right track. As he learns vowel patterns like *ie* and *ei*, you’ll notice that he incorporates those into his spelling, too.

Encourage your son to spell common words (*the*, *and*, *have*) correctly. If his teacher sends home weekly spelling lists, he should learn to spell those words the right way, too. You might have him practice by writing the words on a sidewalk, for instance.

Over time, he’ll combine what he knows about letter sounds with spelling rules, and the better his spelling will become.♥



Parent to Parent

Our family reading board

Recently, my daughter Ella proudly pointed out a photo

She hangs the photo on the board, and I make sure to ask her what the book is about or what made her decide to read it.

of herself on a bulletin board in the school hallway. She was holding her favorite *Curious George* book, and the board was titled “What we’re reading.”

We decided to make a board like that at home. Now when Ella reads a new book, I take a picture of her with it.



She also asks what I’m reading and offers to take my picture. We even have relatives send us “reading selfies.”

Ella enjoys seeing that everyone reads. And the board is getting us to talk about books regularly!♥

BUILDING READERS®

How Families Can Help Children Get Ready to Read

Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District
Title 1

Make a New Year's resolution that is fun to keep: Read with your child every day!

Have you fallen out of your daily reading habit? Commit to getting back on track in the new year! To make reading together a reality now and all year long:

- **Refresh your book supply.** If your child loves her dinosaur book, head to the library to find more books on dinosaurs and other related topics.
- **Schedule it.** Your to-do list may already be a mile long. But putting “read together” on the calendar adds a task you’ll actually enjoy.
- **Keep it simple.** Sharing stories shouldn’t be complicated. Just gather some books, a snack, your child—and get started.
- **Ignore the clock.** Follow your child’s cues when deciding how long—or short—to make your reading sessions. If she gets restless while reading, try again later!



Help your child make a friendship book

Sharpen your preschooler’s emerging writing skills by creating a friendship book together. Here’s how:

1. **Gather several sheets** of plain paper. Staple them along the left edge to form a book.
2. **Write “My Friendship Book”** on the cover and have your child decorate it with stickers or drawings.
3. **Help your child** write the name of one of his friends or family members on each page.
4. **Talk about words** that describe his friends, like *funny*, *kind* or *quiet*. Ask your child to think of a sentence describing each friend. Write it on that person’s page.
5. **Encourage your child** to decorate the pages with drawings or cutouts from old magazines.

When your child is finished, look through his masterpiece together and talk about the importance of friendship.

Use ‘big words’ when talking with your child

Children are captivated by the sounds of long and complex words—even if they don’t understand them. So use some “grown-up words” in your conversations.

Don’t just say the weather is *cold*. Say it’s *frigid*. Tell your child she’s *delightful*. Your child’s vocabulary will grow. And she’ll take great pride in blurting out, “That’s *scrumptious*!”



Read nonfiction books about food

Have you decided to eat healthier this year? Include your child in your resolution!

Together, read a children’s book about nutrition and plan a healthy meal for your family to eat. You’ll be introducing your child to nonfiction and helping him develop healthy habits at the same time.



Wintertime is story-telling time

Jack Frost won’t stop nipping at your nose? Sick of shoveling snow? Then it’s time to head indoors for some snuggly storytelling fun!

Telling stories is a great activity because it:

- **Exposes** your child to new words and ideas.
- **Gives** you and your child a chance to invent silly characters and settings.
- **Develops** your child’s imagination and literacy skills.

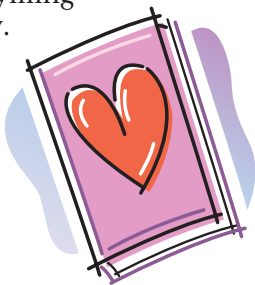


Expose your preschooler to plenty of poetry

Poetry (rhyming or not) is excellent for prereaders. That's because it encourages creative thinking. Poetry also helps young children learn that words are made up of sounds. Rhyming poetry can even improve children's memory.

To add some poetry to your child's life:

- **Create a poetry basket.** Have you found a poem your child might like? Copy it down and put it in a basket. Later, choose a verse from the poem and read it together.
- **Place a poem on her pillow.** Read it together before bedtime.
- **Make an audio recording.** Record yourself and your child reciting favorite poems together. Your child can listen as she "reads" the poems to herself.



Follow four tips for better book selection

With so many wonderful books available to read with your child, how do you know which to choose? When looking for books to read aloud, look for books that have:



1. **Clear, colorful illustrations.**
2. **Fun rhymes and rhythms** that your child can pick up quickly.
3. **Fast-moving and exciting plots.**
4. **Stories about everyday activities.**

Enjoy some book-related conversations with your child

You ask your preschooler if he enjoyed the story you just read together, and he replies, "Yes." Should your conversation end there? No!

Chatting is an ideal way to boost your child's language skills. So make the most of book-related conversations by asking open-ended questions like:

- **What** was your favorite part of the story?
- **What** surprised you the most?
- **Who** was your favorite character? Why?
- **How** else could the story have ended?

Remember: There are no right or wrong answers. The goal is simply to get your child to put his thoughts into words!



Books to delight your early reader

- ***Zero is the Leaves on the Tree*** by Betsy Franco. What is zero? Zero is the number of kites in the sky when the wind stops blowing and the number of balls in the bin at recess. This unique counting book explores an often-overlooked number.
- ***The Little Lost Robin*** by Elizabeth Baguley. Hare loves bringing seeds to a group of birds every day—until winter arrives and the birds fly away. But Robin remains, and Hare and Robin develop a close friendship.
- ***The Snowy Day*** by Ezra Jack Keats. This winner of the Caldecott award tells the tale of a boy's exploration of winter in the city.



Q: The only time my daughter seems happy is when she's running around or covered in paint or play dough. I want her to become interested in reading but she can barely sit through a story. What should I do?

A: Be creative! There are lots of ways to get an energetic preschooler interested in reading. Since your child has a flair for the arts, use them to strengthen her pre-reading skills. She can finger paint the alphabet, sing nursery rhymes or act out her favorite scenes from stories.

Building Readers®

How Families Can Help Children Get Ready to Read

Publisher: Doris McLaughlin.

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

Editor: Rebecca Hasty Miyares.

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(a division of PaperClip Media, Inc.)

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

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

www.parent-institute.com

Reading Connection

INTERMEDIATE EDITION

Working Together for Learning Success

January 2019

Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program



Book Picks

■ *The Jigsaw Jungle* (Kristin Levine)

Claudia's world changes when her father disappears. Desperate to put her family back together, she collects clues to solve the mystery of why he left home. The story is told through Claudia's scrapbook, which includes transcripts of conversations via email, text, and phone.

■ *Beatrice Zinker, Upside Down Thinker* (Shelley Johannes)

Thinking upside down is how Beatrice dreams up fantastic plans to carry out with her best friend, Lenny.



But when Lenny finds a new friend and seems to have forgotten her, Beatrice needs all of her upside-down thinking to get things back on track. Book one in the Beatrice Zinker series.

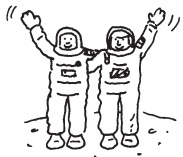
■ *The Kid Who Invented the Popsicle and Other Extraordinary Stories Behind Everyday Things* (Don L. Wulffson)

This nonfiction book is full of interesting stories about how familiar toys, foods, and gadgets were invented. Your child will discover that ordinary people tinkered and experimented, leading to carousels, teddy bears, sandwiches, and more.



■ *Astrotwins: Project Blastoff* (Mark Kelly)

How did Mark Kelly and his twin brother Scott become astronauts? Facts about the twins and about space science are woven into the fictional tale of a group of kids who set out to build a rocket. The first book in the Astrotwins series.



Less screen time, more reading time

Amber would rather watch TV than read. Eric used to read at bedtime, but now he asks to play video games instead.

If your child prefers electronic devices to books, you're not alone. Use these ideas to set reasonable limits and motivate her to read more.



Create rules

Your youngster will be more tempted to pick up a book if screen time isn't an option. Decide how much time she's allowed each day—perhaps less on weeknights than on weekends. She could read to settle down at night rather than watch TV or play video games.

Make reading convenient

Think "out of sight, out of mind." Ask your child to put devices away when screen time is over. On the flip side, keep reading material in plain sight.

She might fill a basket with library books and place it in the family room—next to the turned-off TV. And have her leave devices at home and read or listen to audio books in the car or waiting room.

Build on interests

Help your youngster find reading material related to her interests. For example, if her video games feature sports, animals, or outer space, she might enjoy books or magazines on those topics. Also consider having her read books that were made into movies she liked. ■

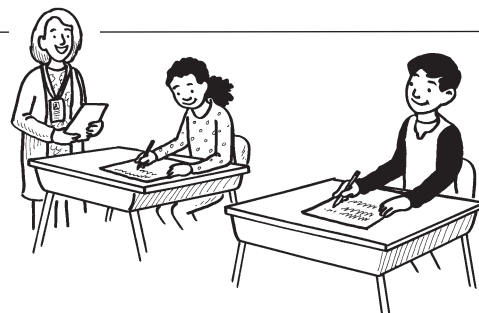
Note-taking 101

Taking good notes and using them will help your youngster learn and remember information. Here are suggestions.

Develop shorthand. He might use abbreviations like *w/* (*with*) or *b4* (*before*). He can make up his own and create a key that tells what they mean.

Double-space. Your child could leave a space between each line and use the blank lines to add details or examples as the lesson goes on.

Review. Have your youngster think of notes as a study tool. He might use them to explain the lesson to you or to create a practice quiz for himself. ■



Sound-it-out strategies

When your youngster comes across a new word in a book, sounding it out is one strategy that can help him keep reading. Share these sound-it-out tips.

● **Find a part you know.** Your child may spot a familiar portion of a word, such as a vowel pattern or a shorter word within a longer one. Say he comes to the unknown word *feign*. He might think, “*Neigh* and *weigh* have *ei*, and that letter combination makes the *long a* sound. I think that word is pronounced *fayn*.”



● Break it into syllables.

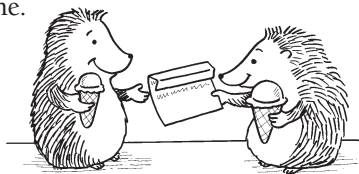
Suggest that your youngster say each syllable separately. If he's not sure how to break up the word, here's a clue: Every syllable contains at least one vowel. For *emancipation*, he might say “e-man-ci-pa-tion” slowly, then read it again smoothly.

Once your child has sounded out a word, it's important that he reread the entire sentence with the word in it. If he can't figure out its meaning from the context, he could ask someone for help or look up the word in a dictionary. ■

**Fun
with
Words**

Write and pass it on!

Writing a story together will get your child's creative juices flowing. Try this back-and-forth writing game.



1. At the top of a sheet of paper, your youngster writes the opening line of a story (“There once was a little hedgehog who loved ice cream”) and hands the paper to the person beside her.

2. That player reads the sentence silently, folds the paper to hide it, and writes a sentence that follows logically. (“Her favorite flavor was chocolate-chip cookie dough.”)

3. Players continue passing the paper around, folding it so that only the last sentence written is visible.

4. When there's just enough room for one more sentence, the person with the paper writes an ending for the story.

5. Now let your child read the tale aloud. ■

OUR PURPOSE

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

Resources for Educators,
a division of CCH Incorporated
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800-394-5052 • rfeustomer@wolterskluwer.com
www.rfeonline.com
ISSN 1540-5583

Q&A

Young adult books?

Q My daughter wants to read books that I think are too mature for her. She says “everyone” reads them. How should I handle this?

A Luckily for both of you, there are plenty of books out there that your daughter will enjoy—and that are appropriate for her. Explain to your child that some stories can be confusing or upsetting. And while her friends might read a particular book, it may not be a good match for her maturity level or your family's values.

Ask a librarian to help you find books you and your daughter can agree on. She could suggest stories with popular themes (outdoor adventures, friendship) but without subjects that you might consider too mature (romance, horror). ■



**Parent
2
Parent**

Editing makes writing better

My son Kevin was working on an essay recently. He was supposed to write a rough draft, edit it, and write a final copy. But after he checked the spelling, grammar, and punctuation in his draft, he declared it error-free and said he didn't need to edit.

I used to work for a publishing company, so I explained to Kevin that there's more to editing than correcting errors—and that even professional writers edit their work.

Then I had an idea. I suggested that my son pick a paragraph from a favorite book and edit it. He made the writer's description of a castle more vivid and added a funny line of dialogue for the king.

He was surprised that he preferred his version. But I pointed out that if the writer reread the book, she'd almost certainly find changes she'd like to make, too. This helped Kevin understand that writing can often be improved. ■



Recipes for Success

Practical Activities to Help Your Child Succeed

JANUARY 2019

READING

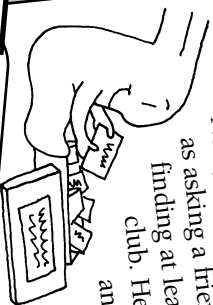
My reading resolutions

For the new year, encourage your child to create resolutions related to reading.

Ingredients: paper, pencil, glue, shoebox
Suggest that your youngster write reading goals on separate slips of paper and glue them all over the outside of a shoebox. Examples: "Try one new type of book every month." "Start a book club with friends."

Next, have him brainstorm ways to meet his goals, such as asking a friend to recommend a mystery book or finding at least two people who want to join a book club. He can write the ideas on slips of paper and put them inside the box.

When he needs motivation to stick to his resolution, he could reach into the box, pull out a slip, and do what it says.



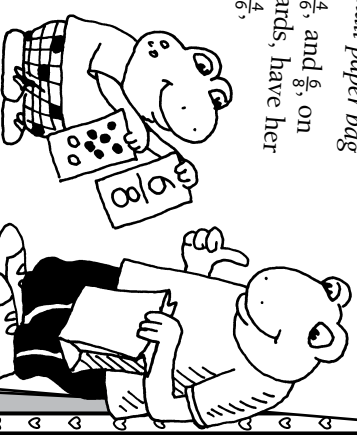
MATH

Fraction hide-and-seek

"We're going on a fraction hunt!" Your youngster can practice recognizing fractional parts with this activity.

Ingredients: 24 index cards, pencil, crayons, small paper bag
Help your child write fractions, such as $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{2}{3}$, $\frac{4}{5}$, and $\frac{6}{8}$, on 12 separate index cards. On a second set of cards, draw a picture to illustrate each fraction. For $\frac{4}{5}$, she could draw a cake with 6 slices and add sprinkles on 4. Or she might draw 8 buttons and color 6 of them to show $\frac{6}{8}$.

Hide the picture cards around the house, and put the fraction cards in the bag. Now take turns reaching into the bag, drawing a card, and searching for the matching picture.



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."

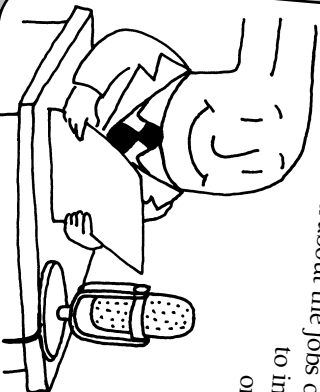
RESEARCH

Jobs people do

Your youngster will build research skills—and maybe learn what he wants to be when he grows up—by interviewing relatives or neighbors about their jobs.

Ingredients: notebook, pencil, library books or internet access
Talk to your child about the jobs of people you know, and let him pick someone to interview. Perhaps his uncle is a sports broadcaster or your neighbor is a pediatrician. Have him write down questions to ask. Examples: "What do you do on a typical day?" "How did you train about the field in books or online."

Then, ask him to share with you what he learned. Maybe he'll discover a job he'd like to have one day!



OBSERVATION

Boost your child's observation skills by making crayon rubbings. Let her peel the paper from a crayon and get several small, hard objects (key, coin). Take turns secretly choosing one, covering it with a sheet of paper, and rubbing over it with the side of the crayon. The other person looks closely and identifies the item you picked.



GRAMMAR

Have your youngster read a picture book or short magazine article and make a tally mark for each period, comma, question mark, and exclamation point. Ask him to count how many of each he found and say how they're used (comma—between a city and state; exclamation point—to show surprise).



Recipes for Success

Practical Activities to Help Your Child Succeed

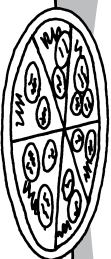
JANUARY 2019

Character Corner

WRITING

Pick a pizza topping

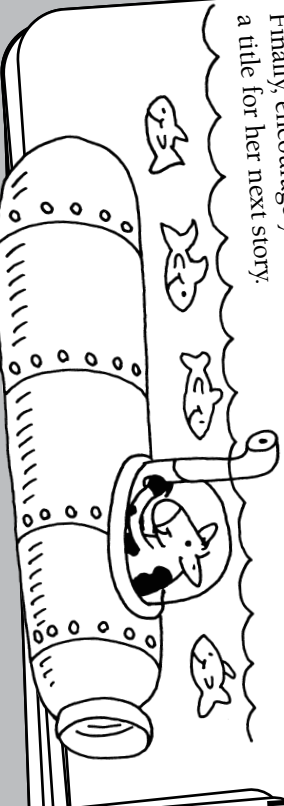
This pretend pizza helps your child come up with plenty of topics to write stories about—at home or in school.



Ingredients: paper, crayons, pencil

Have your youngster draw a large circle (a pizza), make lines to divide it into slices, and add pepperonis. She could label each slice with a favorite topic ("family," "oceans"). Then, on each pepperoni, she should write a story title related to the topic on that slice. The "family" slice might include "My New Baby Brother" and "Our Camping Trip." The "oceans" slice could have "A Submarine Adventure" and "The Little Dolphin."

Finally, encourage your child to hang her pizza on the wall and pick a title for her next story.



Congratulations!

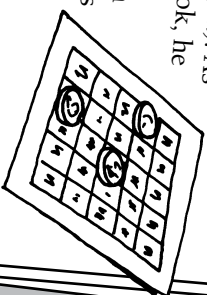
We finished _____ activities together on this poster.

Signed (parent or adult family member)

Signed (child)

PHONICS

Play bingo to call your youngster's attention to ending sounds. Have him draw a board with five rows and five columns. In each box, he writes a letter or letter combination (*m, d, ch, sk*). As you read a book, he could place a penny on each sound he hears at the *end* of a word.



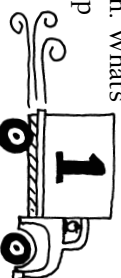
GEOGRAPHY

Watch or read the news together, and have your child write down the name of a place where one of the stories took place. Help her find the location on a map or in an atlas, then trace the route she would take if she were a reporter leaving home to cover the story.



COUNTING

As you drive, have your youngster look for groups of items. First, ask him to spot a single object (1 delivery truck). Then, see if he can find something that comes in pairs (2 yellow lines on the road), threes (3 colors on a stoplight), and so on. What's the largest group of objects he can count?



☐ HONESTY

Use familiar stories to talk to your child about honesty. Think of an example of dishonesty ("Peter Rabbit snuck into the garden to eat vegetables"). Then, have your youngster think of something the character could have done instead to show integrity (asked for permission).



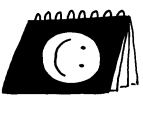
☐ FRIENDSHIP

Encourage your child to make classmates feel special on their birthdays. She might create a friendship bracelet or write a song or poem about each friend to give as a birthday present.



☐ POSITIVE ATTITUDE

Suggest that your youngster create a "positivity" journal. He can use it to draw or write about things that brightened his day (a new friend, a hug from Grandpa). Reading his journal is sure to put a smile on his face!



CREATIVITY

Give your child a bag filled with small household items such as toothpicks, craft sticks, spools, cotton swabs, and tape. Encourage her to design something using only these materials. Can she make a house, a car, or an animal?

