

Dennis-Yarmouth Title I

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

If you have any further questions, please contact me, Cookie Stewart, at 508-778-7599 or at stewartv@dy-region-al.k12.ma.us

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VOLUME 1, ISSUE III

NOVEMBER 2019

From the Title I Coordinator:

Parents play a specific role in their child's literacy development by: creating a literacy-rich environment; sharing reading and writing activities; acting as reading models; and demonstrating attitudes toward education. *A strong educational environment at home can be a major factor in reinforcing the home-school connection.*

Read to Your Child

As parents, you should know that shared learning and reading experiences are valuable gifts you can give your child. Reading is a key learning skill that will enable your child to become proficient in other areas. Reading aloud can also help your child become a better listener. Reading doesn't take a lot of time, either. As a parent, finding the time to read to or with your child is not always easy. However, it is an investment that pays off in big dividends! Research shows that children who spend as little as 30 minutes a day reading books, magazines, and newspapers are more likely to become good readers.

Raising a Reader: Getting Started

These easy-to-do activities are designed to build a solid foundation of family literacy at home. **◇ Know your children.** Before selecting books, make sure you know your child's reading abilities and interests. Your child's teacher can help you with the reading level, and the teacher or librarian can make age-appropriate recommendations on books for you.

◇ Set aside time for reading.

Designate a time of day when family members can read for pleasure. Make reading a part of your family routine. **◇ Make reading special.** Children should feel as if having a book is special. Help them create a space for storing their books. However, if your child doesn't show an interest or strong ability in reading, be patient, but do not give up. Reading should be viewed as an enjoyable activity.

◇ Use your local library. One of the best resources you will have as a parent is access to your community's library. It

costs nothing to borrow books. Many libraries offer story hours and other fun literacy activities. Make visits to your library a routine activity.

Yarmouth Libraries

South Yarmouth—508-7600-4820

Yarmouthport—508-362-3717

West Yarmouth—508-775-5206

Dennis Libraries

Jacob Sears—508-385-8151

Dennis Public Library—508-760-6219

Limit television time. Monitor program selection for your children. Discuss programs with them. Have a "NO-TV" night with your family on a regular basis. Read magazines, write letters to relatives living far away, play charades, or games as a refreshing alternative.



Things you can do:



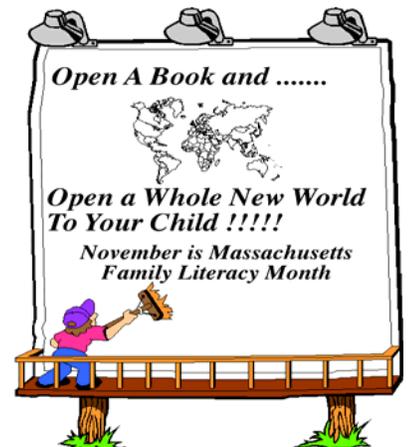
Title I Parent Reps to the Board of Directors

EHBi: Loryn Fletcher; Sherry Latham; Michelle Nee; Simone Jacinto; Jasmine Schultz; Laura Greer; Bruna Falchi; and Ashley Jimenez

MES: Meghan Delman; Meredith Bell; and Cathy Nelson

SAE: We need some volunteers.

Our first meeting will be in January. Stay tuned!



Home & School CONNECTION[®]

Working Together for School Success

November 2019

Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program

SHORT NOTES



Promises matter

Before you promise your child something—for instance, that you'll take him to the playground—make sure you'll be able to follow through. This teaches him that he can count on you, and he'll learn to keep promises, too. *Tip:* If needed, include contingencies. (“We'll go as long as it's not raining.”)

Speak up about allergies

Family gatherings are good opportunities for your youngster to speak up about food allergies, whether she has one herself or is being considerate of others. She might ask the host if a casserole contains eggs or tell a cousin who's allergic to dairy that there's milk in the mashed potatoes.

Boost working memory

This activity improves your child's working (or short-term) memory. Have him close his eyes while you draw three emojis (cupcake, sun, leaf). Let him study the paper for five seconds, flip it over, and try to name the emojis. Repeat the activity, adding one more each time. How many can he remember?

Worth quoting

“When you see someone without a smile, give them one of yours.”
Zig Ziglar

JUST FOR FUN

Q: What's black and white and black and white and black and white?

A: A penguin rolling down a hill.



An atmosphere of learning

When families create a supportive learning environment at home, children are more successful in the classroom. Use these tips to make your home a great place for your youngster to learn.

Stock up

Fill your house with items your child can use to explore and investigate. Visit the library regularly so you always have plenty of books. Have her set aside a drawer for math and science supplies (ruler, measuring cups and spoons, food coloring, seeds). Also, display a map or globe—when she reads or hears about a place, she can discover where it's located.

Build on interests

Notice what your youngster is into, such as dinosaurs or music, and help her learn more about it. Read nonfiction books or watch documentaries together. Let her make a hallway gallery based on her interests. She could create and hang up posters to share interesting facts and photos with family members.



Learn together

Learn something new as a family. You might work on American Sign Language and then practice together. Or learn to code or knit. You'll enjoy a new hobby as you expand your knowledge. Also, plan special nights where you play board games. Try ones that build language skills (Scrabble, Boggle) or involve math or logic (Monopoly, chess).♥

I'm thankful for...

What is your family grateful for? Try this idea to find out—and teach your child about gratitude.

Pick categories. Choose six crayons, and assign each color a category. *Example:* red = person, blue = place, green = object, yellow = food, orange = animal, purple = your choice. Place the crayons in a bowl, and give each person a sheet of paper.

Draw and write. Take turns selecting a crayon, drawing a heart on your paper, and writing something you're grateful for that matches the category. Your youngster might write “My Aunt Amy” in red and “Macaroni and cheese” in yellow.

Share. Once everyone has a heart of every color, read what's in your “hearts” to each other. Display the papers for a nice reminder to be grateful all year long!♥

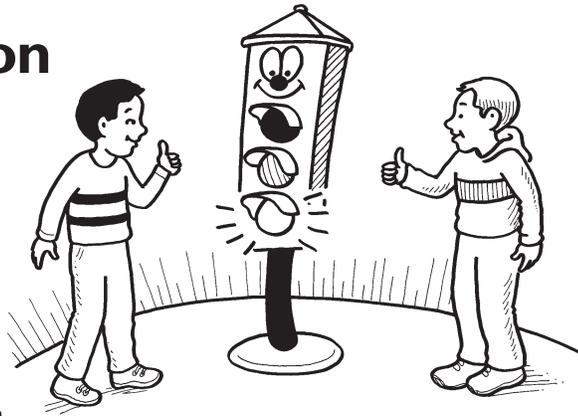


Conflict resolution know-how

Healthy conflict resolution skills help your child maintain friendships, solve problems, and stand up for himself in positive ways. Share these strategies.

Red light! Green light!

Problems are easier to solve when your youngster is calm. Suggest that he think of a feeling like anger or frustration as a “red light”—a signal to stop and think. Say he and a friend are arguing over the topic for their group



presentation. He might take a few deep breaths or walk away for a little while. Once he calms down (the light turns green), he may be ready to think of a solution, such as combining their ideas to create a whole new topic.

“I” statements

When your child is trying to resolve a conflict, suggest that he start each statement with “I” instead of “you.” *Example:* “I get angry when I’m yelled at” rather

than “You make me angry.” He’ll put the focus on his own feelings rather than blaming the other person—which can keep the conflict from escalating.♥

Q & A Attend parent-teacher conferences

Q: My son usually gets good grades and isn’t having any problems in school. Do I still need to go to a parent-teacher conference?

A: Yes! A conference lets you and your child’s teacher exchange information beyond what’s on his report card. Plus, meeting with the teacher is one way to keep the lines of communication open.



The teacher will talk about your son’s strengths and areas for improvement. For instance, he might say he has good work habits but could participate more in class. And you may get to see his writer’s notebook or science journal. You’ll also learn how he’s doing socially—does he get along well with others?

Finally, ask the teacher what you can do at home to support your son.♥



ACTIVITY CORNER Persuasive writing: Buy my product

Could your child convince someone to buy a rock? What about an ice cube? This silly family activity lets her practice persuasive writing by creating a commercial for an unlikely “product.”



- 1. Decide what to sell.** Ask each family member to think of something you probably wouldn’t buy in real life, such as an empty cardboard box, a snowball, or a brick.
- 2. Write a script.** Each person should make up a commercial advertising her product. Include a vivid description of your item and convincing reasons to buy it. *Example:* “Introducing our smooth, perfectly square ice cube! Just this single cube will keep your small glass of lemonade nice and cool—without watering it down.”
- 3. Present your ads.** Take turns performing your commercials in your best TV-announcer voice. The advertisement voted most persuasive wins!♥

PARENT TO PARENT Mix math with fitness

When my daughter Elizabeth was working on addition facts, we invented a game to help her practice—and to give all of us some exercise.

She wrote the numbers 1–10 on separate index cards, and I hid them around our yard. Then, she wrote the same numbers on separate craft sticks and put the sticks (number ends down) in a cup. We took turns drawing a stick, running to find a number card, and

adding the two numbers to get our score for that turn. So if Elizabeth drew the 10 stick and got a 6 card, her score would be 16, since $10 + 6 = 16$. The winner was the person with the highest score after all the sticks were used.

Our game has grown with Elizabeth. Once she mastered basic addition facts, we wrote bigger numbers to play with. And now that she’s learning multiplication, we multiply to get our score.♥



OUR PURPOSE

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

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www.rfeonline.com

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Math+Science Connection

Beginning Edition

Building Excitement and Success for Young Children

November 2019

Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program

TOOLS & TIDBITS



Hooray for patterns

Encourage your child to practice making patterns by creating “cheers.” She might count by 2s: “Give me 2, 4, 6, 8, 10. Say my pattern once again!” Or make up a cheer for her, and she can continue your pattern and add a rhyme.

“Bendy” light

Have your youngster fill a glass with water and place a spoon in it. What does he see when he looks through the side of the glass? (The spoon looks bent.) This is called refraction—the



bending of light as it passes from one material to another (in this case, from air to water).

Book picks

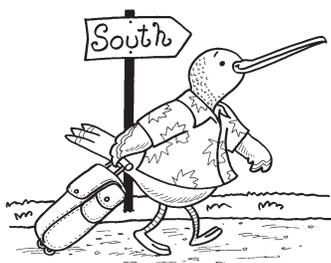
▣ *If You Were a Minus Sign* (Trisha Speed Shaskan) shows cute critters solving subtraction problems as they let go of balloons, hide acorns, and more. Part of the Math Fun series.

▣ *Star Stuff: Carl Sagan and the Mysteries of the Cosmos* (Stephanie Roth Sisson) tells the true story of a boy who was fascinated by the universe and grew up to become a famous astronomer.

Just for fun

Q: Why do birds fly south for the winter?

A: Because it's too far to walk.



Let's make shapes

Triangles, rectangles, circles—shapes like these make up the world around us. These hands-on geometry activities will teach your youngster about shapes and their attributes.

Walk the “tightrope”

Ask your child to make large shapes (square, triangle) on the floor with masking tape. Have him walk along the edges of each shape, balancing like a tightrope walker and counting the sides and corners (vertices). What does he notice? (A triangle has 3 sides and 3 corners, for example.) Does each shape have the same number of sides as it has corners?

Shift the shapes

How many turns will it take to make a stop-sign shape (an octagon) in this game? Each person gets 8 craft sticks and lays down 5 to form a pentagon. On each turn, a player flips a coin and changes his shape: heads = add 1 stick, tails = remove 1 stick. Name your new shape. *Example:* Flip heads, and add 1



stick to your pentagon—it's a hexagon (6 sides). Add another, and you've got a heptagon (7 sides). The first player to create an octagon (8 sides) calls “Stop” and wins.

Build in 3-D

With this activity, your youngster will see how 2-D shapes make up 3-D shapes. First, he might build a square using 4 toothpicks and 4 marshmallows. Then, he could add more toothpicks and marshmallows to create a cube (12 toothpicks, 8 marshmallows). He'll see that a cube has 6 square faces. What other 3-D shapes can he construct out of 2-D shapes? 

Imagine a new animal

Your child can use what she knows about the survival skills of real animals to invent an imaginary creature.

Together, think of animals with cool features that help them survive. A porcupine's quills protect it from predators, an elephant's trunk picks up food, and a kangaroo's pouch carries babies.

Now suggest that your youngster draw an imaginary animal with a good survival strategy.

Maybe she'll sketch a colorful fish that stuns predators with a cloud of sparkles. Or perhaps she'll create a furry blue mammal that lives on blueberries and camouflages itself in blueberry bushes. Encourage her to make up a story about her animal and read it to you. 



Estimating with collections

Whether your youngster realizes it or not, she's probably a collector. She might have lots of scrunchies, rocks, or stickers, for instance. Here's how she can use her treasures to estimate.

Choose storage

Let your child find a way to display her collection. First she'll have to consider the size and number of her items. Will an empty jelly jar be big enough for all her scrunchies? She can put them in to find out. Not enough room? She'll need a larger container.



might estimate which type of food sticker she has the most of—fruits, vegetables, or desserts. Have her count to see how close her estimate was.

Make comparisons

Does your youngster have more animal stickers or food stickers? More smooth rocks or rough ones? Which color scrunchie does she have the most of? She could estimate, then sort and count to check. Now suggest that she make estimates within each group. For example, she

MATH CORNER



That's my age!

Six candles on a cake ... your child lights up at the mere mention of her special number: her age. Use this excitement to help her recognize and represent numbers.



Encourage your youngster to make groups of objects (crayons, forks, blocks, toys) that have the same number as her age. For example, if she's 6, she might stand 6 toy dinosaurs together.

Your child can also use her age to solve problems and represent other numbers. How old will she be next year? She would show 7 dinosaurs ($6 + 1 = 7$). How old was she last year? She should show 5 dinosaurs (because $6 - 1 = 5$).

Idea: Have her represent other family members' ages, too. Can she use a box of 36 crayons for Dad's age?

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SCIENCE LAB

Design a mini-trampoline

Bounce, bounce, bounce!

With this experiment, your youngster will test different materials to make the bounciest trampoline.

You'll need: three identical bowls, plastic wrap, aluminum foil, cloth napkin or dish towel, three rubber bands, small plastic animal

Here's how: Help your child stretch a different material (plastic, foil, cloth) over each bowl to create a flat surface and then secure each "trampoline" with a rubber band. To test his trampolines, he should drop an animal on each one.

What happens? The toy bounces on the plastic-covered bowl but not on the foil- or cloth-covered ones.

Why? The plastic is the best material for the job, since it is stretchy, or elastic. In real life, gymnasts and acrobats jump on trampolines that use elastic material, too.



PARENT TO PARENT

A math walk in the park

My mother-in-law teaches math, and she often gives me good ideas to try with our son Stephen. Recently, she suggested that we take a "math walk." She said I should ask Stephen what he's working on in math, and then we could look for examples outdoors.

On our next trip to the park, Stephen said he was learning about "equal parts." When we stopped for a picnic, he pointed out that our table had four equal rectangles. Then we noticed people

playing volleyball, and he said there were two teams of six people each, for a total of 12 people.

During our most recent walk, Stephen told me he's studying symmetry. An object has symmetry, he said, if each side is a mirror image of the other.

He spotted a flying flock of geese and realized the "V" was symmetrical, and I saw a symmetrical swing set on the playground.

Our math walks give me a glimpse into what Stephen is learning—and they let him practice his skills in a real-world way.



BUILDING READERS®

How Families Can Help Children Get Ready to Read

Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District
Title 1

Connect with your child's preschool teacher to monitor reading goals and progress

Your child will learn important reading readiness skills during preschool. Wouldn't you like to know about them, too?

To keep tabs on your child's progress, check in with his teacher every few weeks. When you do, ask:

- **What** reading readiness skills is my child working on right now?
- **How** can I reinforce them at home?
- **What** skills will you tackle next?
- **Has** his language learning improved?
- **Which** skills should he master before kindergarten?

Pay attention to the worksheets and drawings your child brings home from preschool. Is his writing (even if it's scribbling) getting sharper? Ask him questions about what he's learning.



"If you don't like to read, you haven't found the right book."

—J.K. Rowling

Let the mail inspire reading activities

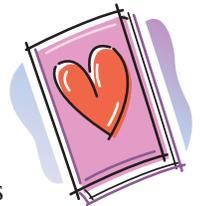
Most people love to get mail, and preschoolers are no exception. Regular notes from you will show your child the power of the written word and make her excited about reading. To have fun with mail:

- **Turn a cardboard box into a mailbox.** Pick a special time each day for your child to get mail. Ask family members to write letters to your child, too.
- **Look through magazines and catalogs** you receive in the mail. Help your child cut out pictures of different objects and glue them to blank pieces of paper. Then, help her sound out and write labels for each picture.

Build your child's love of reading

When you nurture your child's love of reading, you help him become an eager reader. You can:

- **Let your child choose** what you will read together, even if it means reading the same books over and over.
- **Get into the drama.** Use different voices for each character.
- **Allow interruptions.** Pause your reading to answer your child's questions.
- **Read together every day.** When your child looks forward to your special time together, he builds positive associations with reading.



Make it easy to discover reading

Stash books and other reading materials everywhere your child will find them—in drawers, cabinets or even the toy box. When she discovers books, she just may look at them!



Reading promotes word smarts

Reading aloud doesn't just build your child's vocabulary. It also teaches him that words can have several meanings.

For instance, you may read "The puppy likes to *bark*" on one page, and then read about a bird "pecking at the tree's *bark*" several pages later. Your child now knows two different meanings for the same word!



Boost your child's reading comprehension

Reading is not just about decoding the words on a page. It also involves knowing what the words mean and understanding the story they tell.

To move your child toward this goal:

- **Help him create mental images.** Read part of a story aloud without showing your child the pictures. Ask him to imagine what something in the story looks like. "The kids went on a merry-go-round. What colors do you think the horses were?"
- **Look for words** that are unfamiliar to your child. Point them out and help him understand what they mean.
- **Ask your child questions** about the story. Start your questions with *who*, *what*, *where*, *when*, *why* or *how*. For example, "What did the boy do every night after dinner?"



Reading can strengthen your child's motor skills

Don't sit still when you read to your child—get moving!

- **Point** to the picture of the bunny and hop with your child.
- **Mimic** the action of the dancer and twirl around the room together.



Encourage your child to move with you. It's an effective way to engage her in the story and develop her motor skills.

Turn Thanksgiving Day into story day!

Make this Turkey Day a little more "bookish" by sharing a few special tales with your child. Here are a few to try:

- *10 Fat Turkeys* by Tony Johnston.
- *I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Pie* by Alison Jackson.
- *The Littlest Pilgrim* by Brandi Dougherty.
- *T is for Turkey: A True Thanksgiving Story* by Tanya Lee Stone.
- *The Night Before Thanksgiving* by Natasha Wing.
- *Thanksgiving is for Giving Thanks* by Margaret Sutherland.



Books to delight your early reader

- *The Artist Who Painted a Blue Horse* by Eric Carle. From the purple fox to the orange elephant, life is awash in color! This book is a vibrant celebration of animals for peewee Picassos!
- *Dragons Love Tacos* by Adam Rubin. Inviting your friendly neighborhood dragon over for dinner? Dragons love all kinds of tacos, but keep him away from that hot, spicy salsa!
- *Perfect Square* by Michael Hall. Over the course of a week, a perfect square is torn, shredded and snipped. Every time it is transformed, it finds a way to make something beautiful.



Q: My child falls asleep nearly the moment I crack open his first bedtime story. Should I skip nighttime reading altogether?

A: No! Sharing bedtime stories is a wonderful ritual, so keep it up. You're building happy memories with books. If you're concerned your child isn't hearing enough of each book, read together during the day, too, when he's more alert.

Building Readers®

How Families Can Help Children Get Ready to Read

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Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

November 2019

Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program

Book Picks



Read-aloud favorites

■ *Do Not Lick This Book*

(Idan Ben-Barak)

The title of this picture book offers good advice—since, as the pages explain, germs are everywhere. A little microbe named Min gives readers a humorous introduction to germs, explaining where they live and what they do.



■ *Froggy Gets Dressed* (Jonathan London)

Froggy should be hibernating through the winter, but playing in the snow is more exciting. Soon, he's outside and ready to play—but he's not dressed for the weather. Early readers will love



predicting what Froggy has forgotten each time his mother calls him back inside. (Also available in Spanish.)

■ *Katherine Johnson* (Thea Feldman)

Even as a little girl, Katherine Johnson knew she wanted a job using her favorite subject—math. But she didn't know that one day she would help NASA calculate flight paths for astronauts. This biography describes her life and work. Part of the You Should Meet series.

■ *The Treasure* (Uri Shulevitz)

In this retelling of a classic folktale, Isaac keeps dreaming about hidden treasure under a bridge near a castle. But when he goes in search of it, the treasure is not there. Where will he find it in the end?



Playing with ABCs

Recognizing the letters of the alphabet is one of the first stepping-stones on the exciting path to becoming an independent reader. Try these activities as your child learns her ABCs.

Alphabet train

All aboard! This playtime project encourages your youngster to write and play with letters. Let her collect small cardboard boxes. She can cover each one with construction paper and label it with a different letter of the alphabet (uppercase and lowercase). Then, punch holes in the boxes, and use yarn to string them together like cars in a train.

Alpha-doodles

Calling your child's attention to loops, lines, and curves helps her tell similar letters apart. Pick two lowercase letters, perhaps *p* and *q* or *v* and *w*. Have her print a big version of each letter and turn them into doodles. She might draw a



smiley face in the loop of the *p* and make the straight line into a ponytail by drawing a ribbon around it.

Letter search

Choose a word, and see if your youngster can find its letters on signs or labels. She'll learn to recognize letters with different fonts, which will help her read the print in various books. Before dinner, you could say, "We're having tacos. Go find *t-a-c-o-s*." Maybe she'll spot *t* on the package of tortillas, *a* on a jar of salsa, and so on.♥

I found a poem!

A pile of books next to your youngster's bed or at the library could inspire him to write a "found poem."

A found poem uses words your child finds in print—in this case, on book spines. Have him choose several books with fun titles and stack them so he can see all the spines. For example, his stack might include *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* (Bill Martin Jr. and John Archambault) and *Zin! Zin! Zin! A Violin!* (Lloyd Moss).

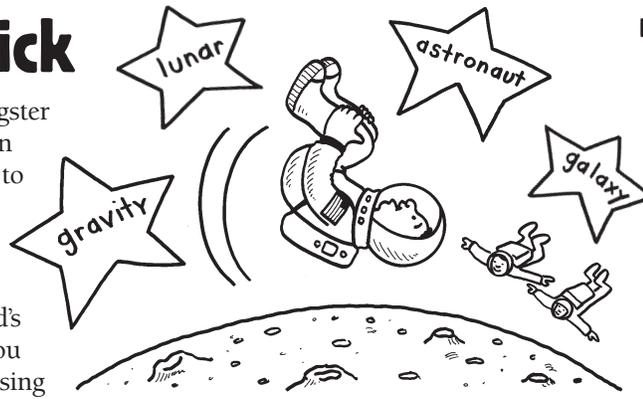
Now he can use the words to write a poem. It's fine for him to add words of his own, too. His poem might begin: "Chicka chicka zin zin / I like to play the violin."♥



Make words stick

To truly learn new words, your youngster needs to use them over and over again in different situations. Use these strategies to make new words a permanent part of his vocabulary.

See. Attaching words to something concrete helps to cement them in your child's memory. When you're out and about, you might point out construction workers using a crane to lift a load, or say the wind is *blustery* because it's blowing hard.



Explain. Ask your youngster to teach his little sister or his grandpa a word he learned today. *Example:* "Prefer means you like something better than something else. I prefer blue to red." Explaining the definition in his own words helps him make sense of it in a way that works for him.

Repeat. Look for opportunities to use new words in various contexts. For instance, if your child learned *gravity* while reading about space, you could take turns naming something that might happen if we didn't have gravity. ("Without gravity, it would be really easy to do flips in the air!")♥

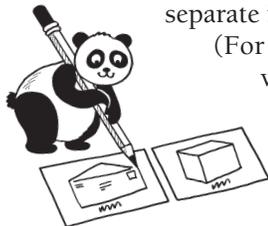
Fun with Words

Compound combos

Thanks + giving = Thanksgiving! Here's an idea that lets your child learn about compound words, or longer words made up of two smaller words.

Make cards

Together, think of a dozen compound words (*mailbox, playground*). Have her write and illustrate the two words from each compound word on separate index cards.



(For *suitcase*, she would write *suit* on one card and *case* on another.)

Mix and match

Ask your youngster to form other compound words. She might think, "A *housefly* is a *fly* in the *house*. I could make *firefly* by using *fire* from *campfire* and *fly* from *housefly*." Or maybe she'll form *sunflower* by putting together *sun* from *sunrise* and *flower* from *flowerpot*. How many combinations can she find?♥

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Parent to Parent

Getting the most out of audiobooks

My daughters love audiobooks. I mentioned this to one of their teachers and asked if listening to them counts as "real" reading. Mr. Jackson said audiobooks are great for readers of any age. Then he gave me an idea for using them to build the girls' comprehension skills.



Mr. Jackson suggested that I listen to audiobooks with my daughters. We could follow along in a print version so they make the connection between the words they hear and the words they see. He also recommended that we stop sometimes to talk about the book—just like we would if I were reading it aloud. We might discuss the characters, predict the ending, or go over a confusing part, he said.

Since then, the girls and I have checked out several audiobooks from the library, and I think they're helping them become stronger readers.♥

Q&A Tell me about your drawing

Q While volunteering in my son's classroom, I noticed the teacher asking students to tell stories about pictures they drew. What's the purpose of this?

A Drawing a picture is one way your son tells a story. For instance, if he draws a squirrel with its cheeks full of nuts, he's communicating that the squirrel is collecting nuts. Describing the picture out loud encourages him to think it through and perhaps add more information.



After he finishes telling you about a picture, take the conversation a step further by asking questions. For example, you might say, "Where will the squirrel hide the nuts?" Or maybe you'll ask about the process that went into his drawing: "How did you choose the colors?"

Tip: Suggest that he write a story about his drawing—or offer to write down his story as he dictates it to you.♥

BUILDING READERS®

How Families Can Help Children Become Better Readers

Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District
Title 1

Spice up your ordinary reading routines

Reading with your child every day is one of the most important things you can do to help him succeed in school. To build your child's excitement about reading:

- **Find new reading spots.** Pick fun, unusual places to read. Build a fort with blankets and couch cushions. Or, bundle up and read outside.
- **Read as a team.** Have your child follow words with his finger while you read. Or, take turns reading pages to each other.
- **Plan a performance.** Choose a favorite passage to recite and help your child master it. Gather an audience to admire his skills.
- **Celebrate reading success.** When he reaches a goal (such as 100 reading minutes in a week), do something special!



"Whenever you read a good book, somewhere in the world a door opens to allow in more light."

—Vera Nazarian

Three ways to maintain your child's enthusiasm for reading

Even a child who loves reading can lose interest over time. Other hobbies can take up time that she once spent on reading. To keep your child's passion for reading alive:

1. **Use her current interests** as a springboard. You might offer your child a biography of her favorite athlete or singer.
2. **Respect her growing maturity.** Share interesting books or articles with your child. You might say, "I just read a great story online. I thought you might want to read it."
3. **Show you value her opinions.** Does your child like the book she is reading for English class? What does she think of the main character in the novel she is reading?

Create homemade greeting cards

Making greeting cards is a creative activity that involves reading and writing. With your child, make a list of birthdays, holidays and other events. Have her create a special card for each. She can decorate the front of a folded sheet of paper and write a short message inside.



Encourage her to read cards she sees in stores to get ideas about what to write.

Children need fluency role models

Did you know that just by reading to your child, you are building his fluency? When you set an example by reading smoothly—with emotion and enthusiasm—you show that good reading is similar to talking. It flows with ease.



You might also enjoy listening to audiobooks together and attending library story times.

Serve the community by reading aloud to others

Does your child enjoy reading aloud? If so, she can brighten other people's days by reading to them.

Together, research places where you and your child can volunteer to read to others. Look into local day care centers, nursing homes and hospitals. Not only will your child nurture her own love of reading, she'll also be sharing it with others.



Follow A-R-C when reading textbooks

Reading a textbook is a lot different from reading a novel. Yet students don't always have the skills they need to get the most from their textbooks. Go over the A-R-C method—Associate, Read, Connect—with your child. Encourage him to:

- **Associate.** Before reading, help him think about what he already knows about the subject. He should skim the chapter and look at the pictures, headings and words in bold type. Your child can also write down questions he expects to answer as he reads.
- **Read.** Your child should read one section, then stop. Does he understand what he just read? If not, he should reread it.
- **Connect.** Have your child go back and answer the questions he brainstormed at the beginning of the chapter. He can also answer the questions at the end of the chapter.



Practice using synonyms and antonyms with the whole family

Here's a way to work on *synonyms* (words with the same meaning) and *antonyms* (words with the opposite meaning) with your child during family time. Divide two pieces of paper into three columns. Then:

1. **In the first column,** describe yourselves in positive terms. For example, "I am ... kind, generous."
2. **In the second column,** write a synonym for each word. ("I am ... nice, giving.")
3. **In the third column,** write an antonym for each word. ("I am not ... mean, stingy.")
4. **Exchange pages.** Read about each other. Then play the game again—this time describing the other person.



Q: I gave my child a journal, but he doesn't want to use it. How can I encourage him to write in it?

A: Journals are great for building reading and writing skills, but some kids don't want to write about their daily activities and feelings. They may respond, however, to prompts. Suggest that your child start entries with fun things like, "If I could design a school, I would ..." or "If I could have one superpower it would be ..."

Use the dictionary to boost vocabulary

Open a dictionary to any page. Have your child point to a place on the page without looking. Then, try to define the word closest to where your child pointed. Take turns being the pointer and guesser. A correct definition equals one point. See who can get to 15 points first.

For lower elementary readers:

- **Luke on the Loose** by Harry Bliss. What's it like to be a pigeon in New York? Luke finds out when he chases a flock in this comic-book adventure.



- **Chloe and the Lion** by Mac Barnett. When Chloe gets lost in the woods, an argument breaks out between this book's author and illustrator, who have different views of how the story should end.

For upper elementary readers:

- **Adventures in Cartooning** by James Sturm, Andrew Arnold and Alexis-Frederick Frost. This humorous story is told in comic-book style—all while explaining how kids can create comics themselves.
- **The New Kid** by Mavis Jukes. Carson is moving from a small school where he knows everyone to a new town and a new school. Join him for all of the adventures he has in store!

Building Readers®

How Families Can Help Children Become Better Readers

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Reading Connection

INTERMEDIATE EDITION

Working Together for Learning Success

November 2019

Dennis Yarmouth Title I Program

Book Picks

■ *Wishtree* (Katherine Applegate)

Meet Red, a thoughtful and wise giant oak tree—and the narrator of this story. Red has a lot of rings (which means she's very old) and knows all the people and animals in her neighborhood. When a new family moves in, she helps two children become friends, despite their differences.



■ *Indy Cars* (Carrie A. Braulick)

Readers, start your engines, and learn all about Indy race cars! This nonfiction book offers an in-depth look at Indy car races, how the cars are built, what pit crews do, and more. Includes colorful photographs and a glossary. (Also available in Spanish.)

■ *Two Dogs in a Trench Coat Go to School* (Julie Falatko)

Stewart's dogs Sassy and Waldo spend all day protecting their house. One day, they decide to sneak into Stewart's school to "protect" him. When they dress in disguise, the students think they have a new



classmate. This funny story is the first in the *Two Dogs* series.

■ *...If You Sailed on the Mayflower in 1620* (Ann McGovern)

What did the pilgrims eat on the Mayflower? What did they do for fun? Each chapter in this nonfiction book answers a question about the pilgrims, from the reasons for their voyage to what daily life was like after they reached their destination.



Dig into reading

The fun isn't over when a story ends—it's just beginning! These creative follow-up activities build key reading comprehension skills your youngster needs, including visualizing, predicting, and summarizing.

Map the setting

Encourage your child to take an imaginary journey through a story's setting by sketching each place mentioned. His map will let him visualize the characters' surroundings and better understand their actions. For instance, he might draw the route a character takes across the country or illustrate the forest where the animals live.

Write a prequel or sequel

What happened before the story started? What happens after it ends? Have your youngster explore the possibilities by adding a chapter to the beginning or end. He might write about how the characters met, or the next challenge they face. Suggest that he refer to the original tale to help him imagine past events or predict future ones.

Build a story pyramid

Help your child learn to focus on a story's most important details and zero in on the main idea. He can practice summarizing by drawing a pyramid and filling it with these five lines:

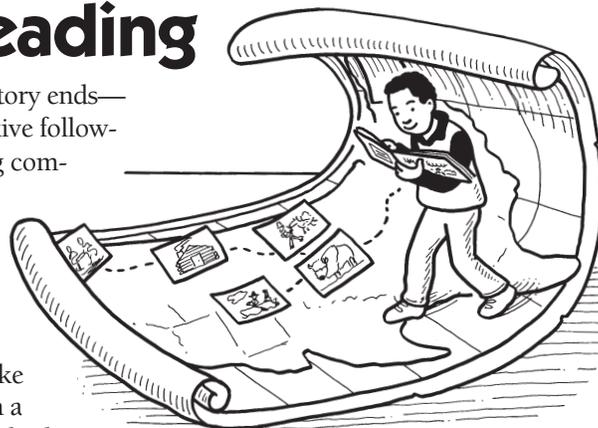
Line 1: The main character's name

Line 2: Two words describing that character

Line 3: Three words describing the setting

Line 4: Four words explaining the problem

Line 5: Five words telling the conclusion



Foolproof proofreading

Spell-check is a useful tool, but it's not a substitute for your child's careful eyes. Share these tips for spotting missing or misused words when she types a paper:



- Take a break between writing and proofreading. A fresh look will let your youngster see mistakes more easily.

- Print it out. Checking it in two formats (paper and screen) might help her find errors she'd otherwise miss.

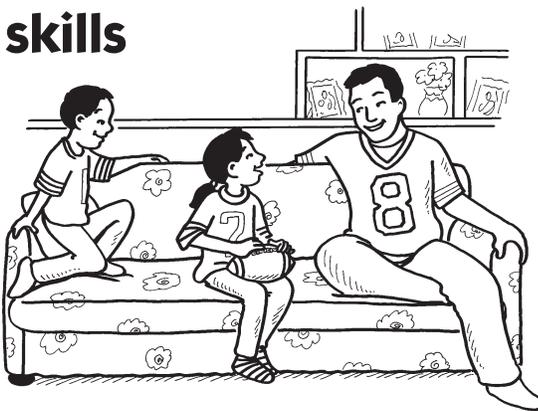
- List problem words (*your/you're, its/it's*). Have her scan her paper for them and double-check their use.

- Read it out loud. To concentrate on each word, your child can hold a piece of paper under each line.

Boost conversation skills

Can something as simple as talking with your child help her in school? You bet! Good conversation skills let her take part in group discussions and listen to other people's ideas. Use these strategies.

Choose a topic. Take turns thinking of subjects that appeal to everyone so nobody feels left out of the conversation. Some possibilities: favorite books, hobbies, sports teams, family history.



Practice listening. Help your youngster pay attention to what others are saying. Suggest that she listen closely and respond to what the other person says. If her brother says, "I had pizza for lunch today," she might reply, "What kind did you get? I had pizza, too, mine was pepperoni."

Keep it going. Encourage your child to ask questions that will keep a conversation going. She can think of question words (*who, what,*

when, where, why, how) as prompts. Say your family is discussing football. She could ask, "Who do you think will make the playoffs?" or "Where is this year's Super Bowl?"



Humorous homophones

Boost your youngster's vocabulary with this silly homophone activity. Start by talking to him about what homophones are, and end by writing sentences that pair the words in ways that make everyone laugh out loud.



Homophones are words that sound alike but have different spellings and meanings, such as *night/knight, peek/peak, hare/hair, and their/there*. Work together to list as many homophones as possible. You might look for them in books or online.

Now, take turns writing silly sentences using several pairs of homophones. *Examples:* "Have I told you the *tale* of my *dear* dog who chases his *tail* every time he sees a *deer*?" "Do you *see* the *aisle* in the *sea*? It's between that *isle* and the other *isle*!" Read your sentences aloud, and vote for the funniest one!



Parent 2 Parent

Read around the world

I thought our town's multicultural fair would be fun for our family, but I had no idea it would also lead to research and reading for my daughter Ellie.

After sampling foods and hearing different languages and styles of music, Ellie wanted to learn more about other cultures. So during our next library visit, we checked out books of games, recipes, crafts, and folktales from around the world.

Ellie read the instructions for *Luksong baka*, a game from the Philippines, and taught us how to play. Then, she read a recipe for Greek *tiropita* (feta cheese pie), and we made it for dinner. Finally, we took turns reading folktales to each other. We were surprised to find a version of "Little Red Riding Hood" from China and "The Tortoise and the Hare" from Ghana. Now Ellie is looking forward to going back to the library and researching other countries!



A writer's notebook

Spark your child's creativity by having him collect story ideas in his own "Author's Notebook." Here are some entries he might start with.

All about me

Imagine someone is making a movie of your life. Who would star in it? What would the first scene be?

The perfect meal

Write a menu for your ideal meal. List your special dinner guests, and create an invitation.

Sweet dreams

Record notes about vivid or interesting dreams you have. Use your imagination to write an adventure story or a mystery about them.

My favorite things

List treasured possessions (baseball medal, family quilt) or favorite places (local waterfall, Grandma's house). Build stories about what they mean to you.

Your youngster can add ideas as he thinks of them. When he's ready to write, he'll have lots of choices to pick from!



OUR PURPOSE

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

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Recipes for Success

Practical Activities to Help Your Child Succeed

NOVEMBER 2019

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

What's your wish?

Your youngster will stretch her reading comprehension by imagining what a storybook character would wish for.

Ingredients: fiction book, paper, pencil

Read a book with your child. Then, suggest that she pretend a genie appears and offers the main character three wishes. What would the wishes be? How did your youngster pick them? Have her write down the wishes.

She'll need to use clues from the book to decide what the character might request. If the boy in the book talked to the parrots at the zoo for a long time, maybe he'd wish for a pet parrot to chat with. Or if he was curious about a friend's vacation, perhaps he would want a trip to that same spot.



ENGINEERING

Challenge your youngster to engineer a device that protects an egg from breaking when dropped. She could choose from household supplies like cardboard boxes, straws, duct tape, sponges, and bubble wrap. Let her test her creation over a sink. If the egg breaks, she can redesign and retest.



GEOGRAPHY

While one child goes to school in Hawaii, another is getting out of school in New York! Have your youngster look up current times in different states, write them on sticky notes, and post them across a map. Can he see a pattern when he looks at states' locations and times?



MULTIPLICATION

Shake it up

Practice multiplication with a simple game your child can make himself.

Ingredients: 24 slips of paper, pencil, paper bag

Ask your youngster to write a multiplication fact on one side of each slip of paper and the answer on the other side. Mix up the slips in a bag. Take turns drawing a slip and laying it down. If the problem side is up, give the answer ($8 \times 5 = 40$). If the answer side is up, say a problem that could have that answer. *Example:* 1×21 or 3×7 for 21.

Turn the paper over—if it shows the correct answer or one of the possible problems, keep it. If not, return the slip to the bag. When all the problems are claimed, the player with the most slips of paper wins.



SCIENCE

Leaf investigator

What kind of tree did that leaf come from? Your youngster can find out with this investigation.

Ingredients: leaves, book or internet access

Take a walk, and let your child collect different types of leaves from the ground. Now encourage her to look carefully at each leaf to see what special features it has. For instance, some are pointy, and some are curved. And some leaves have one main stem while others have multiple stems branching off a main stem.

Using a website like arborday.org/trees/whattree or a field guide from the library, she can read and make comparisons to identify what kind of tree each leaf came from.



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NOVEMBER 2019

Character Corner

WRITING Family fiction

Coauthor a picture book to build your child's creative writing skills.

Ingredients: paper, pencils, scissors, glue, stapler

Together, decide what kind of story to write, perhaps a science fiction tale or an animal adventure. Then, your youngster writes the first sentence and passes his paper to the next person, who adds a sentence of his own. If the first sentence introduces the setting (say, a faraway galaxy), the second sentence could describe it. Who lives there? What color is the sky?

When you finish your story, let your child cut out each sentence, glue it onto a separate sheet of paper, and illustrate it. He can staple the pages together, make a cover, and list all the authors.



SPELLING

Ask your youngster to write the letters of the alphabet on separate index cards. Have him put vowels in one stack and consonants in another. Shuffle the stacks. Each of you draws five consonants and two vowels. Set a timer for three minutes. Who can make the most (correctly spelled) words using his letters? *Note:* Keep a list as you go.



HISTORY

Pioneers bartered, or traded for things they needed. Have your youngster think of belongings or skills to trade. *Example:* She might see if her sister will teach her to make jewelry. In return, she can pitch softballs to give her sister batting practice.



PATIENCE



Learning to deal with delays will reduce your child's frustration. Teach her to think of things to do in a waiting room or in line at the store. *Examples:* See how long she can stand on one leg. Look for items that start with a particular letter.

THOUGHTFULNESS

Encourage your youngster to make get-well cards when someone is sick or injured, perhaps a classmate who broke an arm or a neighbor with the flu. He'll learn to pay attention to what others are going through and take action to show he cares.



RESOURCEFULNESS

When your child can't find an item she needs, suggest that she think of an alternative. She could make a lettuce wrap for lunch if you're out of sandwich bread or paint wearing an old shirt if there's no smock. Being resourceful will help her solve problems.



SORTING

The ability to sort things into categories is important for making sense of math. Ask your child to sort your spice jars. She might organize them by color, separate sweet spices from savory ones, or arrange them according to spice level (hot, medium, mild).



Congratulations!

We finished _____ activities together on this poster.

Signed (parent or adult family member)

Signed (child)

FOLLOWING DIRECTIONS

Use a relay race to give your youngster practice following directions. Divide into teams. Name three directions. Divide into must make while he travels across a room or yard and back (crawling, shrugging his shoulders). The first team to finish wins.

