



# Dennis-Yarmouth Title I

**SPECIAL  
POINTS OF IN-  
TEREST:**

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SEPTEMBER 2019

If you have any further questions, please contact me, Cookie Stewart, at 508-778-7599 or at [stewartv@dy-regional.k12.ma.us](mailto:stewartv@dy-regional.k12.ma.us)

## From the Title I Coordinator:

After a brief summer break, we are back again working hard to build the capacity of all the Title I students. We are serving the students in three schools, LCM, SAE, and EHB in grades K-3 in reading and math. In an effort to save the district money, we will be sending our newsletter out via e-mail to all parents who have e-mail accounts. If we do not have your e-mail address, please send it to me at [stewartv@dy-regional.k12.ma.us](mailto:stewartv@dy-regional.k12.ma.us) We thank you in advance for your helping us with this endeavor.  
**Attendance Matters**

Your child's teachers will do their best to help your child learn and succeed in school. But there's one thing *only you can do*- get him or her to school every day. Children who don't attend school regularly fall behind and score lower on tests. They can have a hard time making and keeping friends-especially in elementary school. A study of the nation's fourth graders, conducted by the USDOE, showed that almost one in four (19%) had been absent from school 3 or more days in the last month. Show your child



and his teachers that you know attendance counts by doing the following things:

## Things you can do:

**Tell your child** how important school is.  
**Make dental** and other appointments during non-school hours.  
**Don't let your child** skip school for reasons that wouldn't prevent you from going to work.  
**Avoid taking your child** out of school on exam days.  
**Keep track** of your child's patterns that need to be changed.  
**Discuss the consequences** of missing school. Not understanding. Needing to do make-up work. Missing out on friends.  
**Talk to the teacher** if your

child regularly doesn't want to go to school. More than 12 absences in a school year is excessive. We need the children there to teach them.  
**Tardies and Early Pick-up** Getting your child to school on time and avoiding early pick-up is as important as daily attendance. If your child comes to school late, just 15 minutes a day, they are missing an hour and 15 minutes of time on learning a week. School starts at 9:20 a.m. and dismissal is at 3:40 pm. Let's all work together to try to keep our attendance

at 98% or better.

**Be sure to check out the last page of Q & A's for Effective Parenting.**



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# Home & School

## Working Together for School Success

### CONNECTION®

September 2019



#### SHORT NOTES

##### Be considerate

Family meals offer plenty of chances for your youngster to practice being considerate. As you serve yourselves food, you might say, "Make sure to leave enough so everyone gets some." Or if there's one piece of chicken left, encourage your child to ask if anyone wants to split it instead of taking the whole thing for himself.

##### Tired after school!

As your youngster gets used to the routine of a new school year, she may be more tired than usual. Be sure she's getting 9–11 hours of sleep each night. Also, try to keep evenings low-key by not planning too many activities.

##### Cardboard box "origami"

Before tossing boxes in the recycling bin, use them to build your child's spatial sense and math skills. Have him pull each box apart at the seams and lay it flat. Can he tape it back together? *Idea:* Challenge him to make a mini pizza or cereal box using construction paper and tape.

##### Worth quoting

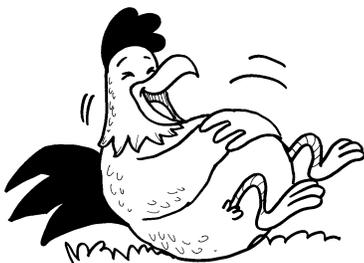
"Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping."

Fred Rogers

#### JUST FOR FUN

**Q:** How many eggs did the farmer collect from his biggest rooster?

**A:** Zero. Roosters don't lay eggs!



## The ABCs of school success

School success begins at home! While your child is learning her ABCs, 123s, and much more, she can get the year off to a great start with these *other* ABCs.

##### **A**ttend every day

More time in class = more learning. Help your youngster attend school regularly by scheduling doctor appointments and family vacations outside of school hours. Also, she can cut down on sick days by eating her fruits and vegetables, washing her hands often, and getting plenty of physical activity.

##### **B**e organized

Forgotten homework? A backpack that doubles as a black hole? Good organizational skills prevent those problems. Together, brainstorm ways for your child to get—and stay—organized. For instance, she could choose a special folder for bringing home and returning homework and use a zipper bag to store pencils and other supplies.



##### **C**heck in daily

Designate a time each day to sit down with your youngster, talk about what she did in school, and review papers she brought home. You might read a story she wrote or look over her math test, for example. This simple routine shows her that you care about what she's learning. Plus, you'll notice where she's doing well or if she's struggling with anything so you can follow up with her teacher.♥

#### Back to school...for parents

School rules keep students safe and let teachers do their job. Show your youngster that parents can help by following rules—just like he does. Here are a few examples:

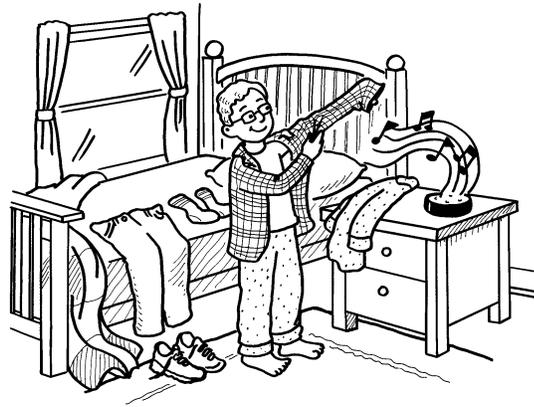
- Check in at the office as soon as you enter the school building, and be prepared to show identification.
- If you drive your child to school, be familiar with drop-off and pickup procedures. For instance, stay in your car, obey staff and patrol officers, and help your youngster exit the car quickly and safely.
- Follow rules for sending food to school. Is there a no-peanut policy? Are birthday treats allowed?
- Contact the teacher to arrange visits ahead of time rather than dropping in.♥



# Getting out the door

Mornings help to set the tone for your child's school day. Consider these ideas for a routine that will send him off to school relaxed and ready to learn.

**Add a "cushion."** Does your youngster need to walk out the door at 8 a.m.? Have him pretend he has to leave by 7:45 a.m. and adjust his routine accordingly. If he's ready early, great! The cushion of extra time will make the morning feel more relaxed—and maybe even give him time to read for pleasure or review spelling words.



**Simplify breakfast.** Make healthy, ready-to-eat breakfast items ahead of time with your child. Overnight oatmeal, hard-boiled eggs, cheese cubes with fruit, and favorite sandwiches are all good bets. *Idea:* Let your youngster eat breakfast at school. Enjoying a hot, healthy meal with friends is a nice way to start the day.

**Use a musical countdown.**

Suggest that your child create a song playlist that fits the amount of time he has to get ready for school. Then, turn on the music when he wakes up. Once he's familiar with the order of the songs, he'll know how much time he has left just from listening to the music.♥



**PARENT TO PARENT**

## Basket of clues

My daughter Aisha loves that her teacher begins each morning by giving the children clues about what they'll learn that day. At back-to-school night, the teacher mentioned that this lets them practice reading and thinking logically, so I decided to try it at home.

The next Saturday morning, I left a basket of clues on the coffee table about what our family would do in the afternoon. It included a finger puppet, a tote bag, and a bookmark. I added a message: "We will have fun at this place *and* bring some of the fun home in the bag." Aisha figured out that we were going to the library to watch a puppet show and check out books.



Now on Friday nights, Aisha asks me to make a clue basket. Sometimes, she even thinks of an activity she'd like to do and writes clues for me.♥

**ACTIVITY CORNER**

## Time out for nature

Time spent enjoying nature has been shown to reduce

stress and improve children's—and adults'—mental health. The outdoors is a great place to learn, too. Enjoy these five activities with your youngster.

1. Search for spiderwebs, and let her "collect" them by taking photos with your phone.
2. Find a place to sit quietly and listen to the birds. Can your child spot the birds that make each sound you hear?
3. Take a few deep breaths, and tell each other what outdoor scents you smell (pine trees, flowers).
4. Look for different types of rocks. She can sort them according to size, shape, or color.
5. Explore favorite outdoor places in all kinds of weather. Splash in puddles on a rainy morning. On a sunny afternoon, observe the shadows that leaves make on the ground as the breeze blows them around.♥



**Q & A**

## Persistence pays off

**Q:** My son is always eager to try activities, such as karate or student council. But then he'll ask to drop out because they're "too hard" or "too much work." How should I handle this?

**A:** Many youngsters are surprised when something that looks easy turns out to take hard work. Learning to find ways to overcome challenges will help your son stick with activities—and develop persistence.

When he mentions that a karate move or a student council job is taking too much effort, ask him what, specifically, is challenging. Then together, think of solutions. For example, if he's struggling with karate moves that involve balancing on one foot, brainstorm fun ways to improve his balance.

Over time, your child will get in the habit of looking for solutions instead of giving up.♥



**OUR PURPOSE**

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

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# Math+Science Connection

Beginning Edition

Building Excitement and Success for Young Children

September 2019

## TOOLS & TIDBITS



### Name that shape

“That red and white sign is a triangle!”

“Those orange and white barrels are cylinders!” Let your youngster explore geometry by asking her to name flat and solid shapes she spots. To “collect” the shapes,



help her draw them on separate index cards and label them with their names.

### A five-senses log

With this homemade book, your child will discover different ways he uses his five senses. Have him staple together five squares of paper, one for each sense (sight, smell, taste, touch, hearing). Now he can list things he notices thanks to each sense. He might write “Mom’s coffee” on the “smell” page and “wind chimes” on the “hearing” page.

### Book picks

▣ In *Zero the Hero* (Joan Holub), your youngster will realize just how “super” important zero is.

▣ Your child can read bite-sized poems while learning about food groups in *Our Food: A Healthy Serving of Science and Poems* (Grace Lin and Ranida T. McKneally).

## Just for fun

**Q:** What has four legs but can’t walk?

**A:** A desk.



## Back to school...in numbers!

From the big yellow bus to the September calendar, your child’s school year is full of numbers! Try these school-themed activities that encourage him to write numbers and count.

### Math pictures

Have your youngster draw pictures that involve math. For example, he might cut a school bus out of yellow construction paper and label it with his bus number. Or ask him to tell you how many students are in his class (say, 28)—he could draw a picture with that many students.



### September calendar

Let your child find numbers on a calendar. Together, look at the month of September, and ask him how many days it has (30). Then, encourage him to circle and count only the school days—how many are there? He could put stickers on days he has special classes (library, music, art, PE) and count how many times he’ll go to each one this month. (“I will have PE 8 times.”)

### Business card

Your youngster can learn his address and phone number by making “business cards.” Help him print his name and his contact information (“123 Apple Tree Lane, 555-0123”) on index cards and decorate them with stickers. Now suggest that he hand out his cards to relatives. Maybe they’ll make their own business cards to trade—then he can read their addresses and phone numbers. 🦋

## Observe the daytime sky

What’s in the sky today? Encourage your child to observe and record what she sees—just like a scientist does.

**Sun.** Watch a sunrise or sunset together so your youngster can see how the sky changes colors. She could draw a series of pictures as the sun rises or sets, using crayons (peach, lavender) that match the sky for each sketch.

**Moon.** Show your child that the moon is always in the sky—even in the daytime. When she spots it, let her draw it along with a landmark (say, a tree) to show where it’s located. She can draw the moon again a few hours later, then compare the drawings to see that it appears in a different location. 🦋



# Sort and pretend

Math + imaginary play = learning and fun. Invite your child to open a pretend store or restaurant and practice sorting with these ideas.

**Play store.** Let your youngster sort and display products to “sell.” For an arts and crafts store, maybe she’ll sort crayons and markers into different cups on one shelf and make separate piles for plain paper and construction paper on another. Or perhaps she’ll sort by color (red crayons and red markers with red paper). Pretend you’re her customer, and she can sort the coins you pay with.



**Make a menu.** To play restaurant, your little chef can first create a menu. Help her fold a sheet of paper into thirds, and give her old magazines to cut out food pictures. She might sort the foods by meal (breakfast, lunch, dinner), course (appetizers, entrees, sides), or food group (fruits, vegetables, grains). She could pick her favorite sorting method, then label the menu sections and glue the pictures to the pages where they belong. Now you get to order food from her restaurant.



## PARENT TO PARENT

### Math box

At back-to-school night, my son Bobby’s teacher had a great idea for helping children practice math at home. She suggested that we put together a portable “math box” to play with anytime.

I got a plastic tote box, and together Bobby and I filled it with math tools. He put



in a deck of cards, dominoes, dice, and flash cards. I added a pencil, a notepad, and a small bag filled with beads.

Then, we thought of math games he could try. Bobby suggested rolling three dice and arranging them from smallest to largest number. I said he could add the dots on both sides of the dominoes.

We wrote each idea on a separate piece of paper and stapled them into a “math idea book.” Now he’s using his math box in the car, in bed before he goes to sleep, and even at breakfast—because he likes playing with math!

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## SCIENCE LAB

### Liquids vs. solids

This experiment shows your youngster that a liquid takes the shape of its container—and a solid doesn’t.

**You’ll need:** four clear containers of various shapes and sizes (vase, jar), water, rocks

**Here’s how:** Have your child fill two containers with water and put rocks in each of the other two.

**What happens?** Water (a liquid) changes shape to fit the container. A rock (a solid) stays the same shape no matter which container it is in.

**Why?** The molecules, or tiny particles, in liquids move around freely. But the molecules in a solid are tightly packed and can’t move past each other, so a solid doesn’t change shape.



## MATH CORNER

### Let’s graph our names

Which family member has the longest name? The shortest? Your child can make a name graph to find out.

**Materials:** poster board, pencil, markers, strips of paper, scissors, glue

**1.** Help your youngster divide poster board into 12 columns and 8 rows. Number the top row 1–12.

**2.** Give each person a strip of paper and a marker to write her first name. (Make strips for pets’ names, too!)

**3.** Have each family member cut her name apart into individual letters.

**4.** Now everyone can glue their letters in order across the poster board (one letter per column).

**5.** Look at the graph together, and compare the length of your names. For example, how many more letters does Mallory have than Carl? Do any two names have the same number of letters?



# Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

September 2019

## Book Picks



Read-aloud favorites

### ■ *The Day You Begin*

(Jacqueline Woodson)

The students in this story feel alone for different reasons, whether it's because of what they look like, how they talk, or what they eat. But the children discover that when they share their differences, they begin to see just how well they *do* fit in. (Also available in Spanish.)

### ■ *Night Night, Groot*

(Brendan Deneen)

In this bedtime comic book, Baby Groot is ready for bed after a long day. But his friend Rocket Raccoon has other ideas. He snatches Groot out of bed, and the two zoom across the universe with their superhero friends. Will Groot ever get to sleep?



### ■ *Tigers & Tea with Toppo* (Barbara Kerley and Rhoda Knight Kalt)

To Rhoda, her grandfather is "Toppo."



To everyone else, he's the famous wildlife artist Charles R. Knight. This biography tells

the story of a weekend adventure Rhoda and Toppo enjoy together. Tag along to the museum and the zoo to see many of the artist's drawings and paintings.

### ■ *The Cloud Book* (Tomie dePaola)

Can your youngster predict the weather by looking at the clouds?

Has she ever thought that a cloud was shaped like an animal? This nonfiction book teaches readers about common cloud types and the weather they typically bring.



## Fill your home with words

Your child learned to talk by hearing many words every day. Now that she's learning to read, *seeing* lots of words will make them familiar to her when she comes across them in books. Use these ideas to surround your youngster with words.

### Label

On sticky notes, help your child label furniture, toys, and appliances with their names. She could put each note on the correct item, then walk around the house and see how many words she can read. *Idea:* Let her create a nameplate for each person's door—and even put one on the dog's food bowl or the fish tank.

### Post

Use colorful tape to mark off a "bulletin board" on the refrigerator. Your youngster can post all kinds of things to read. *Examples:* The school cafeteria menu, notes from you, a joke. Then, make time daily to read the board. For instance, before



school, help her check the menu to find out what's for lunch.

### Collect

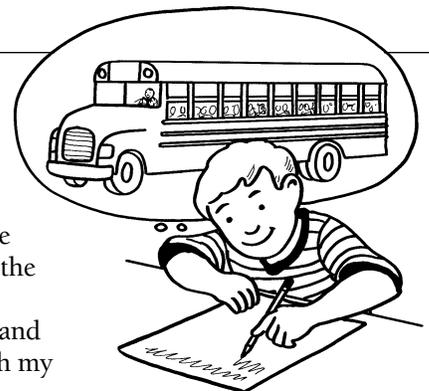
Cut construction paper into fourths and staple the pieces together to create word books. Your child might title one "Food Words," then cut words like *cereal* and *rice* from food packages and glue them all over the pages. She could put her books on a shelf or on the coffee table to pull out and read whenever she likes.♥

## My school story

"What did you do in school today?" Instead of having your child *tell* you, encourage him to write it down. He'll work on putting events in order, and you'll learn all about his day.

Ask your youngster to write a sentence about what he did first. *Example:* "I rode the school bus." Then ask, "What happened next?" He might write: "We had reading and writing time. I went to lunch and ate with my friends. We did math."

*Tip:* If your child isn't writing yet, let him dictate his story to you.♥



# Books and the great outdoors

Reading can be a quiet indoor pastime for your youngster—or a playful outdoor adventure! In your backyard or at the park, read stories that take place outside. Then, try these suggestions for helping your child make connections between books and his world.

**Recreate a picture.** Let your youngster choose an illustration from a book and use props to make his own real-life version of it. If the picture shows a pond with



the sidewalk after a rainstorm to see how they wriggle. Or after reading about a windy day, he may want to make a colorful wind sock to see which way the wind is blowing.♥

lily pads, he could float leaves on a puddle. Or if there's an illustration of a bear in a cave, maybe he'll use sticks and rocks to build a miniature hideaway for his teddy bear.

**Explore science.** Do a science activity related to a book. Say the main character in a story is an earthworm. Your child might observe worms on

## Fun with Words



## A back-to-school recipe

Your youngster can practice writing instructions as she whips up a recipe for a great school year!

Together, read recipes for favorite dishes so she sees how they include an ingredients list and step-by-step instructions. Then, suggest that your child write her own list of ingredients for a great school year. *Example:* “1 friendly teacher, ½ cup reading, a dash of recess.”

1. Combine 1 friendly teacher with ½ cup reading.
2. Sprinkle in a dash of recess.
3. Add ½ cup math games.



Next, she should write a step for each ingredient. Encourage her to use cooking words like those in the recipes she read (*stir, combine, blend*).

Finally, listen while your youngster reads her finished recipe to you.♥

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## Q&A Read-alouds for new readers

**Q** My son loves it when I read to him. Now that he's learning to read on his own, what should I do differently at story time?

**A** Simply continuing to read aloud to your son is one of the best ways to support his reading. Kids who have pleasant experiences with books tend to become better readers.

Try following your child's lead at story time. If he points out words he knows, offer encouragement. (“You're right, that word is *blue*.”) Or if he asks what a word means, give a quick kid-friendly explanation. (“*Locomotive* is a big word for *train*.”)

Also, share your reactions to the book, and let your son do the same. *Example:* “I was really hoping the train would make it up the hill. Did you think it would?” You'll find that talking about stories is a natural way to boost his comprehension.♥



## Parent to Parent

### Let's do research!

My daughter Kara asks a lot of questions. During a recent trip to the library, we read a non-fiction book that answered her most recent one: “Why do we get the hiccups?”

Now Kara keeps a list of questions she thinks of. When we visit the library, we look up the answers. Our research is turning out to be far more educational—and more fun—than asking

my phone to answer Kara's questions. For instance, I help her type her topic into the library database, and we look at the list of suggested books. Then the librarian points us toward the section where we can find what we need.

Kara is learning her way around the library, and she's even learning to use a book's index to locate the information she's looking for.♥



# Reading Connection

Working Together for Learning Success

September 2019



## Book Picks

### ■ *Lunch Lady and the Cyborg Substitute* (Jarrett J. Krosoczka)

Three students discover that their lunch lady is a secret agent who's investigating a new teacher. The agent and her assistant use special gadgets—like an apron that's really a cape—to help them crack the case. Book one in the Lunch Lady graphic novel series.



### ■ *Our Story Begins* (edited by Elissa Brent Weissman)

Get a glimpse into the childhoods of 26 favorite children's authors and illustrators in this collection of their earliest works. Readers will find stories, poems, artwork, and more—and may even be inspired to get creative themselves!



### ■ *Who Was Rosa Parks?* (Yona Zeldis McDonough)

In this biography, readers will learn about the heroic woman who bravely refused to give up her seat on a bus. The book describes Parks's childhood and the changes she inspired. (Also available in Spanish.)

### ■ *A Boy Called Bat* (Elana K. Arnold)

Bat, a boy who has autism, bonds with a baby skunk his veterinarian mother brings home. He names the skunk Thor and wants to keep him as a pet, but he has to convince his mom. This story about acceptance and friendship is the first book in the Bat series.



## Motivated to read

Reading for pleasure is one of the most important ways for your child to build the skills he needs for school success. Get him into the reading habit this year with these ideas.

### Find an "in"

Choose a book you think your youngster will enjoy—say, one about a boy his age who is short like he is. Read the first chapter or two aloud to him, and then ask him to read the next one. Don't be surprised if he gets hooked on the story and finishes reading it on his own!



### Become a team

Pick a new hobby to try with your child, and team up to learn everything you can about it. The two of you might get into stamp collecting or photography. Check the library for collectors' guides or how-to books related to your hobby.

### Use pictures

Colorful illustrations make picture encyclopedias and coffee-table books

hard to resist. Your youngster can explore kid-friendly topics like animals and sports. Leave the books around the house, perhaps on your child's nightstand or an end table. The pictures may spark his interest in reading the words.

### Think outside the book

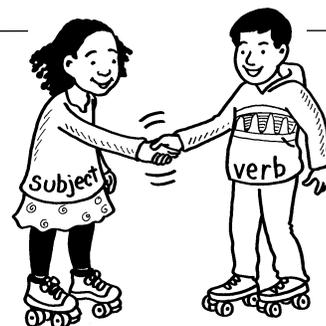
Reading doesn't always have to mean books. Is your youngster a movie buff? Let him read film reviews before you head to the theater. Does he like board games? Steer him toward trivia games that require players to read and answer questions. 📖

## Let's agree!

It's important for subjects and verbs to agree—just as it's important for your child to get along with others! Share these tips and strategies to help your youngster choose the correct verb:

- A singular subject (except *I* and *you*) gets a singular verb. Have your child pick a sentence from a book and read it with and without the *s* at the end of the verb. Example: "John *skates* around the rink," "John *skate* around the rink." The subject (*John*) is singular, so the verb (*skates*) is singular, too.

- Even if the subject and verb are separated by other words, they still have to agree. Suggest that your youngster ignore the words between the subject and verb to make sure she selected the right verb: "The ~~boy with the dogs~~ *walks* by our house every day." 📖



# The elements of a story

Your youngster has been asked to write a story. She has a topic in mind but isn't sure how to begin. Sound familiar? Have her consider these story elements to get her creative-writing juices flowing.

**Theme.** The theme is the “big idea,” which is different from the topic. For example, if your child's story is about a girl who is new at her school, the theme could be courage or perhaps



friendship. Keeping the theme in mind will help her dig deeper into her topic.

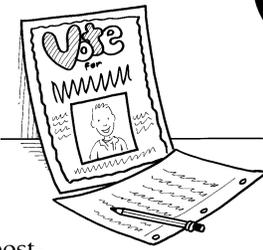
**Tone.** Will your youngster's story be suspenseful or funny? For a horror story, she might choose words that keep readers in suspense. If she wants to write a funny story, she could think of dialogue that will make readers laugh.

## Read, write, and get involved

Did you know that your youngster can gain reading, writing, and speaking skills by joining after-school activities? Suggest that he check out extracurriculars like these.

### Student council

Your child will practice persuasive and explanatory writing when he composes speeches, creates campaign posters, or takes minutes at meetings. And giving speeches is good experience for oral presentations in class.



### Publications

Working on a school newspaper, yearbook, or literary magazine offers lots of reading and writing opportunities. Your youngster will write questions for interviews, conduct research for articles, or write stories or poems to be published.

### School plays

Memorizing his lines and saying them with expression can make your child a smoother reader. He'll also become familiar with dialogue, narration, and stage directions. ■



**Time.** Suggest that your child decide when her story will take place. During a specific period of history? A season of the year, such as winter? She can bring her story to life by including details about things like the clothing that characters are wearing and the weather outside. ■

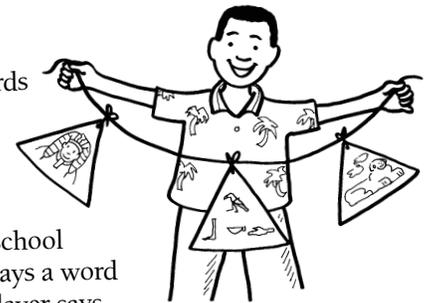


## Create word chains

Making “chains” of related words is a fun way to stretch your child's vocabulary. Play this game together, and see how many words you can link!

Have your youngster think of a category that's related to something he's learning in school (say, ancient Egypt). To start the game, he says a word that fits his category (*pyramid*). The next player says another word that goes along with the category. But there's a catch! Each new word has to begin with the last letter of the one before it.

A word chain for ancient Egypt, for example, could be: “*pharaoh*, *hieroglyphics*, *sphinx*.” Continue calling out words until someone can't think of a new one. The last player to come up with a word picks the next category. ■



## Making sense of graphics

**Q** My daughter tends to skip over graphics, such as charts and diagrams, when she reads a textbook. What do you suggest?

**A** Point out that graphics work as a team with words to help her understand subjects like math, science, and history. She can become more comfortable with these textbook features by reading and using graphics that appear in everyday life.

For example, the nutrition-facts box on her

favorite snack contains a chart with useful information. Suggest that she slide her finger across rows and down columns to keep her place as she reads. Explain that she'll need to read the whole thing — “120 calories per serving” is useful only if she knows the serving size.

Also, have her practice using diagrams at home by following them to build toys or to help assemble furniture. She'll see that a visual image makes it much easier to understand the instructions. ■



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# Recipes for Success

Practical Activities to Help Your Child Succeed

SEPTEMBER 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

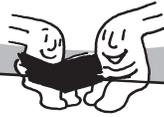
#### Ball of questions

Build your youngster's reading comprehension with this simple game of catch.

**Ingredients:** masking tape, scissors, pen, soccer or beach ball, books

Let your child tear off several six-inch strips of masking tape. On each one, she should write a question that could apply to just about any story or novel. *Examples:* "How would you describe the main character?" "What is the theme of the story?" Then, have her stick the strips all over the ball.

Next, ask your youngster to choose a book or chapter to read with you. After you finish, toss the ball back and forth. Each time you catch it, answer the question closest to your right index finger.



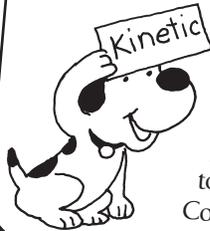
### VOCABULARY

#### What word am I?

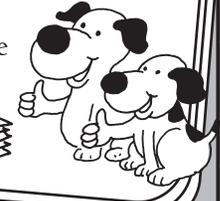
Guess the words on your forehead and define them correctly to win this game.

**Ingredients:** list of vocabulary words, pencil, index cards

Have your child write each word on a separate index card, then shuffle and stack the cards facedown. Now he should take the top card and, without looking at the word, place it on his forehead with the word facing out.



To figure out the word, he can ask you yes-or-no questions. *Examples:* "Is it a type of energy?" "Is it an adjective?" When he identifies the word, he has to define it correctly to keep the card. If he gets it wrong, he returns the card to the bottom of the pile. Then it's your turn. Collect the most cards to win.



### HEALTH

Creating a bedtime kit can help your child get to sleep on time. Have him place a flashlight, a book, and a stuffed animal in a basket.

He'll look forward to snuggling up with his stuffed animal and reading his book by flashlight.



### STUDY SKILLS

Acting out concepts makes them easier for your youngster to understand and remember. She could pretend she's a raindrop going through the water cycle, for instance. Can she evaporate into the sky, condense into a cloud, and fall back to Earth as rain (precipitation)?



### MATH

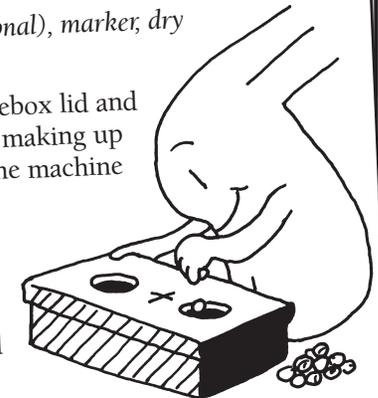
#### My adding machine

A homemade "adding machine" gives your child a fun way to practice addition.

**Ingredients:** scissors, shoebox, math book (optional), marker, dry beans (or other small objects), paper, pencil

Help your youngster cut two holes in the shoebox lid and draw a + sign between them. Now take turns making up addition problems for each other and using the machine to solve them.

If you give her  $17 + 28 = \underline{\quad}$ , she would put 17 beans in one hole and 28 in the other. Have her solve the problem in her head or on paper ( $17 + 28 = 45$ ), then remove the lid and count the beans. Was she right? Now she can give you a problem to solve.



# Recipes for Success

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## Character Corner

### SCIENCE Invisible Ink

Writing secret messages shows your child a cool chemical reaction and teaches a fun science lesson.

**Ingredients:** lemon juice, cotton swab, white paper, lamp or sunlight, hair dryer

Have your youngster dip a cotton swab in lemon juice, use it to write a message on the paper, and hold it up to the light. (The message will be invisible.)

Let the paper dry for a few minutes, then he can hold it while you turn the hair dryer on low and dry the message completely. Now when light shines on the paper, the message appears!

The paper absorbed the carbon-based compound in the lemon juice. The heat released the compound, allowing it to react with the oxygen in the air and darken the juice.



### HISTORY

Your youngster can bring history to life by building models of famous sites. Perhaps she'll use empty paper towel tubes to construct the Parthenon if she's studying ancient Greece. Or if she's learning about ancient China, she might build the Great Wall out of lasagna noodles and cardboard.



### ART

Gather around the table, and let your child hand out paper and crayons for this cooperative art project. Each person draws on the paper in front of him for one minute, then moves one seat to the right and continues the drawing at that spot. After a turn at each seat, everyone can describe the drawing in front of them.



### FAIRNESS

Being fair doesn't always mean treating everyone the same. Can your child think of situations where that wouldn't make sense? *Example:* One student needs a bandage, so the nurse gives everyone a bandage. Your youngster will see that it's fair to meet different needs in different ways!



### DEPENDABILITY

Let your child cover a coffee can with paper and label it "You CAN count on us." Put a coin in the can anytime a family member acts dependably (say, your youngster keeps his promise to help his sister with homework). When the can is full, donate the money to a charity.

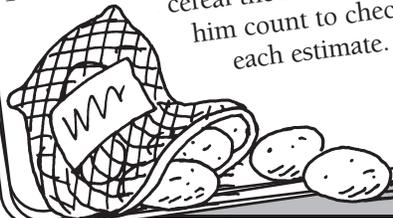
Have your child cut a sun out of yellow construction paper and write a positive thought on each ray. ("I'll do my best at whatever I do.") She could post her sun where she'll see it every morning, perhaps on the bathroom mirror.



### OPTIMISM

### COUNTING

A trip to the grocery store offers plenty of opportunities for estimating and counting. Your youngster could estimate how many potatoes are in a 10-lb. bag or how many varieties of cereal the store sells. Let him count to check each estimate.



## Congratulations!

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

Signed (parent or adult family member)

Signed (child)

### CAPITALIZATION

Encourage your youngster to play "capitals detective." Write a sentence, using some incorrect capitalization. ("a little Cater-day.") Will she catch all the mistakes? Next, let her make up a sentence for you to fix.

Main Street