

Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

May 2016

Martinsville City Public Schools
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Book Picks



Read-aloud favorites

■ *12 Ways to Get to 11* (Eve Merriam)

Three turtles + 2 frogs + 1 lily pad + 5 dragonflies = 11! Combine 6 peanut shells and 5 pieces of popcorn, and get the same total. Your youngster will practice counting and adding with the fun objects in this book as she learns there's more than one way to add up to 11.

■ *Kitty Cat, Kitty Cat, Are You Waking Up?* (Bill Martin Jr. and Michael Sampson)

With its cute refrain, this book is just right for parents and early readers to enjoy together. It's time to get out of bed, but Kitty Cat is standing on her head, practicing her purr, and finding other ways to delay getting off to school.



■ *And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street* (Dr. Seuss)

A little boy named Marco has a big imagination. While walking to school, he looks for interesting things to describe to his dad. And when he finds nothing, he prepares a tall tale in his head. From a gold and blue chariot to the confetti that rains from an airplane, Marco's tale may grow too big to tell! (Also available in Spanish.)



■ *Jamaica's Find* (Juanita Havill)

Who left a red hat and a well-loved stuffed dog at the playground? Jamaica puts the hat into the lost and found—but takes the dog home with her. Then, she learns an important lesson about honesty and discovers how good it feels to make another child happy.

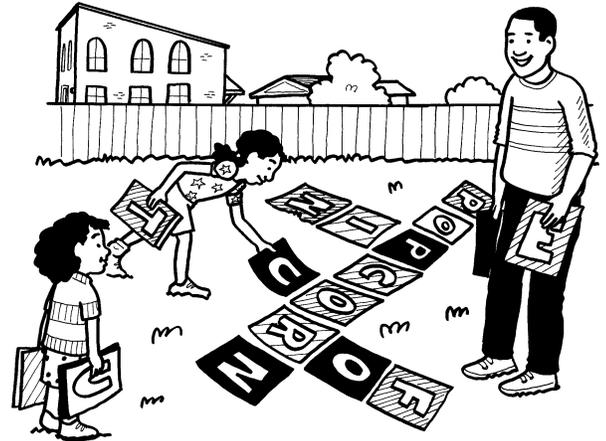


Backyard summer games

What comes to mind when your youngster thinks of summer? Whether it's the beach, baseball, or the Fourth of July, these active games will keep her reading skills sizzling on hot days.

Seashell relay

Let your child cut out 20 paper seashells and label them with beach-related words (*sand, waves, surfing*). Fill two pails with sand. Bury 10 shells in each, and place them at one end of the yard. Divide into two teams at the other end, and give each team a shovel. Players race to dig up a shell, shout out the word, and run back with the shell to pass the shovel to the next teammate. The first team to read all 10 words wins.



Baseball toss

Secretly think of a baseball-related sentence. ("The crowd roared after the home run.") Write each word on a separate sheet of paper, and crumple them into balls. Then, throw them to your youngster. Once she has every word, she unfolds the balls and unscrambles the sentence.

Next, have her make up a sentence and toss to you. *Variation:* Write one sentence of a paragraph on each ball, and players arrange them in order.

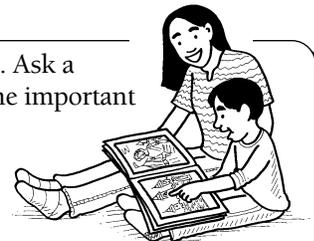
Red-white-blue crossword

Together, create big letter tiles by printing each letter of the alphabet on a separate sheet of red, white, or blue construction paper. Make extra vowels (*a, e, i, o, u*) and common letters like *l, n, r, s,* and *t*. Deal all tiles evenly to players. Then, play a cooperative game: Take turns laying down letters into words until you've arranged all the tiles into a giant crossword on the lawn. ♥

Reading—without words

Wordless books tell stories entirely through pictures. Ask a librarian to help you find some, and show your child the important role that pictures play in a story with these ideas:

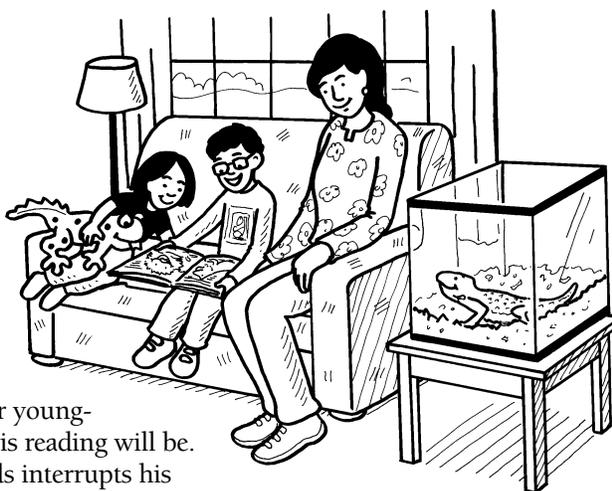
- No two readers will "read" a wordless book the same way. Let your youngster slowly turn the book's pages while family members tell the story in their heads. Then, take turns holding the book and "reading" your story aloud. It will be interesting to see what the stories have in common—and how they're different!
- Your child may notice something new every time he rereads a wordless book. Help him record himself reading one—he could ring a bell when he turns a page. Have him listen to his recording and follow along in the book. What details would he add or change? ♥



Building blocks of fluency

Fluent reading is more than just reading that is smooth and full of expression. A fluent reader recognizes words automatically and understands what he's reading. Help your child become a fluent reader with these tips.

1. Learn a lot of words. The more words your youngster recognizes effortlessly, the more fluent his reading will be. That's because tripping over unfamiliar words interrupts his



flow and distracts him from comprehending a book. Introduce new words regularly by reading aloud to him—especially books that are a little too hard for him to read on his own. Also, help him practice any lists of sight words (common words like *went* or *said*) that his teacher sends home.

2. Be prepared to read.

Before your child starts a book, “preview” it so he knows what to expect. You could read the title, look at the cover, and talk about the topic. For example, if the cover shows a chameleon and the title is *Reptiles*, he'll be ready to read about cold-blooded animals like chameleons and snakes. ♥



Make a map

Maps are full of symbols. Making one is a great way for your child to practice connecting words and symbols—and develop map skills.



First, let her choose something to map, perhaps your neighborhood playground. Help her list what to include, such as *swings*, *slide*, *jungle gym*, and *basketball court*. Beside each, she should draw a symbol that will represent it on her map (a triangle for swings, a horizontal ladder for the jungle gym).

Now she can draw her map. She could title it (“Elm Street Playground”) and place the symbols where they go. Ask her to draw a key at the bottom—a box with each symbol and what it represents. Finally, have her use her map to give you a “tour.” ♥

OUR PURPOSE

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

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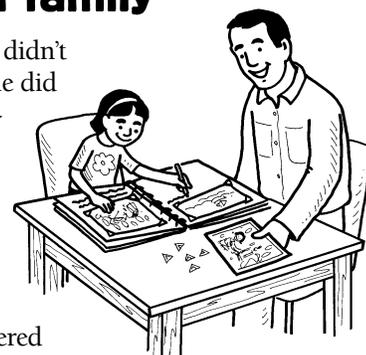


Writing about our family

My daughter Brianna said she didn't like writing, but I noticed that she did like talking to people and asking questions. So I suggested that she help me add captions to our family photo album by interviewing her grandparents.

Together, we brainstormed questions: “What did you like best about school?” “Where did you get married?” “How many years did you play on the basketball team?”

The next time her grandparents visited, they answered the questions while Brianna took notes. Then, we worked on our captions. At first, Brianna dictated them to me. But after a few, she wanted to write them herself. My daughter loved doing the interviews and hearing the stories—and she enjoyed working on the photo album. Now she wants to make another one. ♥



Celebrate books

Add a dash of fun to summer reading with these activities that your whole family will enjoy.

● **Throw a party.** Dress up like book characters, and serve “literary” snacks. For instance, set out a tray with foods from *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* (Eric Carle) like strawberries, Swiss cheese, and pickles. Read aloud while you enjoy the snacks. You could also make and play a party game, such as “Pin the Caterpillar on the Leaf.”

● **Be secret book pals.** Put family members' names on slips of paper in a hat, and take turns pulling one out. Go to the library, where each person secretly chooses a book his pal would enjoy. At home, he wraps the book and adds the person's name. Get together to unwrap your books. Guess who picked yours, and then read the books together! ♥

