

Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

November 2017

Hastings Independent School District 200

Book Picks

Read-aloud favorites

■ *The Legend of Rock Paper Scissors* (Drew Daywalt)

Rock, Paper, and Scissors are great warriors in their own kingdoms—with one problem. Their opponents aren't challenging enough! This humorous legend tells how they found each other and the game Rock, Paper, Scissors was born.

■ *Look at That Building! A First Book of Structures* (Scot Ritchie)

Tag along with five friends as they set out to build a doghouse for their pet. Blending fiction with nonfiction, this book includes ideas readers can use to build a miniature doghouse of their own.

■ *Andy Shane, Hero at Last*

(Jennifer Richard Jacobson)

Andy isn't sure he can win a bike-decorating contest against his friend Dolores. But as the children ride their bikes in the town parade, Andy has a chance to be a hero and save the day. Part of the Andy Shane series.



■ *National Geographic Readers: Storms* (Miriam Busch Goin)

What causes tornadoes, hurricanes, and other storms? This book about Mother Nature's fiercest weather has the answers. Simple explanations, photographs, and quick facts help readers understand the science behind wind, rain, lightning, and more. (Also available in Spanish.)



For reading out loud!

Reading aloud to your youngster builds listening skills, improves reading comprehension, and encourages her to love books. Try these three strategies for fitting in at least 20 minutes a day of read-aloud time.

Little by little

In a time crunch? That's okay. Even short bursts of reading throughout the day add up. Read a chapter before school—perhaps while your child is getting ready or during breakfast. Squeeze in a few jokes from a joke book or facts from a trivia book before dinner. Then, wrap up the day with a picture book or two at bedtime.

Two for one

Reading doesn't have to be a stand-alone activity. Add a read-aloud to other things you and your youngster are doing. Read a book about different kinds of transportation while riding the subway. Share the directions for a craft project while you work on it together. Weave in a story during bath time.

Family affair



Invite other family members to read to your child—that counts toward the 20 minutes per day, too! Your youngster can connect with them by phone or with a video app (Skype, Facetime). Before Grandma reads over the phone, you could both get the same book from the library. Or during a video chat, remind Uncle Dave to hold up the book and share the pictures with your child.♥



MY TALE

Dreaming up an autumn *rebus* story—a story where pictures replace some words—gives your child a creative way to practice writing.

First, help him choose a fall topic like raking leaves or watching squirrels gather nuts. As he writes, he can substitute a picture for at least one word in each sentence. *Examples:*

“I used a  to make a giant pile of .

“The  ran up the  to get an .

If he repeats a word that he has replaced, he could draw the same picture. When his story is complete, ask him to read it to you. What will his next rebus story be about?♥



A is for ...

Hunting for objects that start with a certain letter lets your youngster explore the alphabet and letter sounds. Here's how.

Collect. Have your youngster label a paper lunch bag with "Aa." Then, he can fill the bag with small objects, pictures cut from magazines, or index cards with words printed on them—all beginning with the letter A.



Share. Invite your child to show you what he gathered. As he names each item, talk about the various sounds the letter makes. For instance, how does a sound in *ape*? What about in *apple* or *art*?

Continue. Tomorrow he can label a bag "Bb" and hunt again. After 26 days, he'll have a complete collection of ABC bags!

Tip: Gently correct him if something doesn't belong. For example, if he collects an elephant on "U" day, sound out the word together. Can he name the correct letter for it now?♥



Story VIPs

It's all in the details!

Boost your child's reading comprehension by helping her pick out the story details that really matter!

Read a book together, and encourage her to identify the VIPs (Very Important Parts). If she's not sure, ask, "If this detail were missing, would the story be the same?" For instance, in *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, the detail "She walked into the living room" is nice to know,

but it isn't necessary to the story. But "Goldilocks woke up and saw the three bears" is a VIP. Your child can write each VIP on a star cut from construction paper.

Afterward, let her arrange the stars in order from start to finish and use them to retell the story. As she goes, she could add stars for any important parts she missed or take away ones that aren't necessary for the tale.♥



Sound-alikes

This simple activity teaches your child the meanings of *homophones*—words that sound the same but have different meanings and spellings.

Materials: paper, pencil, index cards, crayons

Together, list all the homophones you can think of. *Examples:* *blew/blue, toad/towed, pair/pear, hare/hair.*

Now, have your youngster come up with a sentence that uses both words of a pair. For *blew/blue*, she might imagine "A soccer player *blew* a *blue* bubble." She can draw a picture on an index card to illustrate it. Then, help her write the sentence on the back of the card. Encourage her to make a card for each set you thought of.

Idea: Suggest that she use the cards to play a guessing game with friends. They could take turns picking a card and displaying the picture for the other players. Who can name the words that are homophones?♥



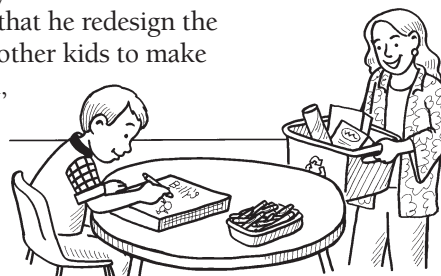
You'll love this cereal!

Recently, my son Billy said he wanted to rename his favorite cereal "Billy's Blueberry Crunchies." That gave me an idea. Why not let him redo the whole box?

I covered an empty cereal box with paper and suggested that he redesign the package to persuade other kids to make it their favorite cereal, too. First, he wrote "Billy's Blueberry Crunchies" on the front in big blue letters. Then, he drew a bluebird as

a mascot and added a slogan, "A berry good way to start your day!" He even printed an ingredient list on one side and wrote a recipe on the back—which were good ways to get in what his teacher calls "informational writing."

Billy had so much fun that we hunted through the recycling bin for other containers he could "make over." I never thought such a simple idea would encourage so much writing!♥



OUR PURPOSE

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

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