Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

January 2019

Lakeland Joint School District #272

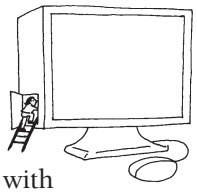
From the Title I Staff

Book Picks

Read-aloud favorites

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

■ ***Hello Ruby: Journey Inside the Computer*** *(Linda Liukas)*

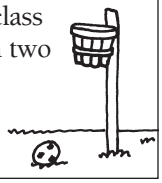


This book from the Hello Ruby series uses a fictional story to explain how computers work. Follow along with Ruby as she shrinks down and crawls inside her father's broken computer. Includes fun activities that let readers put their new knowledge to work.

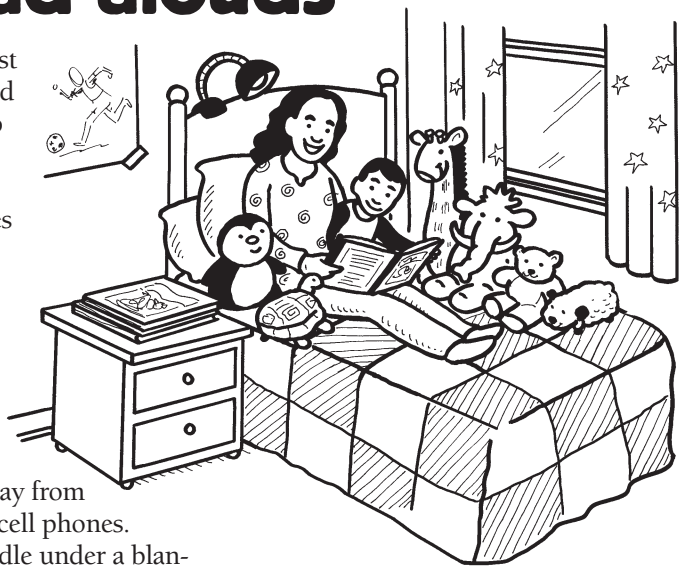
■ ***Mama's Saris*** *(Pooja Makhijani)*
On her seventh birthday, an Indian American girl decides she's old enough to wear a sari. She feels proud and special when her mother lets her wear the traditional garment to her party. This sweet story celebrates family traditions.



■ ***Hoop Genius: How a Desperate Teacher and a Rowdy Gym Class Invented Basketball*** *(John Coy)*
In 1891, James Naismith was teaching a gym class full of unruly boys. This nonfiction book tells how Naismith got control of the class by inventing a game with two peach baskets and a soccer ball. Today, we call that sport basketball!



Cozy read-alouds



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

Get comfortable

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

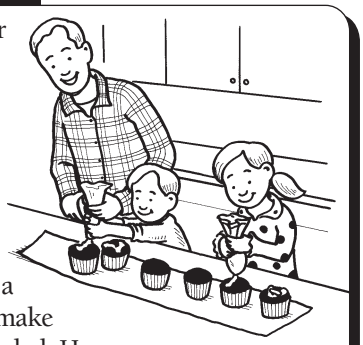
Slow down

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

Be playful

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

Build "writing muscles" in the kitchen



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

- **Boost strength.** Let your youngster mash potatoes or stir pancake batter. Or she could decorate cupcakes or cookies. Put frosting in a zipper bag, snip off a corner, and encourage her to squeeze it onto the goodies like a pastry chef!
- **Improve coordination.** Show your child how to roll a ground beef or turkey mixture between her palms to make meatballs. Let her use her fingers to tear lettuce for a salad. Have her hold her wrist steady as she uses a spatula to transfer cookies to a cooling rack.♥

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I can read!

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

Pictures. Suggest that your child use the illustrations to tell herself the story. You could point out words she says that appear on the page. For instance, if she says, "The kids are riding the school bus," show her the words *school* and *bus*. She'll begin to connect written words with spoken ones.



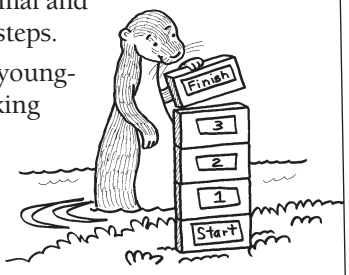
Words. If your youngster reads a word incorrectly, help her figure it out. You might say, "Does 'Everyone got a *parking* hat' make sense?" Then, have her reread the sentence—she'll probably realize that the word is *party*. If not, she could try sounding out the word.

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

Fun with Words

Why my favorite animal is awesome

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



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

2. Let him place the "Start" block in front of himself and then, on a sheet of paper, write (or dictate to you) an opening sentence. ("My favorite animal is an otter.")

3. Have your child stack the numbered blocks on top of "Start." As he adds each one, he could write a reason for his opinion. *Examples:* "Otters are cute." "They like to play." "They are good swimmers."

4. Now it's time for him to put the "Finish" block on top and write his conclusion. ("Now you see why I love otters.")

5. Finally, invite him to read his opinion piece to you.♥

Q&A Becoming a good speller

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



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

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

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

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

Parent to Parent

Our family reading board

Recently, my daughter Ella proudly pointed out a photo of herself on a bulletin board in the school hallway. She was holding her favorite Curious George book, and the board was titled "What we're reading."

We decided to make a board like that at home. Now when Ella reads a new book, I take a picture of her with it. She hangs the photo on the board, and I make sure to ask her what the book is about or what made her decide to read it. She also asks what I'm reading and offers to take my picture. We even have relatives send us "reading selfies."



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

OUR PURPOSE

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

Resources for Educators,
a division of CCH Incorporated
128 N. Royal Avenue • Front Royal, VA 22630
800-394-5052 • rfecustomer@wolterskluwer.com
www.rfeonline.com
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