

Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

February 2007

Renton School District

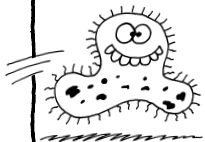
Book Picks



Read-aloud favorites

■ *Germs! Germs! Germs!*

Busy little germs tell this story from their point of view. In your mouth, your clothing, and even in the air—germs are everywhere! Bobbi Katz's nonfiction book explains how they're spread and what happens when they get in our bodies.



■ *Click Clack Splish Splash: A Counting Adventure*

Doreen Cronin's counting book features a duck and his barnyard friends. With the help of "three buckets piled high" and "four chickens standing by," youngsters will laugh while practicing numbers 1 to 10. (Also available in Spanish.)



■ *A Color of His Own*

Pigs are pink and elephants are gray, so the chameleon in Leo Lionni's charming story thinks he should have his own color. Since chameleons change to match their surroundings, he decides to stay on a green leaf forever. His plan works—until the seasons change, and a wise grown-up chameleon teaches him a lesson.

■ *Fancy Nancy*

Nancy is a second-grader who loves anything flashy or glittery. She uses words like "posh" and "parfait" and even dresses up sandwiches with frilly toothpicks. Nancy wishes the rest of her family were fancy, too. But then she learns that the most important things are pretty ordinary. By Jane O'Connor.



Lights! Camera! Action!

Laura and Nicholas have been listening to Mom read a book about summer fun. When they run to put on bathing suits and get out buckets to build a pretend sand castle, they're doing more than playing. They're using reading comprehension skills.

Try adding a little drama to your read-aloud time with these ideas.



Play the part

Choose a book that repeats the same line several times, and encourage your child to act it out. For example, read *The Three Little Pigs*. Every time you say, "I'll huff, and I'll puff, and I'll blow your house down," your child could pretend she's a wolf and blow on the door as hard as she can.

Dress up

Simple costumes can add excitement. An upside-down paper grocery bag—with holes cut for her head and arms—can turn your child into *The Tawny Scrawny Lion* (by Golden Books). Give her a white shirt and a black hat, and suddenly she's Marcus Pfister's *Penguin Pete*, learning to walk, fly, and swim.

Create a set

Using props will help the story come to life for your youngster. For

Margaret Wise Brown's *The Big Red Barn*, your child could put toy farm animals (or drawn cut-out colored shapes to represent them) into a toy barn (or a cardboard box colored red). As you read about each animal in the story, encourage her to move it out of the barn. ♥

Parent to Parent

Daily reading

When my son started school, we began checking the weather forecast every night so he could decide what to wear the next day. Hank soon learned to read the words "sunny," "rainy," and "cloudy."

So I decided to find other things we could read together. Instead of my reading the school lunch menu to him, we both began looking at it. Before long, Hank was reading the daily selections to me.

My son also has fun checking recipes in the newspaper. Plus, he likes to read toy descriptions in catalogs and movie summaries on video cases. Now, it seems that my son is learning new words every day! ♥



Fix-it strategies

“Oops, that doesn’t say ‘carrot,’” Alex said. “It starts with *p*—it says ‘parrot!’”

All young readers make mistakes. Good readers like Alex can catch their errors and try to fix them. Here are some tips for helping your child do the same.

Time for encouragement. Praise your youngster if he realizes that he misread a word. “You’re right! The word is not ‘falling.’ What do you think it is?” Being aware of errors is the first step in fixing them.

Second chance. If your child doesn’t catch a mistake, ask him to read the sentence again. If he gets it wrong again, prompt



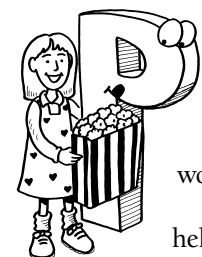
him: “Look at this word one more time. You said ‘tap,’ but I see an *e* at the end.” (You may need to remind him that the silent *e* makes the word “tape.”)

Room for mistakes. Give your youngster a book that’s slightly more challenging than he’s used to. He’ll probably make a few mis-

takes. But encouraging him to stretch his abilities will make him a better reader. ♥

Q&A A reading boost

Q My daughter gets extra reading help at school because she has a learning disability. What can I do at home?



A Children with learning disabilities often need help recognizing letters or hearing sounds in words.

Try color-coding to help your youngster see letters and parts of words.

When she’s practicing spelling, for example, have her write each letter with a different colored crayon. She could highlight blends by writing *th* in blue, *sh* in red, and *ch* in green.

To remember sounds, encourage your child to associate them with pictures. For the *p* sound, she could think of popcorn popping; for short *i*, she might imagine an insect in an igloo. Suggest that she draw a picture to go with each sound.

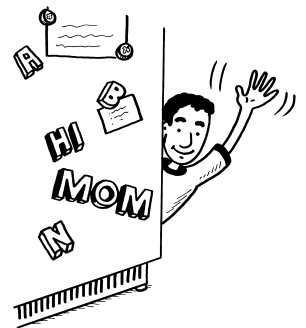
For more ideas, talk to your youngster’s reading specialist or classroom teacher. ♥

Magnet magic

Use colorful magnetic letters to give your child a fun way to practice spelling and reading skills. Consider these ideas:

- ▲ Suggest that your youngster trace around the letters with pencil and paper. Or he can put a piece of paper over a letter and rub it lightly with the side of a crayon.
- ▲ Leave short messages on the refrigerator for your child to read. Encourage him to “write” back to you.
- ▲ Scramble the letters in a word, and ask him to figure out what it is.
- ▲ Write words down, and see if your youngster can spell them with his letters.

Note: You can find magnetic letters at most dollar stores. Or make your own: Draw thick letters on poster board, cut them out, and put magnetic tape on the back. Your child can also play with magnetic letters online at www.shambles.net/ABC/. ♥

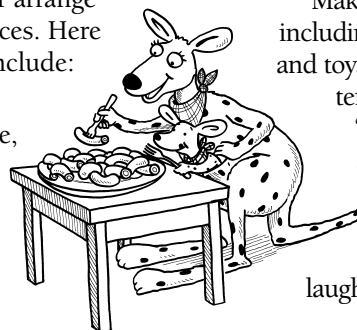


Fun with Words Silly sentences

“The green elephant danced down the street dressed in a tutu.” What child wouldn’t laugh at such a silly sentence?

Your youngster can create some crazy phrases of her own. Help her write words on separate index cards or slips of paper. Then, have her arrange them into funny sentences. Here are ideas for words to include:

- People and animals: Mom, Dad, Carl, Maggie, alligator, kangaroo
- Places: beach, school, forest, Mars, desert



- Action words: walked, ran, ate, swam, skipped
- Descriptive words: quick, red, blue, round, big
- Common words: a, the, and, in, to, at (write each several times)

Make the list more personal by including your child’s favorite foods and toys. Once she arranges a sentence, have her read it to you: “The polka-dotted kangaroo ate macaroni with a purple fork.” Can your youngster make it through the whole sentence without laughing? ♥



OUR PURPOSE

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

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