

Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

March 2019

Lakeland Joint School District #272

From the Title I Staff

Book Picks

Read-aloud favorites

■ Shelter Pet Squad: Jelly Bean

(Cynthia Lord)

Suzannah has just become the youngest member of the Shelter Pet Squad, a group of kids who help local shelter animals. Her first mission is to find a forever home for an adorable guinea pig named Jelly Bean. Book one in the Shelter Pet Squad series.



■ In Mary's Garden

(Tina and Carson Kugler)

This biography tells how Mary Nohl loved art as a little girl and grew up to create an unusual garden. She used materials like sand, metal, wood, and rocks to make interesting sculptures, turning her garden into what would become a historic landmark.

■ The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs!

(Jon Scieszka)

According to the big bad wolf, the story everyone knows about the three little pigs is wrong. And he's here to set the record straight. Readers will laugh at the wolf's elaborate tale of how he never meant to eat the pigs—he just wanted to borrow a cup of sugar. (Also available in Spanish.)



■ If You Were the Moon

(Laura Purdie Salas)

The child in this story thinks the moon just hangs around in the sky. But it really has many "jobs," from making ocean waves to waking nighttime animals. This picture book uses a conversation between a girl and the moon to present scientific facts.



Pretend play boosts vocabulary

"I'm grooming my stuffed dog." "I can fix that car—I'm a mechanic!" Imaginary play gives your child chances to say words that he might not use every day. Try these ideas to grow his vocabulary through make-believe.



Find props

Give your youngster new things to talk about. You could put a wrench and a socket with his toy cars. Or offer him empty food packages to play store. When you notice him using the props, name them for him. You could say, "I see you're repairing your cars with a wrench and socket" or "Oh, your grocery store sells relish and chickpeas."

Play together

Spend time pretending with your child, and introduce new words. Maybe you'll hold a chopstick and say, "I'm a conductor. I'm using this baton to conduct the symphony." Or if you're playing vet, ask,

"What kind of dog do you have? Mine is a Siberian husky."

Act out a story

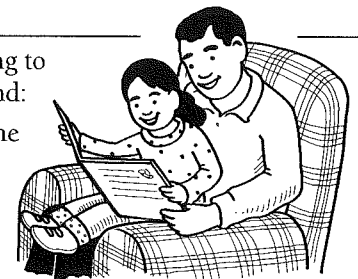
It's common for youngsters to pretend they're book characters after hearing a story. When you read to your youngster, explain unfamiliar words he can use to act out the book. If the story was about a scuba diver, perhaps he'll pretend his pajamas are a wet suit. He might turn a cardboard tube into a snorkel and go on an imaginary underwater adventure!♥

How to handle reading errors

Oops! Your youngster just goofed while reading to you. What should you do? Keep these tips in mind:

- Wait to see if she catches her own mistake. If she doesn't notice her error by the end of the sentence or paragraph, ask, "Did that part make sense?" or "What other word would make sense there?" She'll learn to self-correct—an important step toward becoming an independent reader.

- Resist the urge to correct every mistake your child makes. That can interrupt the flow of the story. For example, if her error doesn't really affect the meaning of the sentence (say, she reads *house* instead of *home*), consider letting her keep going.♥



“Just right” books for now—and later

Q: What are the three categories of books that help new readers grow?

A: Books that are too easy, ones that are too hard, and those that are just right!

Too easy. That favorite book you think your child has outgrown is similar to a “beach read”



for adults. She knows all the words and doesn't have to think too hard about the plot. Encourage her to relax with books like these—they build confidence and her enjoyment of reading.

Too hard. Sometimes kids want to read books that are out of reach of their reading abilities. If

your youngster has her heart set on one, read it aloud to her. She'll enjoy listening to a book she chose. Plus, she'll pick up new words and be exposed to a more complex plot.

Just right. These books are ones your child can read with a little help. To determine if a book is a good fit, have your child read the first couple of pages to you. If she knows most of the words and understands what she's reading, it's likely the book will challenge her abilities without frustrating her. ♥

Fun with Words

Rhyming dominoes

Forget dominoes with dots—this game uses rhyming words instead! Play it to help your child hear sounds in words.

Materials: 40 slips of paper, pencil

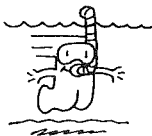
1. Have your youngster draw a line on each slip to divide it in half like a domino. On each half, help him write a word ending with one of these letter combinations: *all, et, in, og, un.* (Be sure to have 8 words per letter combination. Repeat words as needed.)



2. Spread the dominoes facedown, let each player take three, and flip a starting domino faceup.

3. Players take turns trying to form a chain of dominoes where rhyming words touch. Say the starting domino has *met*. If your child has a rhyme (say, *pet*), he links his domino with that one, end to end. If he doesn't have a rhyme, he takes a new domino, and his turn ends.

4. Continue taking turns, adding a rhyming domino to either end of the chain. The first player to get rid of all his dominoes wins. ♥



Parent to Parent

And now...the family news

After a local news anchor visited my daughter's class for Career Day, Amelia wanted to be a reporter, too. I suggested that she interview her grandparents and deliver a news report about their activities. What a hit!

Her grandparents loved being interviewed, and Amelia remembered to ask *who, what, where, when, and why* questions—just like the news anchor said she does. For instance, Amelia asked her grandmother, “When did you start your new job?” and “What do you like best about it?” She listened carefully and wrote down the responses.

Finally, I videotaped Amelia reading her report in her best “anchor voice.” This has been a great way for her to work on writing, speaking, and listening skills. ♥



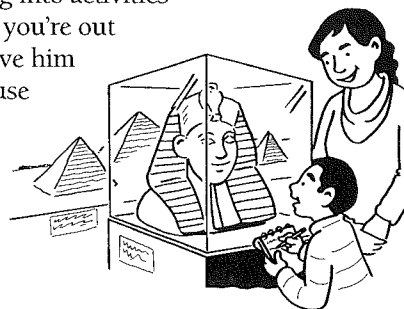
Q&A Writing on the move

Q: My son's teacher says he needs more writing practice, but it's a struggle to get him to sit still and write. Any ideas?

A: Try weaving writing into activities your son can do while you're out and about together. Give him a special notebook to use when you go places together, perhaps to a museum or the park. Encourage him to write about what he sees. At a museum, he

could jot down information about the Egyptian pyramids or a Tyrannosaurus rex. In the park, he might write a description of a carousel or a waterfall.

At home, suggest that he expand on what he wrote. Maybe he'll write a story about visiting a real pyramid in Egypt or making friends with a T-rex. Or perhaps he'll write a “visitor's guide” to the park. ♥



OUR PURPOSE

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

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Math+Science Connection

Beginning Edition

Building Excitement and Success for Young Children

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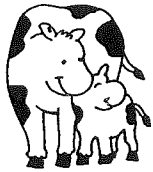
TOOLS & TIDBITS

Number “cake walk”

Play this game to help your youngster show numbers in different ways. Have him number paper plates 1–10 and put them randomly in a circle on the floor. Turn on music while he and his friends walk around the circle. Now stop the music—players freeze and hold up fingers to equal the number they’re closest to. For 6, your child might show 3 fingers on each hand.

Animal field trip

Your child can learn about animals by visiting a farm or zoo, where many babies are born in spring. Encourage her to ask workers questions about the animals.



Together, observe mothers caring for their young, listen for animal sounds, and talk about what they’re eating.

Book picks

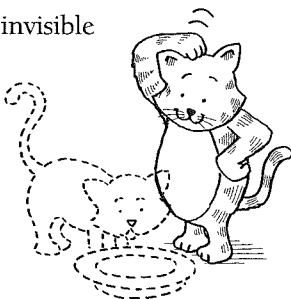
■ The little inchworm in *Inch by Inch* (Leo Lionni) measures everything in his path, from a flamingo’s neck to a heron’s leg. But how could he measure a hummingbird’s song?

■ Your youngster will discover the science behind the projects in *Crafty Science* (Jane Bull). Includes more than 20 ideas, from a “swirling snowstorm” to a “meringue mountain.”

Just for fun

Q: What do invisible cats drink?

A: Evaporated milk!



Subtraction strategies

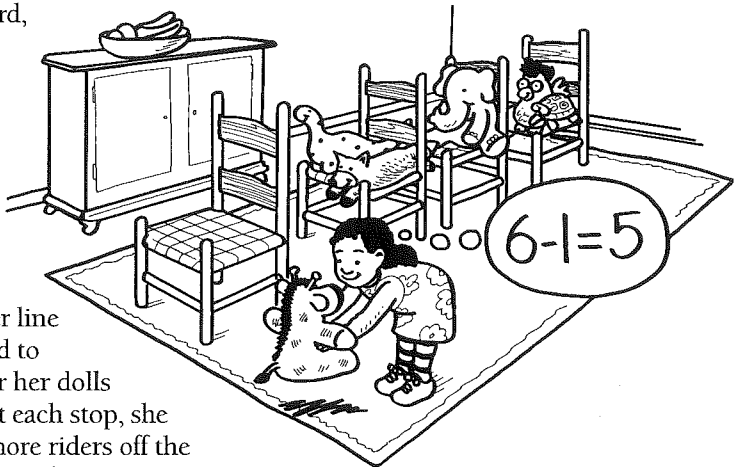
Counting backward, finding the difference, and doing “take-away” are all ways your child can solve subtraction problems. Try these hands-on activities.

Empty the bus

Let your youngster line up chairs and pretend to drive a school bus for her dolls or stuffed animals. At each stop, she should help one or more riders off the bus and count backward from the total. *Example:* If she starts out with 6 passengers and unloads 1 at the first stop, she would say, “6, 5... there are 5 passengers left. $6 - 1 = 5$.”

Pair ‘em up

Making pairs is an easy way to find the difference. Each of you should choose a color of play dough, then toss a die and create that number of play dough “marbles.” Now your child can pair each of her marbles with one of yours. Say she made 5 and you made 2—the number of unpaired marbles (3) is the difference



(because $5 - 2 = 3$), and she earns 3 points. The first player to get 20 points wins.

Take-away sticks

Line up 20 craft sticks, and stack a deck of cards facedown (face cards removed, ace = 1). On each turn, a player flips over a card (7), takes that number of sticks, and says how many sticks are left ($20 - 7 = 13$). She keeps the sticks, and it’s the next person’s turn. To win, get the last stick by exact count ($3 - 3 = 0$). *Note:* If you draw a card and can’t remove that many sticks, your turn ends. ♣

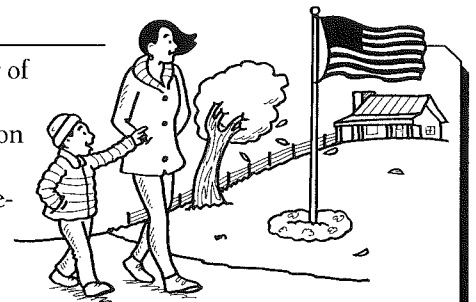
Blowing in the wind

Your youngster will discover the power of wind with this demonstration.

Let him select a few small objects (cotton ball, ribbon, button, rock) and place them at one end of a cookie sheet. Have him predict which items will be easiest to move to the opposite end by blowing through a straw. Now he can test his prediction.

What does your child notice? Lighter objects (cotton ball, ribbon) are easier to blow, while heavier ones (button, rock) take more effort. They need a stronger “breeze” to push them and make them move.

Then, go for a walk on a windy day. Your youngster can observe which objects blow (flag, leaves) and which ones are too heavy for the wind to push (house, car). ♣

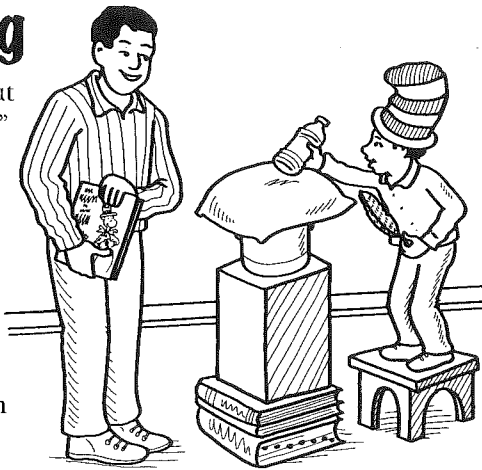


Dr. Seuss engineering

“Thing 1” for your youngster to know about engineering is that anyone can do it. “Thing 2” is that it’s fun! Here are engineering challenges inspired by Dr. Seuss, whose 115th birthday is celebrated on March 2.

Read: *The Cat in the Hat*


Try: How many objects can your child stack before his tower topples over? He’ll find out with this Cat in the Hat-style engineering feat (no fishbowl or cake allowed!). Encourage him to consider the size, shape, and weight of each item, then decide where each should go. For



example, he’ll probably want bigger, heavier objects (dictionary, cooking pot) toward the bottom and smaller, lighter ones (pillow, empty water bottle) near the top.

Read: *One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish*

Try: Challenge your youngster to engineer a fishing rod that will hook paper fish. He might suspend a string from a pencil and attach a magnet. Now let him cut out fish shapes from construction paper and slide a paper clip on each one. Can

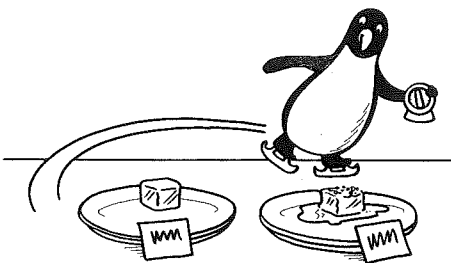
he catch one fish? How about two? Suggest that he redesign his rod to hook even more fish at a time. 

SCIENCE LAB

Ice cube race


In this cool experiment, you and your youngster can “race” to melt ice cubes.

You’ll need: two ice cubes, two plates, measuring spoon, salt, timer



Here’s how: Each of you should put an ice cube on a plate. Have your child measure $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. salt on her cube, and leave your cube alone. She can set a timer and check the cubes every five minutes, until they begin to melt.

What happens? Her cube wins! The ice cube with salt melts the fastest.

Why? Ice melts when it gets above freezing (32 degrees). But salt has special properties that help ice melt faster. That’s why we put salt on icy sidewalks and roads—even when it’s below freezing, the ice or snow will begin to melt. 


MATH CORNER

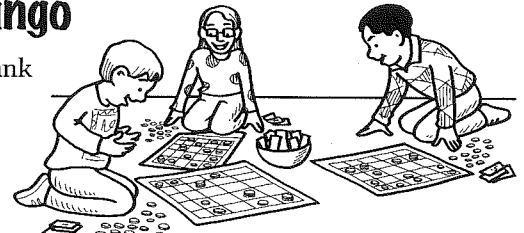
Coin value bingo

Empty the piggy bank and play this game that helps your child identify coins and their values.

Set up: Each player makes a big 5 x 5 bingo card and puts his choice of any 1, 2, or 3 coins (pennies, nickels, dimes) onto each square. On separate slips of paper, write the following numbers: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 20, 21, 25, and 30. Put the slips in a bowl.

Play: Let your youngster draw a slip and call out the number. Players clear any one square on their board whose coins total that value. *Example:* If the number is 15, your child could clear a space with 3 nickels ($5 + 5 + 5 = 15$) or with 1 dime and 1 nickel ($10 + 5 = 15$).

Win: The first player to clear 5 spaces in a row—horizontally, vertically, or diagonally—wins and calls the numbers for the next round. 



Q & A

Be upbeat about math


Q: *I’ve never felt very confident about math, but I know I’m supposed to be positive about it for my daughter. What should I do and say?*

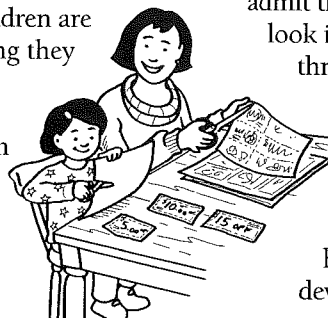
A: You’re right. When parents have a good attitude toward math, children are more likely to see it as something they can do—and to learn more.

Throughout the day, notice ways you use math, and mention examples to your youngster. You might show her coupons you’ve clipped and say, “I love how math helps me save money.” And be sure to ask her,

“How did math help you today?” Maybe she used measuring cups in the sand and water table at school, for instance.

Also, if you’re not sure about a math concept, such as kilometers vs. miles, admit that to your child. Then, look it up together, and talk through a problem as you solve it.

You may discover that you can do math confidently after all—and you’ll help your daughter develop a love of math. 



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