

# Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

April 2019

Lakeland Joint School District #272

From the Title I Staff

## Book Picks

Read-aloud favorites

### ■ *The Big Adventures of Tiny House*

(Susan Schaefer Bernardo)

Tiny is a little house on a big journey. He travels across the country with his friend Big Truck, looking for a place to settle down. Along the way, he meets all kinds of houses and learns that home is anywhere, as long as you feel it in your heart.



### ■ *LOOK I'm a Scientist*

(DK Publishing)

Just like a scientist, your child can ask questions and use her five senses to make discoveries. The experiments in this book call for everyday materials and include easy-to-follow directions for creating bubbles, making slime, learning about sound, and more.



### ■ *Calendar Mysteries: January Joker*

(Ron Roy)

When seven-year-old Bradley Pinto's friends go missing, all the clues point to an alien abduction. But are those mysterious lights and footprints really caused by something from a UFO? Bradley will need to follow the clues to solve the mystery. Book One in the Calendar Mysteries series.

### ■ *Mapping Our World*

(Sandy Phan)  
This nonfiction book introduces your youngster to maps and globes. He'll begin by exploring map symbols and lines of longitude and latitude before moving on to fun facts about the seven continents. There's even an activity for inventing a new continent. (Also available in Spanish.)



## Fluency: Bringing it all together

As your youngster learns to read, a main goal is for her to become fluent. Fluency happens when all the pieces click into place: recognizing many words instantly, reading smoothly and expressively, and understanding what she reads. Try these tips to help her read more fluently.

### Build word recognition

The more words your child knows at first sight, the more fluently she'll read. Ask her teacher for a list of sight words (frequently used words), and play games with them. She could write them in a hopscotch grid to read as she hops. Or play cooperative "Scrabble." Place all the tiles faceup, and together, make a crossword of sight words.

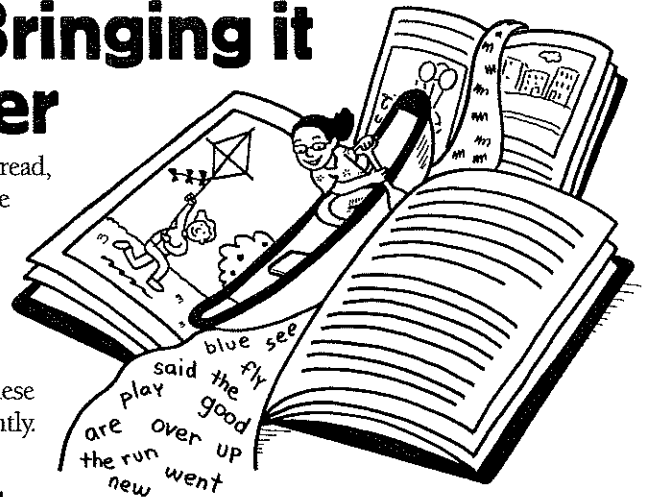
### Practice with familiar books

Fluent reading sounds like normal speech—not too fast or too slow, but just right. To practice, let your youngster read books she knows well. She won't need to stop to figure out words, so she'll

be free to read at a comfortable pace and focus on the meaning of the story. Also, ask a librarian for books with a refrain—the same phrase repeats on each page.

### Use punctuation "clues"

Encourage your child to think of punctuation marks as clues for reading with expression. Commas and periods tell her to pause slightly. For quotation marks, she might change her voice to show a character is speaking. Have her listen to an audiobook and follow along in the print version, noticing how the narrator uses the punctuation. Then, she can read the book to you. ♥

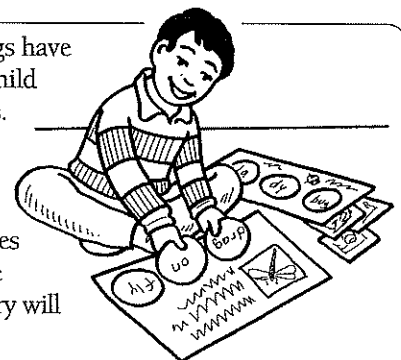


## My sylla-bug book

Dragonfly, caterpillar, bumblebee... many bugs have long names. Making this cute book lets your child spell big words by breaking them into syllables.

1. Help your youngster list bug names (*grass-hopper, ladybug, centipede*).
2. Let him trace around a soup can to make circles on colored paper and cut them out. He can write each syllable on a separate circle. *Tip:* A dictionary will show him how to break a word.

3. Mix them all up. Have your child glue the circles for each word back together onto separate sheets of paper. He could draw each bug and write about it. Now staple the pages into a book for him to read again and again. ♥



# Writing: Start with a plan

Before your youngster writes, making a kid-friendly graphic organizer helps him plan what he'll say. And looking at his plan while he writes will remind him of facts or details to mention. Suggest these clever ideas.



**Rays of sunshine.** To plan a report or story, your child could draw a big sun. He can write a report topic ("Hamsters") in

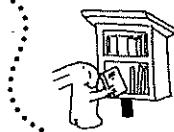
the center and then a fact on each ray ("Sleeps all day," "Stuffs cheeks with food," "Runs on a wheel"). Or before he writes a story, he might put his main idea in a sun ("Visited relatives") and a major plot event on each ray ("Rode a train," "Played with cousins," "Went to a fair").

**Rungs on a ladder.** If your youngster needs to write instructions or explain a scientific process, have him draw a ladder with a rung for

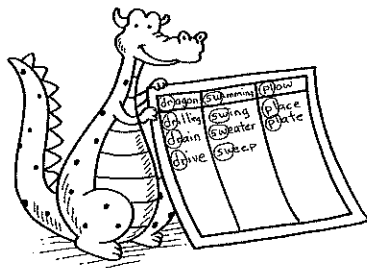
each step. "How to Pack a Suitcase" may include "Choose clothes," "Fold clothes," "Open suitcase," and "Put clothes inside." If he's describing how a seed becomes a plant, his rungs could say "Seed is planted," "Seed sprouts," "Leaves grow," and "Flowers bloom." Let him refer to his ladder to write a thorough explanation.♥

## Fun with Words

### Spot the consonant combo



Here's a portable activity that will help your child learn consonant combinations like *bl* and *st*—an important part of sounding out words.



First, have her look through a book and choose words that start with two consonants (*dragon*, *twins*). Suggest that she draw columns on a sheet of paper, write one of the words at the top of each, and circle the beginning consonants.

Now let her take her paper when you go out. Together, try to spot words on signs that begin with the same combinations, and she can write them in the correct columns. Under *dragon*, she might write *drive*, *drilling*, and *drain*.

At home, help her read unfamiliar words. Then, she could count to see which combination she saw the most.♥

## Parent to Parent

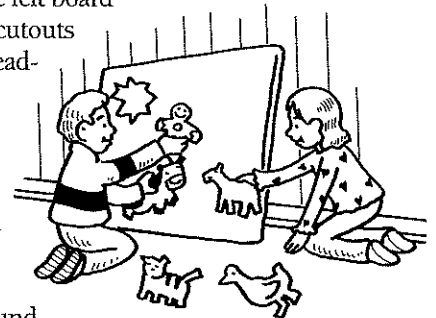
### Make your own felt board

My son Antoine loves the felt board at school. The kids use felt cutouts to retell stories, which the teacher said boosts reading comprehension. So I decided to make a felt board for Antoine to play with at home.

I stapled felt to a big piece of cardboard. Then I gave my son smaller pieces of felt, and he used them to make the characters from *The Gingerbread Man*. He drew them with a marker, and I cut them out for him.

Antoine had fun moving the characters around on the board as he retold the story. I smiled when I heard him chanting, "Run, run, as fast as you can. You can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man!"

Now Antoine is eager to make more characters and retell other stories on his felt board.♥



## Q&A

### "Swap" to find new books

**Q** My daughter wants new books for her shelf, but we're on a tight budget. Any suggestions?

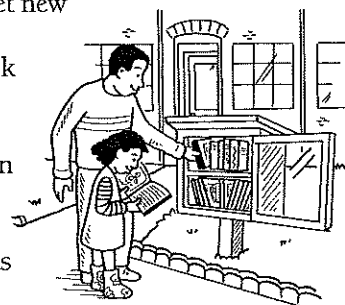
**A** Luckily, you don't need to spend money for your child to get new books.

Consider starting a book swap. Invite friends, relatives, and neighbors with older and younger children to gather at your home and trade books. Your daughter's outgrown books can be passed on to a

younger reader, and she could find ones that are just right for her now.

For another type of book swap, scout your area for Little Free Libraries. These cute mini-libraries let people exchange

books for free. Check [littlefreelibrary.org](http://littlefreelibrary.org), and click on "Map" to find ones near you. When your daughter takes a book, it's hers to keep. Just have her leave one in its place for someone else to enjoy!♥



**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](mailto:rfecustomer@wolterskluwer.com)  
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# Math+Science Connection

Beginning Edition

Building Excitement and Success for Young Children

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Lakeland Joint School District #272

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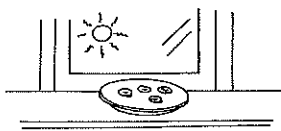
## TOOLS & TIDBITS

### Number symmetry

Ask your child to write the number 808 and lay a piece of yarn across the middle horizontally, then vertically. What does she notice? It's symmetrical—the top and bottom are mirror images of each other, and so are the left and right. Let her try other numbers and even objects (fireplace, window) to find more examples of symmetry.

### Raisins in the sun

Your youngster can make a tasty treat with help from the sun! Have him rinse a few grapes, remove the stems, and put



them on a plate in a sunny window.

In a few days, the grapes will start to shrivel into raisins as the sun's heat causes the water inside to evaporate.

### Web picks

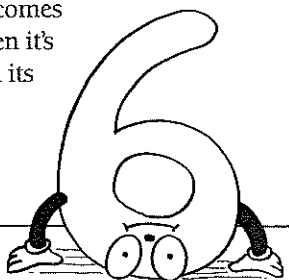
Let your child "splat" fruit to solve addition and subtraction problems, pop balloons to learn about money, and try other fun games at [sheppardsoftware.com/math.htm](http://sheppardsoftware.com/math.htm).

At [nps.gov/webrangers](http://nps.gov/webrangers), your youngster will "visit" the national parks to learn about forest fires, salmon, pumas, and more.

## Just for fun

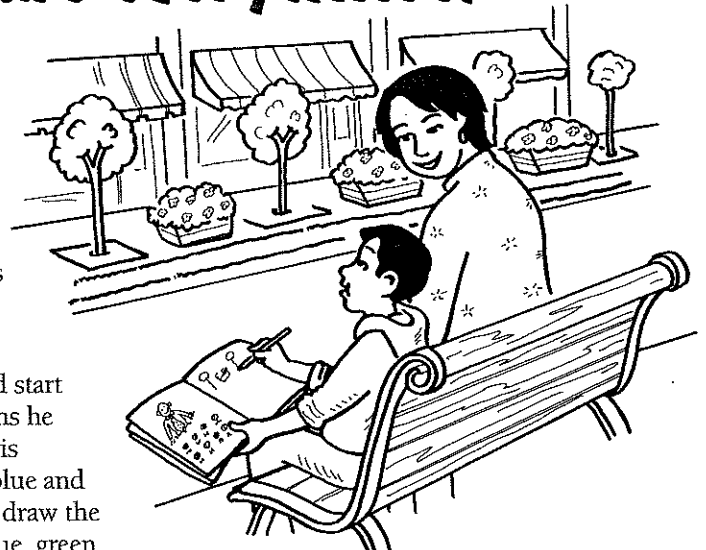
**Q:** What becomes smaller when it's standing on its head?

**A:** The number 9!



## Patterns are everywhere!

Morning, noon, and night, patterns fill your youngster's world. Playing with them builds his math skills, since numbers follow patterns, too. Encourage him to find, follow, and make patterns with these ideas.



### Keep a journal

Suggest that your child start a journal of all the patterns he sees in a week. Perhaps his teacher wears a tie with blue and green polka dots. He can draw the pattern in his journal (blue, green, blue, green) and label it with the day (Monday) and place (school). Invite him to show you his patterns and count how many he found.

### Be a copycat

Try this game to help your youngster think logically about what's next in a pattern. Start with a silly movement pattern (hop, hop, waddle, hop, hop, waddle). Do it twice, then your child can copy you to find out what comes next (hop). Repeat the pattern until you both reach the other

side of the room or yard. Now follow a pattern he makes up.

### Play with numbers

Your youngster can practice skip counting and make patterns with numbers. Take turns writing a number pattern with one blank. *Example:* 2, 4, \_\_, 8. Or say the numbers aloud, clapping once for the missing number. The other person fills in the blank and explains the pattern. ("The number is 6, because the pattern is skip counting by 2s.")

## I'm a rock collector

Big or small, shiny or dull... rocks make excellent specimens for your child to study and classify, just like a scientist does! Here's how.

**Collecting.** Together, take a walk to gather rocks. Ask questions to help your youngster describe their *attributes*—color (gray, brown), texture (smooth, rough), size (big, medium, small), and shape (round, flat). Let her observe her rocks more closely through a magnifying glass. Perhaps she'll see lines, sparkles, dents, or holes.

**Arranging.** Suggest that your child sort her rocks according to color, texture, size, or shape. Then, she can stack several rocks from biggest to smallest and display her collection as a garden landmark (called a *cairn*).



# What does the graph say?

The most. The least. Graphs tell us a lot about data through bars or pictures. With these activities, your child can create her own graphs to organize and compare data.

**My graphing basket.** Toys left out? Have your youngster gather them in a laundry basket and use them to make a 3-D graph. She should line up each type of toy (cars, blocks, dolls) evenly in a separate column. Ask questions to help her analyze the data in her graph. *Examples:* Which toy is there the most of? Are there more blocks or cars?



**Question of the week.** Let your child write a question (“What do you like to do on a rainy day?”) on a sheet of paper. Then, she could add options in separate columns: “Read books,” “Watch movies,” “Play board games.” She can post her survey on the refrigerator along with a few magnets. To answer, each family member or visitor puts

a magnet in the column of her choice. Your youngster could analyze the graph by counting and comparing the magnets. How many people picked movies? How many more chose books than games?

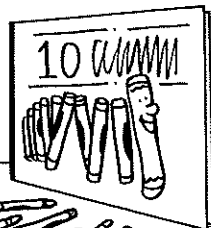
## PARENT TO PARENT Act out counting books

My son Lionel came home from school the other day excited about a counting book his class acted out during math time. The teacher read *The Crayons’ Book of Numbers* by Drew Daywalt, and the kids had to search the classroom for 10 missing crayons and count to be sure they found them all.

We decided to get counting books from the library and act them out at home. For a book about counting birds,

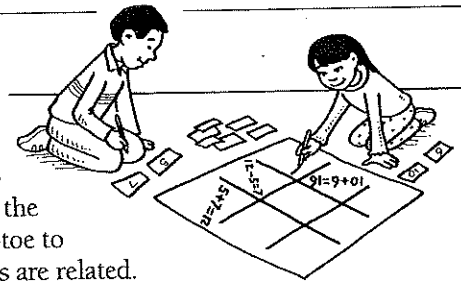
Lionel wanted to go outside and count real birds as I read. Then as I read one on counting backward, he got five strawberries and ate one as we turned each page—until there were zero strawberries left.

He’s having fun counting in different ways, and we’re both enjoying reading together.



## MATH CORNER Fact-tac-toe

How are  $5 + 7 = 12$  and  $12 - 5 = 7$  related? Along with  $7 + 5 = 12$  and  $12 - 7 = 5$ , they make up a *fact family*, a group of math facts with the same numbers. Try this twist on tic-tac-toe to help your youngster learn how numbers are related.



1. Have your child draw a large tic-tac-toe board. Then she can number 10 slips of paper (1–10), mix them up, and spread them out facedown.
2. Each player takes two slips and writes the fact family that the numbers belong to. *Example:* If your youngster gets 6 and 10, her fact family is  $6 + 10 = 16$ ,  $10 + 6 = 16$ ,  $16 - 10 = 6$ , and  $16 - 6 = 10$ .
3. Play tic-tac-toe as usual, but instead of writing Xs and Os, each person fills in squares with any fact from her family. (Repeat a fact if you run out.) Get three of your “family members” in a row to win.
4. Play again with a new board and new slips.

## SCIENCE LAB Let’s make noise!

Your child will shake things up and learn how sound travels with this experiment.

**You’ll need:** measuring spoon, small food items with different textures (gummy snacks, dry beans, popcorn, bread cubes), small container with a lid

**Here’s how:** Which foods does your child think will make the most noise if he shakes them in the container? Ask him to line up the foods in the order he predicts, softest to loudest. He can test his predictions by measuring an equal amount

of each food into the container, one at a time, and shaking it.

**What happens?** Denser objects like gummies and beans make louder sounds when they collide, since their molecules are packed together tightly. Less dense, “airy” items, such as popcorn and bread cubes, create quieter sounds.



**Why?** Sound travels faster through the denser objects as they hit each other and the container. The faster sound travels, the higher the volume.

### OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ways to promote their children’s math and science skills.

Resources for Educators,  
a division of CCH Incorporated  
128 N. Royal Avenue • Front Royal, VA 22630  
800-394-5052 • [rfecustomer@wolterskluwer.com](mailto:rfecustomer@wolterskluwer.com)  
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