

Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

September 2019

Lakeland Joint School District #272

From the Title I Staff

Book Picks



Read-aloud favorites

■ *The Day You Begin*

(Jacqueline Woodson)

The students in this story feel alone for different reasons, whether it's because of what they look like, how they talk, or what they eat. But the children discover that when they share their differences, they begin to see just how well they *do* fit in. (Also available in Spanish.)

■ *Night Night, Groot*

(Brendan Deneen)

In this bedtime comic book, Baby Groot is ready for bed after a long day. But his friend Rocket Raccoon has other ideas. He snatches Groot out of bed, and the two zoom across the universe with their superhero friends. Will Groot ever get to sleep?



■ *Tigers & Tea with Toppo* (Barbara Kerley and Rhoda Knight Kalt)

To Rhoda, her grandfather is "Toppo."

To everyone else, he's the famous wildlife artist Charles R. Knight. This biography tells the story of a weekend adventure Rhoda and Toppo enjoy together. Tag along to the museum and the zoo to see many of the artist's drawings and paintings.



■ *The Cloud Book* (Tomie dePaola)

Can your youngster predict the weather by looking at the clouds? Has she ever thought that a cloud was shaped like an animal? This nonfiction book teaches readers about common cloud types and the weather they typically bring.



Fill your home with words

Your child learned to talk by hearing many words every day. Now that she's learning to read, *seeing* lots of words will make them familiar to her when she comes across them in books. Use these ideas to surround your youngster with words.

Label

On sticky notes, help your child label furniture, toys, and appliances with their names. She could put each note on the correct item, then walk around the house and see how many words she can read. *Idea:* Let her create a nameplate for each person's door—and even put one on the dog's food bowl or the fish tank.

Post

Use colorful tape to mark off a "bulletin board" on the refrigerator. Your youngster can post all kinds of things to read. *Examples:* The school cafeteria menu, notes from you, a joke. Then, make time daily to read the board. For instance, before



school, help her check the menu to find out what's for lunch.

Collect

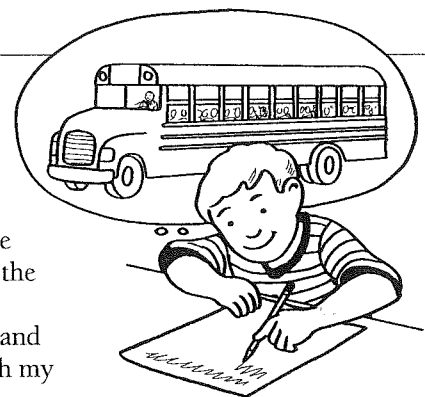
Cut construction paper into fourths and staple the pieces together to create word books. Your child might title one "Food Words," then cut words like *cereal* and *rice* from food packages and glue them all over the pages. She could put her books on a shelf or on the coffee table to pull out and read whenever she likes.♥

My school story

"What did you do in school today?" Instead of having your child *tell* you, encourage him to write it down. He'll work on putting events in order, and you'll learn all about his day.

Ask your youngster to write a sentence about what he did first. *Example:* "I rode the school bus." Then ask, "What happened next?" He might write: "We had reading and writing time. I went to lunch and ate with my friends. We did math."

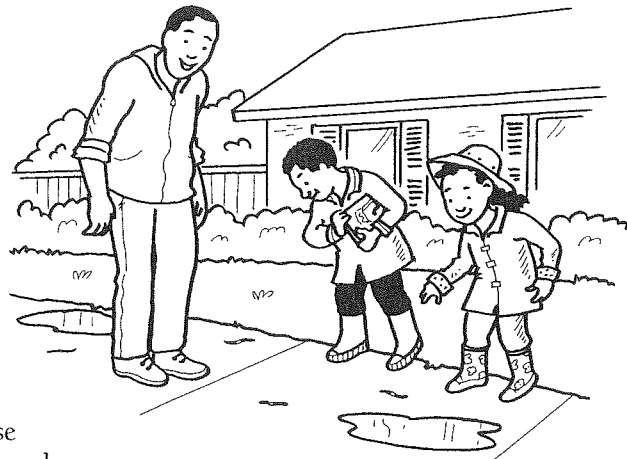
Tip: If your child isn't writing yet, let him dictate his story to you.♥



Books and the great outdoors

Reading can be a quiet indoor pastime for your youngster—or a playful outdoor adventure! In your backyard or at the park, read stories that take place outside. Then, try these suggestions for helping your child make connections between books and his world.

Recreate a picture. Let your youngster choose an illustration from a book and use props to make his own real-life version of it. If the picture shows a pond with



the sidewalk after a rainstorm to see how they wriggle. Or after reading about a windy day, he may want to make a colorful wind sock to see which way the wind is blowing.♥

lily pads, he could float leaves on a puddle. Or if there's an illustration of a bear in a cave, maybe he'll use sticks and rocks to build a miniature hideaway for his teddy bear.

Explore science. Do a science activity related to a book. Say the main character in a story is an earthworm. Your child might observe worms on

Fun with Words



A back-to-school recipe

Your youngster can practice writing instructions as she whips up a recipe for a great school year!

Together, read recipes for favorite dishes so she sees how they include an ingredients list and step-by-step instructions. Then, suggest that your child write her own list of ingredients for a great school year. *Example:* "I friendly teacher, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup reading, a dash of recess."

1. Combine 1 friendly teacher with $\frac{1}{2}$ cup reading.
2. Sprinkle in a dash of recess.
3. Add $\frac{1}{2}$ cup math games.



Next, she should write a step for each ingredient. Encourage her to use cooking words like those in the recipes she read (*stir, combine, blend*).

Finally, listen while your youngster reads her finished recipe to you.♥

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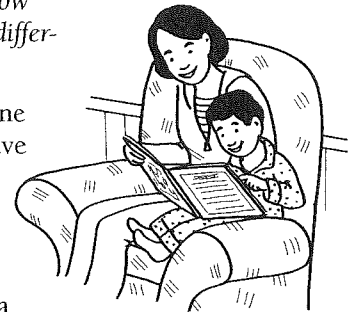
Q&A Read-alouds for new readers

Q My son loves it when I read to him. Now that he's learning to read on his own, what should I do differently at story time?

A Simply continuing to read aloud to your son is one of the best ways to support his reading. Kids who have pleasant experiences with books tend to become better readers.

Try following your child's lead at story time. If he points out words he knows, offer encouragement. ("You're right, that word is *blue*.") Or if he asks what a word means, give a quick kid-friendly explanation. ("*Locomotive* is a big word for *train*.")

Also, share your reactions to the book, and let your son do the same. *Example:* "I was really hoping the train would make it up the hill. Did you think it would?" You'll find that talking about stories is a natural way to boost his comprehension.♥



Parent to Parent

Let's do research!

My daughter Kara asks a lot of questions. During a recent trip to the library, we read a non-fiction book that answered her most recent one: "Why do we get the hiccups?"

Now Kara keeps a list of questions she thinks of. When we visit the library, we look up the answers. Our research is turning out to be far more educational—and more fun—than asking

my phone to answer Kara's questions. For instance, I help her type her topic into the library database, and we look at the list of suggested books. Then the librarian points us toward the section where we can find what we need.

Kara is learning her way around the library, and she's even learning to use a book's index to locate the information she's looking for.♥



Math+Science Connection

Beginning Edition

Building Excitement and Success for Young Children

September 2019

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From the Title I Staff



TOOLS & TIDBITS

Name that shape

“That red and white sign is a triangle!”

“Those orange and white barrels are cylinders!” Let your youngster explore geometry by asking her to name flat and solid shapes she spots. To “collect” the shapes, help her draw them on separate index cards and label them with their names.



A five-senses log

With this homemade book, your child will discover different ways he uses his five senses. Have him staple together five squares of paper, one for each sense (sight, smell, taste, touch, hearing). Now he can list things he notices thanks to each sense. He might write “Mom’s coffee” on the “smell” page and “wind chimes” on the “hearing” page.

Book picks

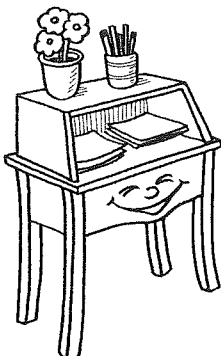
📖 In *Zero the Hero* (Joan Holub), your youngster will realize just how “super” important zero is.

📖 Your child can read bite-sized poems while learning about food groups in *Our Food: A Healthy Serving of Science and Poems* (Grace Lin and Ranida T. McKneally).

Just for fun

Q: What has four legs but can’t walk?

A: A desk.



Back to school...in numbers!

From the big yellow bus to the September calendar, your child’s school year is full of numbers! Try these school-themed activities that encourage him to write numbers and count.

Math pictures

Have your youngster draw pictures that involve math. For example, he might cut a school bus out of yellow construction paper and label it with his bus number. Or ask him to tell you how many students are in his class (say, 28)—he could draw a picture with that many students.



September calendar

Let your child find numbers on a calendar. Together, look at the month of September, and ask him how many days it has (30). Then, encourage him to circle and count only the school days—how many are there? He could put stickers on days he has special classes (library, music, art, PE) and count how many times he’ll go to each one this month. (“I will have PE 8 times.”)

Business card

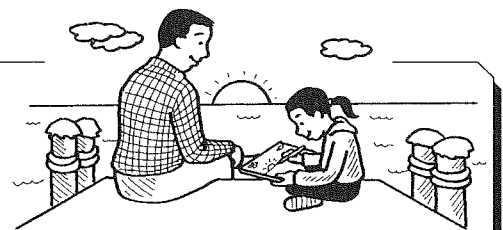
Your youngster can learn his address and phone number by making “business cards.” Help him print his name and his contact information (“123 Apple Tree Lane, 555-0123”) on index cards and decorate them with stickers. Now suggest that he hand out his cards to relatives. Maybe they’ll make their own business cards to trade—then he can read their addresses and phone numbers. 🦋

Observe the daytime sky

What’s in the sky today? Encourage your child to observe and record what she sees—just like a scientist does.

Sun. Watch a sunrise or sunset together so your youngster can see how the sky changes colors. She could draw a series of pictures as the sun rises or sets, using crayons (peach, lavender) that match the sky for each sketch.

Moon. Show your child that the moon is always in the sky—even in the daytime. When she spots it, let her draw it along with a landmark (say, a tree) to show where it’s located. She can draw the moon again a few hours later, then compare the drawings to see that it appears in a different location. 🦋



Sort and pretend

Math + imaginary play = learning and fun. Invite your child to open a pretend store or restaurant and practice sorting with these ideas.

Play store. Let your youngster sort and display products to “sell.” For an arts and crafts store, maybe she’ll sort crayons and markers into different cups on one shelf and make separate piles for plain paper and construction paper on another. Or perhaps she’ll sort by color (red crayons and red markers with red paper). Pretend you’re her customer, and she can sort the coins you pay with.



Make a menu. To play restaurant, your little chef can first create a menu. Help her fold a sheet of paper into thirds, and give her old magazines to cut out food pictures. She might sort the foods by meal (breakfast, lunch, dinner), course (appetizers, entrees, sides), or food group (fruits, vegetables, grains). She could pick her favorite sorting method, then label the menu sections and glue the pictures to the pages where they belong. Now you get to order food from her restaurant.

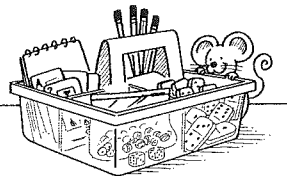


PARENT TO PARENT

Math box

At back-to-school night, my son Bobby’s teacher had a great idea for helping children practice math at home. She suggested that we put together a portable “math box” to play with anytime.

I got a plastic tote box, and together Bobby and I filled it with math tools. He put in a deck of cards, dominoes, dice, and flash cards. I added a pencil, a notepad, and a small bag filled with beads.



Then, we thought of math games he could try. Bobby suggested rolling three dice and arranging them from smallest to largest number. I said he could add the dots on both sides of the dominoes.

We wrote each idea on a separate piece of paper and stapled them into a “math idea book.” Now he’s using his math box in the car, in bed before he goes to sleep, and even at breakfast—because he likes playing with math!

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SCIENCE LAB

Liquids vs. solids

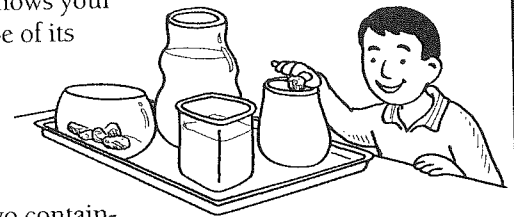
This experiment shows your youngster that a liquid takes the shape of its container—and a solid doesn’t.

You’ll need: four clear containers of various shapes and sizes (vase, jar), water, rocks

Here’s how: Have your child fill two containers with water and put rocks in each of the other two.

What happens? Water (a liquid) changes shape to fit the container. A rock (a solid) stays the same shape no matter which container it is in.

Why? The molecules, or tiny particles, in liquids move around freely. But the molecules in a solid are tightly packed and can’t move past each other, so a solid doesn’t change shape.



MATH CORNER

Let’s graph our names

Which family member has the longest name? The shortest? Your child can make a name graph to find out.

Materials: poster board, pencil, markers, strips of paper, scissors, glue

1. Help your youngster divide poster board into 12 columns and 8 rows. Number the top row 1–12.

2. Give each person a strip of paper and a marker to write her first name. (Make strips for pets’ names, too!)

3. Have each family member cut her name apart into individual letters.

4. Now everyone can glue their letters in order across the poster board (one letter per column).

5. Look at the graph together, and compare the length of your names. For example, how many more letters does Mallory have than Carl? Do any two names have the same number of letters?

