# Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

October 2020

Seneca Valley School District

## Book Picks

**Read-aloud favorites**

■ ***Doggy Defenders: Willow the Therapy Dog*** *(Lisa M. Gerry)*
Some dogs have incredible jobs helping people, and Willow is one of them. This nonfiction book follows a therapy dog named Willow through her day at work. She spreads cheer in a hospital and a retired veterans' home, and she even "reads" with children at a library. Part of the Doggy Defenders series.

■ ***Hair Like Mine*** *(LaTashia M. Perry)*
A little girl thinks her hair is too curly and frizzy, and she struggles to find someone with hair like hers. With guidance from her mother, who insists that no two people have the same hair, face, or toes, the girl learns about the value of differences.

■ ***The One Day House*** *(Julia Durango)*
This is the heartwarming story of a young boy named Wilson and his older neighbor, Gigi. When Gigi's house desperately needs repairs, Wilson wants to make it nicer for her. Thanks to caring friends and neighbors, he gets his wish faster than he imagined. (Also available in Spanish.)

■ ***Ronan the Librarian*** *(Tara Luebbe and Becky Cattie)*
No legendary barbarian wants to read a book … right? That's what Ronan the Barbarian thinks until he finds a book in his raided treasure. He loves the book so much that he teaches his fellow barbarians to enjoy reading, too.

# Make time for reading

Any time is a great time for your child to read! Here's how to fit more reading into busy days.

### Check the weather

Invite your youngster to be the family weather reporter. Each evening, she can read tomorrow's forecast in the newspaper or on your phone's weather app. Encourage her to use weather symbols, such as raindrops or suns, if she needs a little help figuring out the words. Soon she'll recognize words like *rainy* and *sunny* right away.

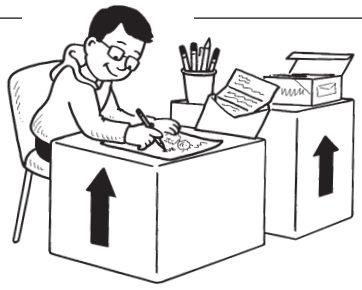
### Explore recipes

When you cook, let your child read the recipe with you. Make it easier by having her get out the ingredients. Hearing you say potatoes or cheese, finding the item, and maybe seeing the word on the package will help her as she sounds out the words in the recipe. *Tip:* For math practice, she could read the numbers and fractions in the recipe, too.

### Listen to audiobooks

While you're working from home or running errands, your youngster can enjoy books independently. Download audiobooks and check out print versions of the same books from the library. She can follow along with the story as she turns the pages and perhaps learn to recognize new words.♥

## Write to keep in touch



"Will you be my pen pal?" With this idea, your youngster can write friendly letters and stay close to loved ones.

Together, ask a relative to be your child's pen pal. Explain that your youngster is learning to write—and they can help! Then, let your child pick out stationery or search online for "free stationery printables kids."

Now help your youngster write a greeting ("Dear Aunt Lori"). Underneath, he could write about or draw pictures of activities he's been doing, like roller skating or caring for his new kitten. He should also ask his pen pal questions. ("How is your job?") When your relative writes back, you and your child can read the letter—and write a reply.♥

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# What sounds do you hear?

Sounds and syllables are like the nuts and bolts of words. Call your youngster's attention to word parts with these activities that will help him grow into a strong reader.

**Swap the sound.** With your youngster, think of a word family, or a group of words with the same "last name" (for example, *-all*). Now take turns saying a word with that ending (*fall*, *wall*). If you say a nonsense word (*zall*), ask your child to make up a silly definition. "*Zall*: A black-and-white striped ball that zebras play with!"

**Blend the consonants.** Have your youngster put these letter tiles or magnetic letters into a bag: B, C, F, G, H, L, P, R, S, T, and W. He can pull out two letters (perhaps S and P), then help him try to blend them and say a word that includes the blended sound (***sp****ider*). If the sounds can't be blended, like B and T, he should put them back and pull out new letters.

**Subtract a syllable.** Say a familiar word that has more than one syllable, such as *pumpkin* or *television*. Now encourage your youngster to take away one or more of the syllables: "If you take *pump* out of *pumpkin*, what do you have left?" (*Answer: kin.*) What happens if he "subtracts" *vision* from *television*? (He'll have *tele.*)♥

## Fun with Words: Sensational writing tools

Put down your pencils! Your child can practice forming letters and words with these fun-to-touch materials.

### Sugar

Let your youngster spread a thin layer of sugar on a baking sheet. Then, she could write each letter of the alphabet with her finger.

### Paint

Have your child dip her finger in paint and write on construction paper. She might write the color word that matches each color of paint she uses, like yellow for yellow paint.

### Soil

Your youngster will get fresh air and enjoy nature by writing outside. Help her find a stick and a patch of soil. She could etch words in the dirt, perhaps to list things she sees outdoors (*birds, clouds*).♥

**OUR PURPOSE**

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

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## Q&A: Don't forget the spaces!

**Q** *When my daughter writes, a whole sentence sometimes looks like one long word. How can I get her to put spaces between words?*

**A** Ask her to read her writing out loud so she can "hear" the spaces. As she reads, have her draw a vertical line where she thinks each space should be.

You can also show her spaces in books. Pick a sentence, and ask her to count the words. She'll need to pay attention to the spaces to figure out how many words there are.

Finally, encourage her to use her finger as a "space bar" by laying it on her paper after she writes each word. It will show her how much space to leave before she begins the next word. Or let her decorate a craft stick with stickers and use that as a space bar.♥

## Parent to Parent: Play library—at home

My son Elijah and I missed our weekly visits when the pandemic closed down our library. So he came up with the idea to play library at home, which has given us a nice way to talk about books.

First, Elijah made library cards for all of us. To play, we place books around our living room and use the coffee table as the checkout counter. Sometimes Elijah is the librarian. He recommends books for me, "scans" them at the checkout, and leads story hour. Other times, we trade roles. After we finish playing, we put the books back on the shelf in alphabetical order, just like real librarians do.

We're enjoying library time even when we're not at the actual library, and Elijah is learning to think critically about books to give good recommendations.♥