Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

November 2016

Wood Park Primary

Book Picks

Read-aloud favorites

■ ***Nubs: The True Story of a Mutt, a Marine & a Miracle*** *(Brian Dennis, Kirby Larson, and Mary Nethery)*
In Iraq, Marine Brian Dennis formed a bond with a wild dog, sharing rations and standing watch. This touching read-aloud tells of the pair's determination to be together against all odds.

■ ***The Box of Holes*** *(Carmen Gil)*
A child's imagination turns a cardboard box into an adventure. Andrea's mother scolds her for buying an empty box, but the little girl discovers that it's full of "holes" that lead to magical characters. (Also available in Spanish.)

■ ***Alphabet Rescue***
(Audrey and Bruce Wood)
Your youngster can learn uppercase and lowercase letters with this colorful ABC book. The lowercase letters want to help the capital letters on their fire truck, but the big ones say no. After the little ones fix a broken-down fire truck (little *p* gets paint, little *t* finds new tires), they prove they're big enough to perform rescues.

■ ***The Tooth Book: A Guide to Healthy Teeth and Gums*** *(Edward Miller)*
This colorful how-to book encourages youngsters to take good care of their teeth. Your child will see the parts of a tooth, find out why she loses baby teeth, and learn about what happens at the dentist's office.

I can use big words!

Many youngsters are familiar with big words like *stegosaurus* and *abracadabra*. If they're able to say those words, they can also learn long words like *investigate* and *summarize*. Try these ideas to help your child find and use big words.

Read new words

Reading is an ideal way to build vocabulary. Your youngster will hear bigger words when you read aloud to him from more challenging books. Encourage him to listen for unfamiliar words, and help him figure out their meanings. Because children need to hear the same word many times to really learn it, weave the words into conversations throughout the day.

What's in the category?

Each week, ask your child to post a category ("Animals," "Foods," "Things that are shiny") on the refrigerator. Everyone looks for words to add that match the category. For instance, watch a science program about animals to hear words like *orangutan* or *gazelle*. Or your youngster could scan grocery ads for food words, such as *nutritious* or *gorgonzola*.

Make trading cards

Have your child make trading cards for new words he encounters. During a walk, you might say, "How many kinds of *transportation* can we spot?" At home, help him write *transportation* on an index card, and let him illustrate it (perhaps with a car and a bus that he saw). Suggest that he keep his cards in a zipper bag and practice using them. Friends or relatives can start their own decks and trade with him—your youngster will discover even more new words.♥

Read a book, write a math problem

Combine reading, writing, and math by having your child make up word problems based on her favorite books. Here's how.

If she reads *The Rainbow Fish* (Marcus Pfister), she could write (or dictate to you) a story problem like, "Rainbow Fish had 10 colorful scales. He gave 9 away. How many are left?" Or after reading *The Gingerbread Man* (Jim Aylesworth), your youngster might make up a word problem such as, "The gingerbread man ran from 3 people and 3 animals. How many chased him in all?"

Idea: Have your child read and act out the story problems. She could use household items like foil scraps for fish scales or toy people and animals.♥

© 2016 Resources for Educators, a division of CCH Incorporated

Enjoy nonfiction

As your youngster gets older, she'll spend more time reading nonfiction in school. Consider these ideas for letting her discover the joy of learning new facts and exploring the interesting features in children's nonfiction books.

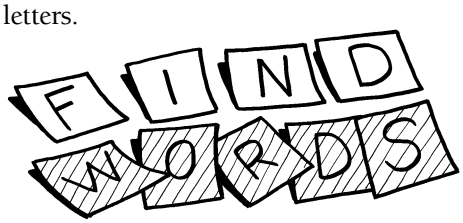
Know what's real. Some information books for kids blend fiction and nonfiction. For example, a talking animal might state real facts, or a mythical creature may narrate a true story. Help your child distinguish fact from fiction by asking how she knows a picture or an event is real or not real.

Take your time. Give your youngster a chance to explore all the features on a page. She may want to look at a time line or a diagram before you read the main text to her. Then, she could study the photos while you read the captions aloud. She'll become familiar with the features in nonfiction, which will prepare her to read textbooks in school.♥

Fun with Words: Hide, seek, and spell

Combine hide-and-seek with spelling practice, and watch your child have fun learning his spelling words.

First, ask him to write each word on a strip of construction paper, using a different color paper for every word. Then, he should cut each strip into individual letters.



Choose one or two words, and hide the slips around the house. Tell your youngster how many to look for (say, five blue and four red), and send him hunting! His job is to find the letters and spell the words. He might wait until he has every letter, or he could spell as he goes.

Check to make sure he spelled his words correctly. Now he can hide letters for you.♥

Q&A: Understanding reading levels

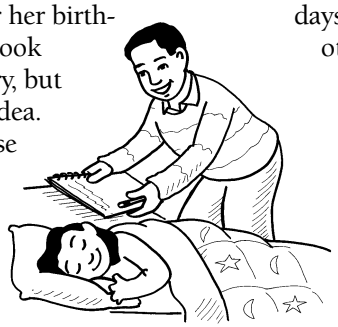
Q *When I get my son's progress reports, they include his reading level in addition to his grade. What does the level indicate?*

A Usually, a letter, number, or word (such as *emergent* or *novice*) on a progress report tells what level book a child can read independently. A parent-teacher conference is a great opportunity to find out more about your son's reading abilities and to see examples of books that are at his reading level.

In general, though, the important thing is that your child's reading level improves steadily over time. At home, focus on how much fun it is to read with him rather than on the level of the book he's reading. His excitement about books will motivate him to try hard—and he'll be likely to make progress.♥

Parent to Parent: A parent-child notebook

My daughter Rebecca received a cute notebook and a pack of colored pens for her birthday. I thought the notebook would make a great diary, but she had an even better idea. She asked if we could use it to write notes to each other.



Sometimes I work late, and I love coming home to drawings and notes from Rebecca. If she's asleep when I get in, I write a note for her to find in the morning. We write about our days and leave questions for each other to answer. And sometimes we'll put in a funny joke or an interesting tidbit we heard that day.

It has turned out to be a great way for Rebecca to practice writing—and for us to stay connected on our busy days.♥

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
540-636-4280 • rfecustomer@wolterskluwer.com
www.rfeonline.com
ISSN 1540-5648

© 2016 Resources for Educators, a division of CCH Incorporated