

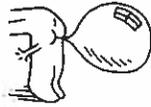
# Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

November 2017

Keystone Oaks School District



## Book Picks

Read-aloud favorites

### ■ *The Legend of Rock Paper Scissors* (Drew Daywalt)

Rock, Paper, and Scissors are great warriors in their own kingdoms—with one problem. Their opponents aren't challenging enough! This humorous legend tells how they found each other and the game Rock, Paper, Scissors was born.

### ■ *Look at That Building! A First Book of Structures* (Scot Ritchie)

Tag along with five friends as they set out to build a doghouse for their pet. Blending fiction with nonfiction, this book includes ideas readers can use to build a miniature doghouse of their own.



### ■ *Andy Shane, Hero at Last* (Jennifer Richard Jacobson)

Andy isn't sure he can win a bike-decorating contest against his friend Dolores. But as the children ride their bikes in the town parade, Andy has a chance to be a hero and save the day. Part of the Andy Shane series.



### ■ *National Geographic Readers: Storms* (Miriam Busch Goin)

What causes tornadoes, hurricanes, and other storms? This book about Mother Nature's fiercest weather has the answers. Simple explanations, photographs, and quick facts help readers understand the science behind wind, rain, lightning, and more. (Also available in Spanish.)



## For reading out loud!

Reading aloud to your youngster builds listening skills, improves reading comprehension, and encourages her to love books. Try these three strategies for fitting in at least 20 minutes a day of read-aloud time.

### Little by little

In a time crunch? That's okay. Even short bursts of reading throughout the day add up. Read a chapter before school—perhaps while your child is getting ready or during breakfast. Squeeze in a few jokes from a joke book or facts from a trivia book before dinner. Then, wrap up the day with a picture book or two at bedtime.



### Two for one

Reading doesn't have to be a stand-alone activity. Add a read-aloud to other things you and your youngster are doing. Read a book about different kinds of transportation while riding the subway. Share the directions for a craft project while you work on it together. Weave in a story during bath time.

### Family affair

Invite other family members to read to your child—that counts toward the 20 minutes per day, too! Your youngster can connect with them by phone or with a video app (Skype, Facetime). Before Grandma reads over the phone, you could both get the same book from the library. Or during a video chat, remind Uncle Dave to hold up the book and share the pictures with your child. ♥

## MY TALE

Dreaming up an autumn rebus story—a story where pictures replace some words—gives your child a creative way to practice writing.

First, help him choose a fall topic like raking leaves or watching squirrels gather nuts. As he writes, he can substitute a picture for at least one word in each sentence. Examples:

"I used a  to make a giant pile of .

"The  ran up the  to get an .

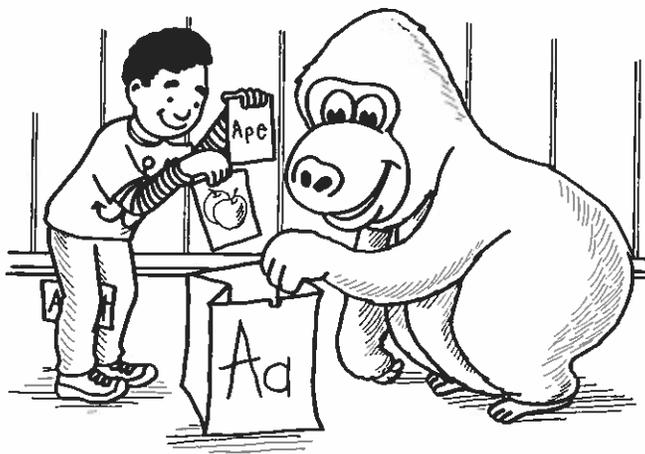
If he repeats a word that he has replaced, he could draw the same picture. When his story is complete, ask him to read it to you. What will his next rebus story be about? ♥



# A is for ...

Hunting for objects that start with a certain letter lets your youngster explore the alphabet and letter sounds. Here's how.

**Collect.** Have your youngster label a paper lunch bag with "Aa." Then, he can fill the bag with small objects, pictures cut from magazines, or index cards with words printed on them—all beginning with the letter A.



**Share.** Invite your child to show you what he gathered. As he names each item, talk about the various sounds the letter makes. For instance, how does a sound in *ape*? What about in *apple* or *art*?

**Continue.** Tomorrow he can label a bag "Bb" and hunt again. After 26 days, he'll have a complete collection of ABC bags!

*Tip:* Gently correct him if something doesn't belong. For example, if he collects an elephant on "U" day, sound out the word together. Can he name the correct letter for it now?♥



## Story VIPs

It's all in the details!

Boost your child's reading comprehension by helping her pick out the story details that really matter!

Read a book together, and encourage her to identify the VIPs (Very Important Parts). If she's not sure, ask, "If this detail were missing, would the story be the same?" For instance, in *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, the detail "She walked into the living room" is nice to know,

but it isn't necessary to the story. But "Goldilocks woke up and saw the three bears" is a VIP. Your child can write each VIP on a star cut from construction paper.



Afterward, let her arrange the stars in order from start to finish and use them to retell the story. As she goes, she could add stars for any important parts she missed or take away ones that aren't necessary for the tale.♥

## Fun with Words

### Sound-alikes

This simple activity teaches your child the meanings of *homophones*—words that sound the same but have different meanings and spellings.

**Materials:** paper, pencil, index cards, crayons

Together, list all the homophones you can think of. *Examples:* blew/blue, toad/towed, pair/pear, hare/hair.

Now, have your youngster come up with a sentence that uses both words of a pair. For blew/blue, she might imagine "A soccer player *blew* a *blue* bubble." She can draw a picture on an index card to illustrate it. Then, help her write the sentence on the back of the card. Encourage her to make a card for each set you thought of.

*Idea:* Suggest that she use the cards to play a guessing game with friends. They could take turns picking a card and displaying the picture for the other players. Who can name the words that are homophones?♥



## Parent to Parent

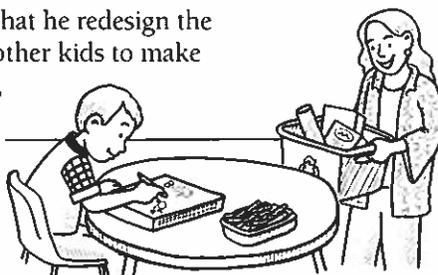
### You'll love this cereal!

Recently, my son Billy said he wanted to rename his favorite cereal "Billy's Blueberry Crunchies." That gave me an idea. Why not let him redo the whole box?

I covered an empty cereal box with paper and suggested that he redesign the package to persuade other kids to make it their favorite cereal, too. First, he wrote "Billy's Blueberry Crunchies" on the front in big blue letters. Then, he drew a bluebird as

a mascot and added a slogan, "A berry good way to start your day!" He even printed an ingredient list on one side and wrote a recipe on the back—which were good ways to get in what his teacher calls "informational writing."

Billy had so much fun that he hunted through the recycling bin for other containers he could "make over." I never thought such a simple idea would encourage so much writing!♥



## OUR PURPOSE

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

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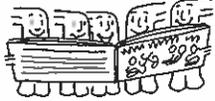
# Reading Connection

INTERMEDIATE EDITION

Working Together for Learning Success

November 2017

Keystone Oaks School District



## Book Picks

### ■ *My Side of the Mountain*

(Jean Craighead George)

It's the 1950s, and Sam doesn't want to live in his cramped New York City apartment with his family anymore. He runs away to the Catskills and learns to live on his own. A coming-of-age story for young nature lovers. (Also available in Spanish.)



### ■ *Science in Ancient Egypt*

(Geraldine Woods)

Does your youngster know that ancient Egyptians used the sun to tell time, made paper from plants, and designed tools to lift and move heavy objects?



This nonfiction book explains many things we have learned from this long-ago civilization.

### ■ *Trauma Queen*

(Barbara Dee)

Thirteen-year-old Marigold wants to go to school, make friends, and, most of all, avoid embarrassment. That's hard to do with the unusual way her mother teaches the drama class at her new school. A hilarious look at mother-daughter relationships.

### ■ *A Bad Case of the Giggles*

(Compiled by Bruce Lansky)

This funny collection of poems on everything from stinky feet and hiccups to spaghetti and hand-me-down clothes is practically guaranteed to make readers love poetry. Includes more than 60 poems by numerous poets.



## Building word power

Did you know that a strong vocabulary paves the way for your child to become a fluent reader, a better writer, and a more confident speaker? Try these everyday strategies to increase your youngster's word power.



### Create crosswords

Encourage your child to make a crossword puzzle for you to solve. She'll boost her vocabulary as she collects unfamiliar words from books and uses dictionary definitions to write clues. *Idea:* Have a crossword puzzle night. Get crossword puzzle books from the dollar store. Take turns reading clues aloud, and fill in the answers. Or make your own puzzles, and swap.

might realize that *principal* is the amount of money you have. Or a recycling symbol near the car wash chemicals may be a hint that *biodegradable* relates to environmental conservation.

### Search during errands

At the bank, supermarket, or car wash, ask your youngster to be on the lookout for new words. Can she figure out the meaning of words like *principal* or *biodegradable* by using context clues? For instance, if a sign at the bank says, "Interest is paid on your *principal* monthly," she

### Make a word wall

Set aside a bulletin board or a space on a kitchen wall where family members can post interesting words they read or hear. During dinner, talk about where you found the words and why they're interesting to you. Then, try to sprinkle the words into your conversation. Each week, have every person choose her favorite new word. 📖

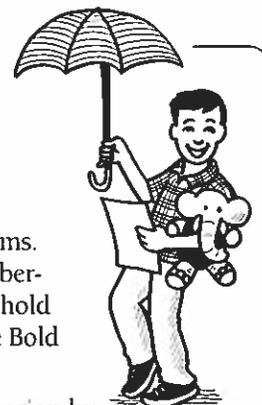
## Host a poetry slam

This family "poetry slam" lets your child enjoy poetry and practice speaking in front of others.

**Find.** Have your youngster pick out poetry books from the library or print poems from websites. Then, each family member can choose one to memorize or read.

**Perform.** On the big night, take turns performing your poems. For extra fun, use props. Your youngster could juggle strawberries while reciting "Wild Strawberries" (Shel Silverstein) or hold an umbrella and a stuffed elephant as he recites "Behold the Bold Umbrellaphant" (Jack Prelutsky).

**Discuss.** Boost your child's reading and listening comprehension by talking about the poems. Ask questions like "What do you think the poem's message is?" or "Why do you think the poet chose that topic?" 📖



## What's the scoop?

Encourage your youngster to practice informational writing by pretending he's a "roving reporter" when you visit with relatives this month. These steps will ensure he gets the scoop on all the family news that's fit to print.

**1. Ask questions.** Have your child list the six questions reporters ask: *who, what, when, where, why* (the "5 Ws") and *how*. He can use them to think of questions when he interviews family members. *Examples:* "What school did you go to?" "When did you graduate?"



**2. Add details.** Suggest that your youngster dig for details that support and clarify facts. Prompts like "Tell me more about..." and "Could you explain..." may lead him to discover which foods his cousin tried on his trip to Korea or what inspired his grandmother to run a marathon.

**3. Check facts.** Your child should consult books or websites

to confirm information. For example, he could check the ingredients for Korean specialties or find out how many miles are in a marathon (26.2).

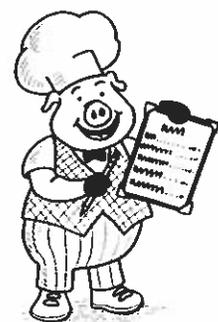
**4. Write and publish.** Once your youngster has all the facts, it's time to write! Suggest that he write an article about each relative he interviewed or one long article combining his information. Then, he could distribute copies to family members. 

### Fun with Words

#### Menu games

Restaurant and take-out menus are chock-full of opportunities for your children to practice reading skills. Here are two ideas.

#### Search for words



Go on a word hunt with your youngster. Who can find the longest word? The word with the most syllables? You might ask her to find a synonym (a word with the same meaning) for *delicious* (*mouth-watering*). Or see if

she can find an antonym (an opposite) for *chilled* (*steaming*).

#### Find the food

Choose an ingredient (zucchini, alfredo sauce, garlic), and have your child find a menu item that contains it. If the menu has photographs, point to a picture of a dish she doesn't know, such as chicken Parmesan, and cover up the name. Let her study the picture and then read through the menu descriptions to find one that matches. 



### Parent 2 Parent

#### Be a guest reader

At my daughter's parent-teacher conference, I met her reading teacher, Ms. Connor. She let me know that she was looking for parent volunteers, so I signed up to come in twice this month.

For my first time volunteering, I read with small groups of students. The teacher explained that hearing someone read aloud encourages kids to view books as a source of pleasure. Then, I had some students read to me, which she said helps them improve their reading fluency and listening skills.

My daughter was excited to see me in her class, and I really enjoyed reading with her and her classmates. Next, I've signed up to take part in the book donation program coming up. We are going to ask other parents and the community to contribute used books for a classroom library. 



### Q&A

#### Branching out as a reader

**Q** My son only likes to read stories about sports. Any ideas for getting him to try something new?

**A** It's great that your son enjoys reading and has go-to favorites.

To help him discover a variety of books, try taking him to a library or bookstore and pointing out displays showcasing mysteries, new releases, classics, or how-to books. Sometimes children get into the habit of going straight to the same section every time. If you

explore together, a different type of book may catch his eye.

Also, since he's a sports fan, biographies of athletes may be a natural fit. Reading these real-life stories may lead to an interest in biographies about inventors, musicians, or world leaders.

Another idea is to steer him toward books about sports history. Reading about the origin of the Olympic Games or the impact of the civil rights movement, for instance, may encourage interest in other history books. 



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