

# Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

December 2018

Keystone Oaks School District

## Book Picks



Read-aloud favorites

### ■ *Mary Had a Little Glam*

(Tammi Sauer)

A famous nursery rhyme gets a makeover in this story. Mary can't help offering fashion advice to her classmates (who include familiar characters) at Mother Goose Elementary School. Soon she has added a bit of glamour to everyone, including the class pet.



### ■ *Rabbit & Robot: The Sleepover*

(Cece Bell)  
Rabbit has planned every detail of his sleepover with Robot, right down to which veggies they'll have on their pizza. But when things don't go smoothly (Robot prefers hardware on his pizza), the friends must rely on Robot's stellar logical thinking skills. The first book in the Rabbit & Robot series.

### ■ *The Story of Snow: The Science of Winter's Wonder*

(Mark Cassino and Jon Nelson)  
Does your child know that a snowflake is a crystal? In this nonfiction book, she'll discover how a snowflake forms and then changes as it passes down through the clouds. Plus, she'll find instructions for catching snowflakes to observe.



### ■ *More Spaghetti, I Say!*

(Rita Golden Gelman)

Minnie will eat spaghetti with just about anything—ice cream, marshmallows, and even pickles. Her friend Freddy tries to distract her from her pasta obsession so she'll play with him, but he makes a big mess in the process. (Also available in Spanish.)



## Support for beginning writers

Your little author probably has plenty to say, but she may need help getting started or putting all of her ideas on paper. Lend a hand with these strategies.

### Create a word bank

Before your youngster writes a story, help her list words she might use. If she's writing about the winter carnival at school, the list may contain *hot chocolate*, *photo booth*, and *gingerbread*. She can refer to her list as she writes so she remembers everything she wants to mention.



### Hold a writing "conference"

Offer to read a story your child is working on, and point out places where you want to know more. You could ask, "What did the little girl feed her horses for breakfast?" or "What color are the horses?" Encourage her to add the answers, then read it again. She'll see that details make a story more interesting.

### Read a picture book

A favorite book can provide a "blueprint" for your youngster's story. Suggest that she use a character, the setting, or the format for inspiration. For example, reading *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* (Laura Numeroff) could lead her to write "If I Give My Dog a Tennis Ball." Maybe the tennis ball will make her dog want to play with a baseball, then a soccer ball, and then a basketball!♥

## Keep the conversation rolling

Build your child's speaking and listening skills with the roll of a die! Pick a topic (perhaps the day he was born), then take turns rolling a die and following these directions.

**Roll a 1:** Add a statement. ("We couldn't wait to meet you.")

**Roll a 2:** Ask any family member a question. ("How big was I?")

**Roll a 3:** Add a statement *and* a question. ("Wow, I was tiny. Who came to visit?")

**Roll a 4:** Share your opinion. ("You were adorable.")

**Roll a 5:** Move on to a related subject. ("Mom, what were you like as a baby?")

**Roll a 6:** Wild card—do any of the above.

*Idea:* Carry a die with you in the car for fun on-the-go conversations.♥



# “I predict that...”

“What do you think will happen next?” Asking your child to predict the path a story might take can boost his comprehension. When you read aloud, try these ideas.

**Picture mysteries.** Cover up the words every few pages, and have your youngster predict what’s going to happen based on the illustrations. Encourage him to point out clues. Maybe a picture of ducks waddling toward a family picnic makes him think the ducks will try to eat the food. Now read on so he can see if his prediction is right.

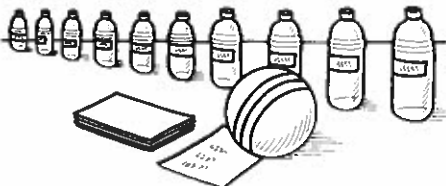


**Secret predictions.** Keep paper and pencil handy for each of you while you read. At any time, either of you can say, “I have a prediction!” Then, stop reading, and secretly write or draw what you believe will happen next. As the story continues, place a check mark next to each prediction that comes true. At the end of the story, explain why you made each prediction, and tell which ones were correct. ♥

## Fun with Words Bowling for sight words

This version of bowling lets your youngster practice reading *sight words*—common words that early readers learn to recognize at first glance.

**Materials:** sight word list (from the teacher or [sightwords.com/sight-words/dolch/](http://sightwords.com/sight-words/dolch/)), marker, 10 index cards, masking tape, 10 half-filled water bottles, ball



Help your child write one word on each index card and the same words on separate strips of tape. She should stack the cards facedown and label each bottle with a piece of tape.

Next, line up the bottles in a row (with a few inches between each one), and have players stand 6 feet away. Take turns drawing a card, reading the word, and rolling the ball toward the matching bottle. If you knock it down, keep the card and remove the bottle. Now it’s the next player’s turn. Collect the most cards to win. ♥

### OUR PURPOSE

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

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## Parent to Parent

### Surprise, there’s a book!

During a recent visit to my son Carson’s classroom, I noticed baskets of books everywhere. There were books about money and shapes in the math center, alphabet books beside a basket of magnetic letters, and biographies of artists near an easel.

When we got home, I looked around and thought, “Where can we add books?” It turns out there were lots of places! Carson wanted to put library books about construction into his block bin.

When I found a book about fossils at a flea market, I added it to his box of dinosaurs. And Carson decided that his toy kitchen was the perfect place for a kids’ cookbook.

Now I regularly leave “surprise” books for my son to find—and sometimes he does the same for me. I’ve noticed him building a construction site with blocks and matching toy dinosaurs with the photos in the fossil book. I love that he’s making connections as he plays. ♥



## Lists are practical—and fun

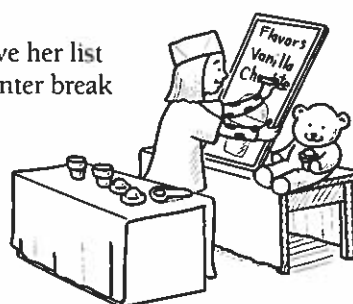
A list is a great example of real-life writing. Show your child how useful writing is with these suggestions:

- Let your youngster help you make a grocery list. She can refer to the advertising circular to spell what you need (milk, rice).
- Before you travel, have her list items to pack. For a winter break trip to her grandparents’ house, she might write *toothbrush* and *teddy bear*.
- Suggest that your child make a to-do

list for her day: “Go to school. Feed the dog. Read a book.”

- Work together to create a guest list for a holiday meal or a list of gifts she could make for relatives.
- Weave list writing into playtime. Have your youngster design a sign listing the flavors in her pretend ice cream shop or the services offered at her imaginary pet-sitting business.

*Idea:* Encourage your child to illustrate her lists. ♥



# Reading Connection

INTERMEDIATE EDITION

Working Together for Learning Success

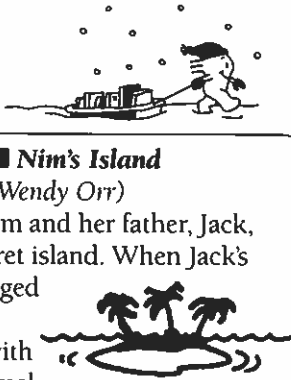
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## Book Picks

### ■ *Nim's Island* (Wendy Orr)

Nim and her father, Jack, live on a secret island. When Jack's boat is damaged in a storm, Nim is left with only her animal friends for company. Can she rescue her father? Readers will find out in this fantasy adventure. (Also available in Spanish.)



### ■ *Writing Radar: Using Your Journal to Snoop Out and Craft Great Stories* (Jack Gantos)

Young writers get first-hand tips from an award-winning children's author in this guide. Gantos explains the importance of keeping a journal, shares stories about his life and career, and offers fun writing exercises for readers to try.

### ■ *Restart* (Gordon Korman)

A fall from a roof changes everything for Chase. When he hits his head, he still knows his name, but he forgets what kind of person he is. Why do some people love him while others hate him? He's going to figure it out—and decide if the person he was before his accident is who he wants to be now.



### ■ *What Is the Constitution?* (Patricia Brennan Demuth)

This nonfiction book gives your child a behind-the-scenes look at the writing of the U.S. Constitution. She will discover surprising facts about the heated debates and the many compromises that led to the document we still use today.



## Bigger vocabulary = better comprehension

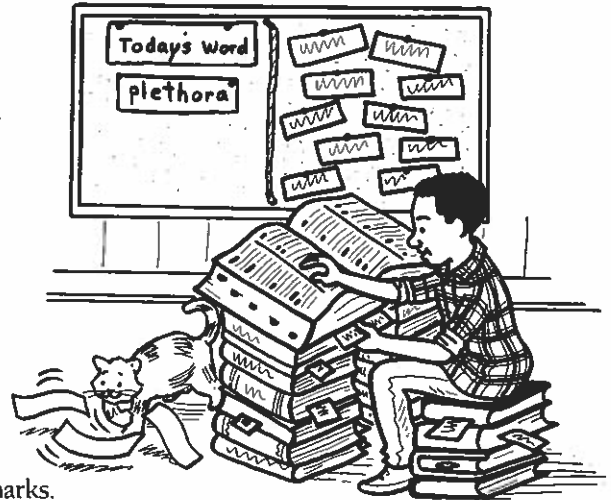
The more words your child knows, the easier it will be for him to understand what he reads. Share these ways to grow his vocabulary while he enjoys a good book.

### Bookmark it

Have your youngster cut out strips of paper to make bookmarks. As he reads, he can write a new word on each strip. Then, he could read on to determine the words' meanings, or look them up in a dictionary, and add the definitions to the bookmarks. Suggest that he use the bookmarks to save his place while reading.

### Apply it

Your child can use a word he learns from one book to figure out a similar word in another. Say he discovered that a *prophecy* is a prediction. Then if he reads "She *prophesied* that the animals would escape," he might realize that *prophesied* means "predicted."



### Share it

Saying words frequently will make them a permanent part of your youngster's vocabulary. Each day, encourage him to pick one new word that he read and look for ways to slip it into conversations. During dinner, he might say, "We had a *plethora* of lunch choices in the cafeteria today" or "I'm *astounded* that it snowed this early." 📖

## Write to a hero

For a rewarding way to practice writing, let your child send a letter to a hero like a soldier, nurse, firefighter, or teacher. Use these steps.

**1. Pick a recipient.** Your youngster might mail a letter to your local fire station or hospital, or she can find ideas at [operationgratitude.com/express-your-thanks/write-letters](http://operationgratitude.com/express-your-thanks/write-letters).

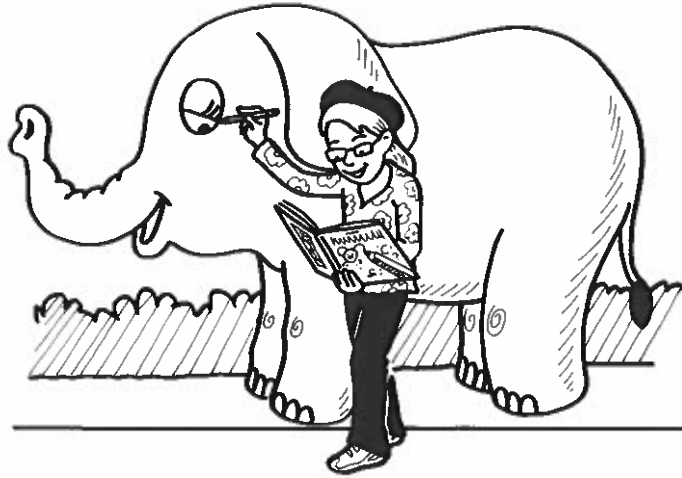
**2. Write thoughtfully.** Have your child research the person's job and use what she learns to make her letter more personal. If she's writing to a new army recruit, she could say, "Congratulations on finishing boot camp! Thank you for your service." Then, she might add details about herself (hobbies, favorite school subject).

*Note:* The person may or may not be able to write back—regardless, sending a letter will be a valuable experience for your youngster. 📖



# All kinds of nonfiction

When it comes to non-fiction, there are many exciting options for children these days. Becoming familiar with different types of nonfiction will help your youngster read textbooks and other informational books in school. Suggest that she explore these types.



animals, suggest that she read a book on the topic instead. She'll practice reading instructions and referring to diagrams and other graphics. *Idea:* She could watch a video after reading a how-to book. What did she learn from the book that wasn't in the video, and vice versa?

**Narrative nonfiction.** This kind of nonfiction is told like a story—often with dialogue and rich descriptions—but it's true. For instance, encourage your

**How-to books.** The next time your child wants to watch a how-to video on making slime, playing chess, or drawing

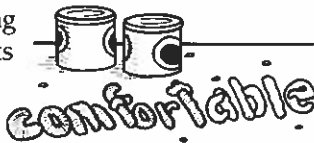
youngster to read a first-person account of a historical event she studied in school. What clues does she see that it's a real-life story? *Examples:* footnotes, excerpts of interviews with sources, quotes from real people. 📖



## Q&A Making word study fun

**Q** My son has weekly spelling tests this year. Can you suggest fun ways for him to study his words?

**A** Focusing on word parts can help your son learn to



spell them correctly. He could make it more interesting by using different color play dough or yarn to "write" different parts of his words.

For example, if this week's words end in the suffixes *able* and *ible*, he might form each instance of *able* in blue and each *ible* in red. Then, maybe he'll make each word root (*comfort*, *cred*) in yellow. The suffixes will stand out, making it easier for him to learn which words contain each ending.

He may also like to post copies of his spelling list around the house and highlight word parts in different colors. The more he sees his words, the more likely he is to spell them correctly on his test—and when he writes them in the future. 📖

## Fun with Words

### Follow my rule

Your child can practice writing sentences with this quick game. The object is to construct sentences while following a particular "rule."

Let your youngster pick the first rule ("Every word must have the same number of letters"). Quickly write a sentence that fits ("Will they join your team?"), and put down your pencil. Then, read your sentences aloud. The person who finished first—and followed the rule correctly—gets to pick the next rule.

Here are more rules to try:

- Each word has to start with the same letter. ("Tim takes two tests tomorrow.")
- All the words need to share the same vowel. ("Bob got on top of Bo's roof.")
- The sentence must contain two words that are anagrams—words with the same letters in a different order. ("It's easier to listen if you are silent.")
- You must include two adjectives and one four-syllable word. ("The big gray rhinoceros drank from the pond.")

Challenge your family to come up with your own creative rules! 📖



## Parent 2 Parent

### Success with auditory processing

This fall, my daughter Rachel was diagnosed with auditory processing disorder, or APD. The doctor explained that her hearing is normal, but she has trouble understanding what she hears. And now, we have a great toolbox of strategies to help her.

For example, Rachel's teacher suggested that when I need my daughter to do something that requires several steps, I could write down each step. If I don't have

paper and pencil handy—say, when we're in the car—I should speak slowly and ask Rachel to repeat the directions back to me.

The teacher also said background noise makes it harder for my child to take in what's being said. So now I turn off the TV or take Rachel into a quiet room when I need to explain something to her.

Working together, her teacher and I have been able to help my daughter feel more successful in school and at home. 📖



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