

Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

September 2020

Doniphan R-I School District

Chera Dean, Title Director

Book Picks

Read-aloud favorites

■ *The New Small Person*

(Lauren Child)

Life as an only child is going well for Elmore, until a new little person comes along to interrupt his TV shows and knock over his toys.

But as his brother gets older, Elmore realizes that a sibling can become a friend—maybe even enough of one to share his prized jelly beans with.

■ *The Word Collector* (Sonja Wimmer)

Luna loves to collect magnificent words, but one day she notices words disappearing from her collection. Soon she discovers that they're missing because people are too busy to remember them. Can Luna bring love, friendship, and fun back into their lives through the power of words? (Also available in Spanish.)

■ *Even Superheroes Have Bad Days*

(Shelly Becker)

Superheroes could use their powers to do naughty things, like change the weather or cause chaos when they are sad or mad—but do they? Readers will find out how even the mightiest superheroes work through their emotions to make a difference in the world.

■ *How Did That Get in My Lunchbox? The Story of Food*

(Chris Butterworth)

Where do common foods like bread, cheese, and carrots come from? This nonfiction book describes their journeys from farm to lunchbox.

Your child will discover that it takes a lot of work to grow and produce yummy foods.



Adventures in reading

What's between the pages of a book? An adventure that your youngster could go on—without leaving home! These ideas will show him all that he can learn on his nonfiction reading expeditions.

Take an animal safari

Together, look for animals outside, and help your child make a list of the ones you see. Then, read books or look online to learn facts about each one. What does it eat? What are its babies called? Does it sleep at night or during the day? Encourage your youngster to write each fact (or dictate it to you) in a notebook to carry on future walks. How many new animals can he “meet”?

Meet people

Scientists, artists, civil rights leaders ... biographies are full of fascinating people. Suggest that your youngster make a trading card for each person he reads about. He could write facts like the person's name, birthplace, and accomplishments. Or he might write a letter (real



or pretend) to the person that includes questions he has.

Visit new places

Let your child plan an imaginary trip to a book's setting. After a story about a rain forest, read a nonfiction book on jungles. He can use facts he learns to make a packing list for his journey. He'll have to think about the climate (hot, rainy) to decide what he needs (wide-brimmed hat, lots of water, umbrella). He could also write a pretend postcard from his destination.♥

Fine-motor fun

Playing with tiny objects strengthens little hands—building the fine-motor skills your child needs for handwriting, drawing, and more. Try these activities.

● **Cotton-ball race.** Give each player an empty bowl and a bowl containing 12 cotton balls or other small, soft items. Using tweezers or your thumb and forefinger, race each other to transfer them—one at a time—to the empty bowl. Who will win the race?

● **Yarn wrapping.** Let your youngster use safety scissors to cut long pieces of colorful yarn. Then, have her tape one end of each to the outside of a cup, wrap the yarn around and around, and tape down the opposite end. *Idea:* She could use her creation as a pencil or crayon holder.♥



Ready, set, write!

Drawing is the first way children express their thoughts on paper. You may also have noticed—or will soon notice—your youngster writing scribbles, letters, or words on her pictures. Use these strategies to support your little writer at every stage.

Drawings. Invite your child to tell you all about pictures she draws. Ask questions that encourage her to tell a



story: “Who is in your drawing?” “What are their names?” *Tip:* As your youngster learns to write her name in school, have her start printing it on pictures she draws at home.

Scribbles. Is your child adding scribbles or letter-like shapes to her pictures? Combining drawing and writing is a big step toward learning to write. Acknowledge her efforts by asking, “Can you read that to me?”

Writing. When your youngster begins writing actual letters or words, help her list words she uses frequently. *Examples:* *the, like, Mommy, Daddy.* She can label her list “Words I Know”—and refer to it to help her write captions for her pictures.♥

Q&A Reading aloud—together



Q My son loves when I read to him. Any tips for using story time to help him learn to read himself?

A Sure! Start by asking your child to join in when you read. Try reading a book with a refrain, perhaps *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* (Eric Carle) or *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* (Laura Numeroff). After a few pages, pause before the repeating part—your son will feel proud to finish the page himself (“But he was still hungry!”).



Your child will also learn from listening to you read rhyming books. Stop before you say each rhyming word to let your youngster fill it in.

Finally, develop his reading comprehension by talking about stories. Share your reactions (“That part really cracked me up!”), and listen while he tells you his response.♥

Fun with Words

Plant an alphabet tree

Read an alphabet book with your child, then encourage him to build his own alphabet tree to identify and remember letters.

1. Let your youngster plant a “tree trunk” (an empty cardboard paper-towel tube) in a cup filled with dirt or sand. Then, help him cut small slits into the trunk and insert craft stick “branches.”
2. Have your child draw 26 “alphabet leaves” on green paper, cut them out, and write a letter on each leaf. *Tip:* He could flip through the alphabet book to remind himself what each letter looks like.
3. Together, recite the alphabet (or sing the alphabet song) while he tapes each leaf to any branch.
4. Read the book again—can your child find each letter on his tree?♥



Parent to Parent

Family show-and-tell

When my daughter Erica began kindergarten, she was hesitant to speak up during show-and-tell. Her teacher suggested that we practice at home, so we decided to hold a weekly family show-and-tell night.

Every Friday, we gather in the living room and take turns sharing something that’s important to us. Each person explains why her show-and-tell item is special. Then we

ask questions, such as, “What do you like best about it?” or “Where did you get it?” We’ve shared books, drawings, souvenirs, and more.

What began as a way to help Erica practice speaking has turned out to be a great family conversation starter. Now Erica is in second grade—she’s speaking up more in class, and we still look forward to family show-and-tell each week.♥



OUR PURPOSE

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

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Hooray for Wordplay!



What do words and toys have in common? They're both fun to play with! Wordplay builds children's vocabulary and helps them learn to read, write, and spell. See how with these activities.

Word bank

A homemade piggy bank is a fun place for your youngster to save words from his favorite books. Have him make the bank by decorating an empty tissue box. Then, let him cut five "coins" from construction paper. Now it's time to collect words. Before you read aloud to him, ask him to choose a type of word (five-letter words, words that start with his favorite letter). As

you read, he can pick out words from the book that fit his criteria and write each one on a coin. Then, help him read each word aloud as he "feeds" it to his bank. He can cut out more coins and give the "pig" new words each time you read together. When his bank is full, let him dump it out—how many words can he read all by himself?

Letter escape

Can your youngster figure out which letter has escaped? This multiple-choice activity will help her become a better speller. Ask her to cover her eyes while you spell a word with Scrabble tiles. Leave one letter out and set it aside with two other letters. For example, you might spell g_ing and lay out p, t, and o as possible missing letters. When your child uncovers her eyes, it's her job to look at the word and choose the

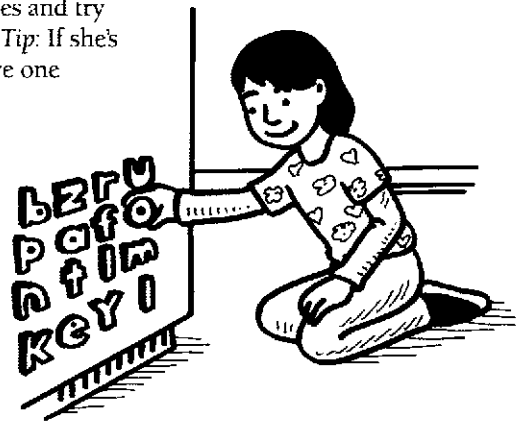
escaped letter from the options on the table. Help her sound out each choice. ("Gping?" "Gting?" "Going!")

Word switcheroo

Your youngster can play with *word families* to learn the sounds that letters make. A word family includes words that share the same ending sound (*hug, mug, rug*). Together, choose a word (*bit*), and write it down. Ask him to replace the first letter and say the new word he has made (*sit*). Take turns changing the first letter until neither of you can make another word. Then, choose a different word family to play with. A few to try include *-an, -ing, -ill, and -ake*.

Refrigerator word search

This hands-on word search can increase the number of words your youngster recognizes. Have her close her eyes while you use magnets to spell a three- or four-letter word (*key, ball*) on the refrigerator. The word can be vertical or horizontal. Surround it with random letters so that your word is hidden. Then, have your child open her eyes and try to find the word. *Tip:* If she's struggling, remove one letter at a time from the refrigerator—she may be able to spot the word with fewer letters around it. After she finds it, let her hide one for you.



continued

Alphabet actions

Try this silly way to pass time in a waiting room while boosting your child's knowledge of verbs, or action words. He can start by saying, "I _____ a worm," filling in the blank with a verb that begins with *a* (*ate, attacked, answered*).

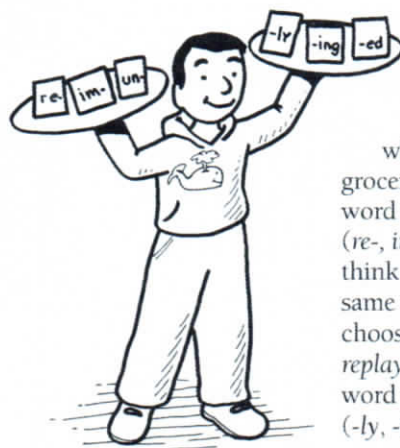
You repeat his sentence, but replace the verb with one that starts with *b* ("I *battled* a worm"). Keep working through the alphabet to see how many words you can come up with. If either of you is stumped, brainstorm a verb together.



coming up with funny things that household items might say. Start by having her choose an object and brainstorm a list of three words that are related to it. For a *refrigerator*, she might write *cold, food, and freezer*. Then, help her use one or more of the words to write dialogue for the fridge. ("Don't worry. I'll keep your food cold for you.") *Idea:* She can write the phrase in a word balloon on a sticky note and put it on the item.

Vowel pictures

A *mnemonic* is a device that can help your child remember something more easily. Here's one that she can use to learn vowel sounds. First, help her think of a word for each vowel (*a, e, i, o, and u*). Then, have her illustrate the word, making sure to include the actual letter somewhere in her drawing. She might draw a cat with *a*'s in place of its ears and nose and an umbrella with a giant *u* in the curved handle. When she's sounding out a word while reading, she can remember her drawings. ("The letter *u* makes the *uh* sound, like in umbrella!")



Beginnings and endings

Your youngster can explore prefixes and suffixes while waiting in line at the grocery store or bank. Pick a word with a common prefix (*re-, im-, un-*), and ask him to think of words that begin the same way. For example, if you choose *rewind*, he might say *replay* and *redo*. Next, pick a word with a common suffix (*-ly, -ing, -ed*), and have him come up with three words

that end the same way. For *quickly*, he could say *quietly, carefully, and slowly*.

Talking objects

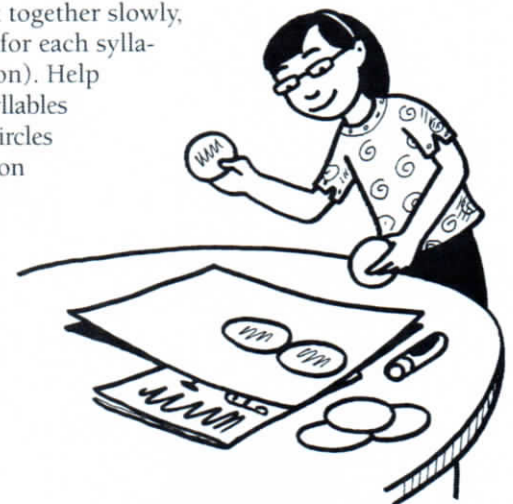
If your refrigerator could talk, what would it say? Your youngster can build her vocabulary and practice writing by

Made-up definitions

Your youngster can practice reading and writing definitions while building his vocabulary. Pick three words from the same category (baby animals). Write a simple definition for each word—but make one of the definitions false. *Examples:* "A fawn is a baby deer." "A calf is a baby horse." "A chick is a baby bird." Help your child read each sentence aloud, and ask him to figure out which one is fake (a calf is a cow, not a horse). Then, let him pick words from a new category (planets, colors) and make up three definitions for you. He can write them down or dictate them to you, and you point to the false one.

Syllable snakes

Here's a colorful way for your child to practice breaking words into syllables—a skill that can help her sound out long words. First, have her cut circles from several different colors of paper. (*Tip:* She can trace around a soup can to make circles.) Look in a magazine for a word with several syllables (*television*). Read the word to her, and then say it together slowly, clapping once for each syllable (*te-le-vi-sion*). Help her print the syllables on individual circles and glue them on paper to make a "snake." Encourage her to find more words and make other snakes.



Note to Parents: Fill in the month and dates, and post this calendar on your refrigerator. Then, encourage your child to do an activity a day.

Daily Reading & Writing Calendar






















(BEGINNING EDITION)

MONTH						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				<p>Make a reading "tent" by draping a sheet over two chairs. Curl up inside with a pillow and a stack of books.</p>	<p>What did you do today? Draw a picture and write a sentence about a place you went, like school, a park, or the grocery store.</p>	<p>Record yourself reading a book, and ring a bell to signal each page turn. Then, follow along in the story while you listen.</p>
<p>Cover a cookie sheet with shaving cream. "Write" each letter of the alphabet. (Smooth the shaving cream out between letters.)</p>	<p>Ask three grown-ups to tell you their favorite children's books. Then, check the books out of the library.</p>	<p>Take turns spelling words for the other person to write down. Pick something in the room ("I see a t-a-b-l-e").</p>	<p>Look at pictures in a cookbook, and choose a dish to try. Ask someone to help you read the recipe and write the ingredients on a grocery list.</p>	<p>Read aloud from a joke book. Try <i>Kids' Silliest Jokes</i> (Jacqueline Horsfall) or <i>What Do You Hear When Cows Sing?</i> (Marco Maestro).</p>	<p>Invent a new ending for one of your books. Draw a picture, and dictate or write the new version.</p>	<p>Write a question on a sticky note, and post it on the refrigerator. ("What is your favorite color?") Someone can use magnetic letters to answer ("blue") and then write a question for you.</p>
<p>Write a "What am I?" riddle for someone to solve. Example: "I am long and scaly. I say 'sss.' What am I?"</p>	<p>Start a comic strip collection. Read comics in the newspaper, and cut out ones you like. Keep them in a folder or an envelope.</p>	<p>List everything you read today (license plate, book, magazine). Ask family members to add things they read to your list.</p>	<p>Write five words you know how to spell. Try to find them on signs or packages. You can also spot them inside longer words (example: highway contains way).</p>	<p>Read two fairy tales. Tell someone how they're alike and different.</p>	<p>Copy each line of a nursery rhyme on a separate strip of paper. Mix up the strips, and put them back in the right order. Read the rhyme to a parent.</p>	<p>Hold a reading "show-and-tell." Each family member finds one thing to read (fortune cookie, greeting card). Take turns reading your items aloud.</p>
<p>Write a thank-you note to a family member. Mention something nice that person did today. ("Thanks for taking me to the ball game, Mom.")</p>	<p>Start a list of new words that you discover while reading. Try to add a word to your list every day.</p>	<p>Read a non-fiction book. Tell someone at least three facts that you learned.</p>	<p>Use glue to write words on cardboard. Sprinkle glitter on the words. When the glue dries, shake off the extra glitter.</p>	<p>Match grocery coupons to items in the pantry or cupboard. Use the pictures on the coupons or other clues to read the words.</p>	<p>Write a math story about an addition problem (4 + 5). Example: "I ate 4 strawberries and 5 blueberries. All 9 were delicious."</p>	<p>Read an award-winning book. Ask a librarian for a list of Newbery Medal or Caldecott Medal winners.</p>
<p>Flip through a book and list all the adjectives (descriptive words) you see. Go through again and write all the verbs (action words).</p>	<p>Read during errands. Browse a catalog in a department store, find words you know on a building, or read a magazine at the doctor's office.</p>	<p>Look at a map or globe. Find "North America." Look for your state, and read its name.</p>	<p>Draw a tree trunk with branches. Write a word ending (-all) on the trunk. Write words with that ending (tall, hall) on paper leaves. Glue them on the branches.</p>			

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Daily Reading & Writing Calendar

(BEGINNING EDITION)

						MONTH	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
			Attend a story hour at a library or bookstore. When you get home, hold your own story time with an audience of stuffed animals.	Write down five words that should be capitalized (teacher's name, your city and state). Then, write five words that start with lowercase letters.	On separate pieces of construction paper, write a word or sentence about yourself. Illustrate the pages, and staple them together. It's an autobiography! 	Start a reading log. Cut circles from construction paper, and write the title of each book you finish. Display them on your door to make a "bookworm." 	
Draw a picture of your favorite storybook dog (Clifford, Spot, Biscuit). Underneath, write a title for a new book about him. 	Ask a parent to give you a handful of coins or a dollar bill. Identify as many letters and words as you can. 	Pack a bag of books, and read outdoors with a grown-up. You might sit on a park bench or on a blanket in your yard. 	At the grocery store, see how many items you can find that begin with the first letter in your name. At home, write down the ones you remember.	Make household signs. Cut shapes of road signs from construction paper, and add messages like "Quiet! Children reading." 	Dip cotton swabs in paint. Write the name of each color using that color paint. Example: Use purple paint to write purple. 	Play tic-tac-toe with consonant blends. Each player chooses a blend (tr, br). Take turns writing a word with your blend (train, bread) in a square. Three in a row wins.	
Ask a parent to help you write down the words to your favorite song. Read the lyrics as you sing together. 	Write instructions for something you know how to do (set the table). Use the instructions to teach someone else.	Start a list of state license plates in the car. Each time you see a tag from a different state, add that state's name to your list. 	Read a book. Then, tell someone about the main characters, the setting, and the plot.	Make your own stationery. Decorate the border of a piece of paper with stamps, stickers, or drawings. Use it to write a letter to a friend or relative.	Ask an adult to help you read something from the newspaper. Try a photo caption or a weather forecast. 	Look at an object for 30 seconds (vase, toy car). Put it away, and write down everything you remember about it. Compare your list to the actual item. 	
Take turns reading lines of a poem aloud. Get poetry books at the library, or search online for "children's poetry." 	Before an outing, write down 10 things you hope to see. For a zoo trip, you might list different animals. Check them off as you find them. 	Divide a sheet of paper into two columns. In one column, list words that end with -ing. In the other, list words ending in -ed.	Using old magazines, cut out one picture that starts with each letter of the alphabet. Glue the pictures on paper in ABC order. 	Read a book. On three index cards, write and draw what happened in the beginning, middle, and end of the story.	Spell the name of a friend or pet vertically on a sheet of paper. Add one word or phrase that starts with each letter and describes the person or pet. 	Ask a parent to write down five words. Have her time you to see how quickly you can look up all the words in the dictionary. 	
Make a "wish list." You might list books you'd like to read, places you want to visit, or foods you plan to try. 	With an adult's help, send an email to a friend or relative. Include questions for the person to answer—then read the person's reply. 	Use a marker to write each letter of the alphabet on dried lima beans. Make two extra sets of vowels (a, e, i, o, u). Grab a handful of beans, and make as many words as possible.					

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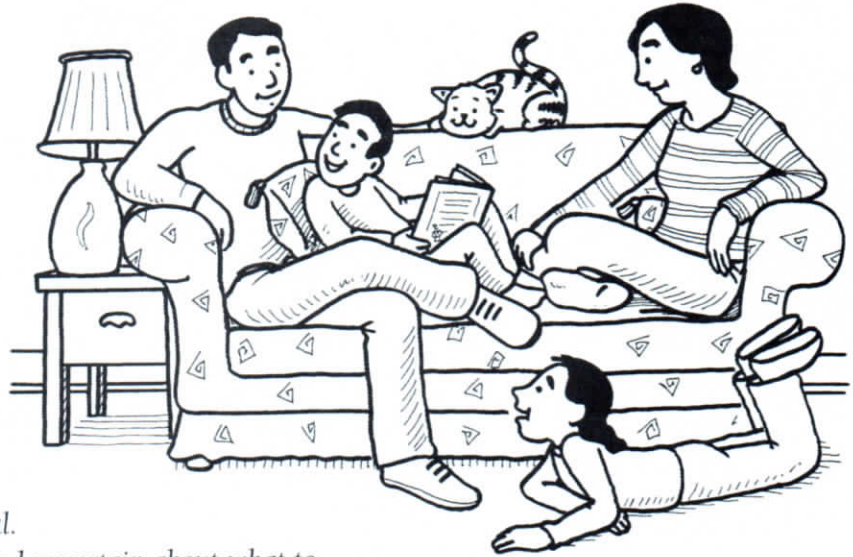
APRIL 2020

COVID-19 SPECIAL EDITION:

Support for Parents and Children

Your children's world has changed dramatically over the course of just a few weeks. They're home from school, missing their friends and activities, worried about what's happening in the news—and unsure of when life will return to normal.

As a parent, you may feel overwhelmed and uncertain about what to do. Use this guide as a starting point for supporting your youngsters emotionally and academically during the coronavirus pandemic.



Editor's note: Guidelines are changing rapidly. Make sure to follow all local, state, and federal laws and recommendations on social distancing and other practices when using these ideas.

Boost well-being

Your children are likely experiencing conflicting emotions. They're probably happy to be home with you—but bored because they can't go anywhere or have anyone over. Here are ways to keep life as close to normal as possible.

Find the positives. Look for bright moments each day. For instance, maybe you're not commuting to your job right now, so you have time before work to snuggle up and read with your youngster. Or perhaps a family birthday party was canceled, but now even people who live far away can celebrate with you ... via video chat.

Stay physically active. Go for runs or bike rides, and play backyard games. Have everyone put on comfortable clothes and gather in front of the TV or computer for a free fitness class. Try a site like [youtube.com/user/CosmicKidsYoga](https://www.youtube.com/user/CosmicKidsYoga) or [lesmills.com/us/workouts/youth-training/](https://www.lesmills.com/us/workouts/youth-training/). Your child's dance or martial arts classes may even be continuing online.

Encourage play. Children need plenty of time to play—and this is especially true in difficult circumstances. Pull out old toys they may not have played with in a while. It'll be like getting brand-new toys! They can also turn household items into toys. A cardboard box could become a bear cave, a school bus, or an art studio



(they can color the inside with crayons or markers). A blanket might be a cape, a tent, or an island.

Enjoy the great outdoors. Spending time in nature is a proven stress reliever. Take family walks and observe animals, trees, and flowers along the way. Plant a garden.

Try stargazing at night or bird-watching in the daytime. Have picnics in the backyard or on your balcony.



Do for others.

Thinking of others gets your children outside of thinking about the situation they're in. They might make cards for people who are working hard to help us, such as nurses, doctors, and paramedics. They could also use chalk to draw pictures and leave uplifting messages on the sidewalk for delivery truck drivers and mail carriers.

Manage family time. Being together 24/7 and unable to leave your home can cause tension among family members. Encourage siblings to play separately when they've had enough of each other's company. Also, it's healthy for parents to have some time to themselves, so relax with a cup of coffee before your child wakes up, or plan at-home date nights with your spouse.

continued

Reduce anxiety

It's normal for youngsters—and adults—to feel stressed when their schedules change or life is unpredictable. Consider this advice for helping your children cope.

Provide reassurance. Having some control over a situation can limit anxiety. Talk to your child about what your family is doing to stay safe—and to help others be safe.

Examples include washing hands often, staying at home, and social distancing (staying at least six feet away from people who don't live with you).

Stick to routines. Stick to your youngster's regular bedtime and wake-up times. Also, encourage her to dress in regular clothes. If she asks to stay in pajamas, consider setting aside a special PJs day



each week. Wearing daytime clothes on other days will contribute to a sense of normalcy. And plan regular mealtimes rather than letting everyone snack all day.

Limit access to news. It's important to stay informed, but news coverage can make children feel anxious. Keep the news off, and set certain times each day to check for updates. If you have a young child, you might consider tuning in only after he goes to bed.

Keep reading!

Reading every day is one of the best ways for your child to keep up skills in all subjects. Try these ideas:

- Set aside time each day to read with your youngster. You could enjoy favorites from your bookshelves and also download e-books from the public library. Encourage him to choose a variety—fiction, nonfiction, poetry, biographies, how-to books, and more. Let him pick books he can read on his own as well as more challenging ones for you to read aloud to him.

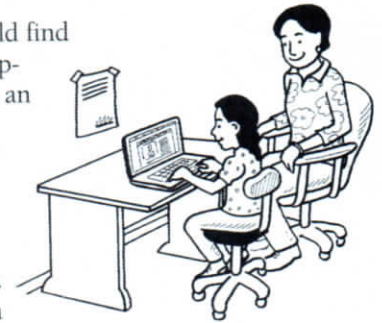


- Together, watch authors, teachers, and librarians read aloud online. (Try storylineonline.net or search YouTube for “read alouds.”) Then, suggest that your child make her own story-time videos—complete with props or puppets.

Learning and working from home

When your children do schoolwork at home, you may wonder what your role is, especially if you're working remotely, too. Keep in mind that teachers don't expect you to homeschool your youngsters—but you can offer support and encouragement, just as you would with regular homework. Here's how.

Get set up. Have your child find “office space” and gather supplies. She'll need to work in an area without background noise and where she won't disturb you if you're working, too. If she's participating in classes online, make sure she logs in on time—a few minutes early is ideal in case there's a glitch. She should close browser windows and tabs and put away devices she's not using for school.



Create office hours. Help your youngster make a schedule that includes class time and independent work time. If you're working from home, let him know what your hours are. Schedule a lunch break and a snack break so you can eat together. *Fun idea:* Ask your child to make and decorate signs with office hours for each of you. He'll be proud of his signs and may pay more attention to the “posted hours.”

Offer assistance. Try to be available in case your youngster gets stuck with her work. If she needs help during your office hours, she could write you a note. Then, provide help when you can take a few minutes away. *Tip:* Show interest by asking what she's learning and looking over her work.

Stay in touch

Combat social isolation while you are social distancing. Use these suggestions for staying in touch with family and friends via Skype, FaceTime, or other video-chat platforms.

Spend time with relatives. Invite grandparents, uncles, aunts, and cousins to participate in family game nights. It's fun—and it helps to reduce loneliness, especially for people who live alone. Play charades, Pictionary, or name-that-tune.

Hang out with friends. Encourage your child to plan online get-togethers. It will feel great for classmates to see each other in real time! They could perform a concert by singing or playing instruments. Or they might make up dance routines. Another idea is to hold a craft party—they can chat while crafting (making jewelry, knitting) and share their works-in-progress with each other.

Home & School CONNECTION®

Learning Activities for Children

While your children are at home with you, you want to spend time with them, support their learning, and get your own work done. This guide will help you do all three. Below, you'll find at-home activities they'll enjoy. And page 2 features a fun bingo card—they can check off the items as they complete them.

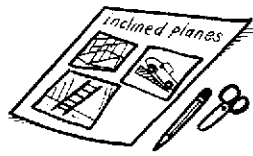


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Vocabulary art

Tap into your child's creative side while she studies her vocabulary words with these two projects.

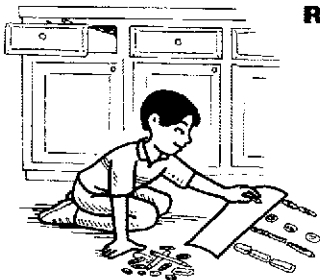
Word collage. Ask your youngster to write a word and its definition at the top of a page. Then, let her cut out pictures from magazines that go with the word. For instance, if she's studying simple machines in science, she could find pictures of levers (seesaw, scissors) or *inclined planes* (wheelchair ramp, playground slide). Have her glue them on her paper and write a sentence to go with each one.



Rainbow words. Suggest that your child sort her words by writing them with different-colored pencils in the shape of a rainbow. Perhaps she could use a red pencil for nouns, a yellow one for verbs, and a blue one for adjectives.

Junk-drawer creativity

Look no further than your kitchen junk drawer to give your youngster's creative thinking a boost. Try these ideas.



Reuse

Suggest that your child come up with different uses for objects in the drawer. He could use rubber bands to make a ball or turn a cork into a pincushion, for example. Take turns thinking of ways to reuse a bottle cap, a handheld mirror, and other junk-drawer items.

Sort

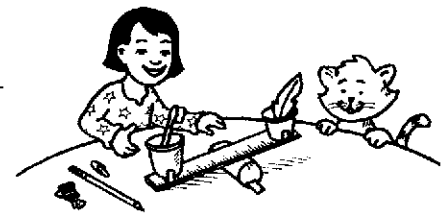
Let your youngster sort items according to a secret criterion, and you try to figure out his rule. Say he puts a paper clip and a key in one group, and a coupon and a gift bag in another. You might guess that he's sorting by materials (metal, paper). Next, you sort objects into piles, and have him determine your rule.

Homemade scale

"My paperweight is heavier than my gymnastics medal!" This balance scale lets your child explore measurement by comparing weights.

Make a scale

Have your youngster tape two small paper cups to opposite ends of a ruler. Next, she should tape a toilet paper tube to a table (horizontally). Now ask her to balance the ruler on the tube.













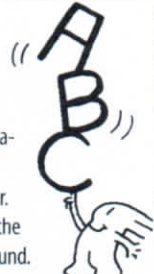

Weigh objects

What does your child want to weigh? Suggest that she gather small items like a toothbrush, a leaf, and a pencil. She can choose two at a time, predict which is heavier, and put one in each cup to find out. The object in the cup that drops down toward the table is heavier than the one in the cup that goes up. If the scale balances, their weights are equal.

Idea: As she tests the items, she could line them up from lightest to heaviest.



Instructions: Do the activities on this bingo card in any order you choose. When you get five in a row (vertically, horizontally, or diagonally), you've earned BINGO. Keep going until you've completed the entire card—that's Super BINGO!

B	I	N	G	O
<p>Read a book and create a model of its setting in a shoebox. Suggestions: Use blocks for buildings, foil for bodies of water, and pom-poms for trees.</p>	<p>Estimate everything! How many steps are on the staircase? Keys on a computer keyboard? Count the steps or keys to check your estimates.</p> 	<p>Start a "list journal," or a notebook full of lists. A few ideas for entries: stuffed animals in your home, songs you can sing, sports you've played.</p>	<p>Gather small toys like a rubber duck and a superhero figurine. Use a flashlight to cast their shadows on paper. Trace around the shadows, then color in the outlines.</p> 	<p>Choose several board games, and mix and match the boards and playing pieces to invent a new game. Write down the rules, and teach family members to play. Be sure to return pieces to their original boxes.</p>
<p>Engineering challenge: Build the longest bridge you can between two stacks of books. Use supplies like index cards, plastic cups, and craft sticks.</p> 	<p>Write letters to friends, relatives, and teachers. You might include drawings, jokes, or even a favorite snack recipe.</p>	<p>Use a 4-ft. piece of yarn to form various shapes (hexagon, square, triangle). Arrange playing cards inside so no cards overlap. Which shape holds the most playing cards?</p> 	<p>Cut out pictures of objects from magazines and catalogs. Glue each one on a separate sheet of paper and staple the pages together to make a picture book. Write a story to go with the pictures.</p>	<p>Study your reflection in a mirror, and draw a self-portrait. Display your portrait on the fridge, and encourage family members to add their own.</p> 
<p>Solve this math puzzle: ● + ● = 10 ● + ♥ = 8 ♥ + ★ = 4 ● + ★ = ? Now make up more puzzles like this for family members to solve.</p> <p><i>Answer: 6</i></p>	<p>There are more than 400 words in the word <i>recreation</i>. How many can you list? (Use the letters in any order.) <i>Examples: cat, trainer, race.</i></p>	<p>FREE SPACE</p> 	<p>Make an audio or video recording of yourself reading books aloud. If you use video, be sure to show your audience the pictures in the books. Share your read-alouds with friends and relatives.</p>	<p>Line up 8 water glasses. Measure 1 oz. water into the first glass, 2 oz. into the second, and so on. Now lightly tap the glasses with a spoon to play a tune. Use two spoons to make harmonies!</p> 
<p>Pitch a reading tent. Drape sheets over chairs, and get books, pillows, blankets, and stuffed animals. Then, snuggle up inside to read.</p> 	<p>Set up a chain reaction. Arrange household objects like dominoes, books, plastic bottles, and balls. Can you make the reaction last for one minute? Three minutes?</p>	<p>Write an acrostic poem for each family member. Each line begins with a letter in the person's name. So the first line of a poem for CAROL might be, "Cheerful like a sunny day."</p>	<p>Create your own museum. Choose a theme, perhaps Legos or nature. Arrange exhibits on a table, and label each one using a sticky note or an index card. Now give someone a tour.</p> 	<p>Use a "pointer" like a chopstick or ruler to read words around the house. Look on food packages, book covers, game boxes, clothing, and more.</p> 
<p>Write a joke book. Cut sheets of paper in half. On each piece, write and illustrate a joke that you know. Then, staple the pages together. After dinner, read your jokes aloud to your family.</p>	<p>Find one item in your home that starts with each letter of the alphabet—from <u>apple</u> to zipper. Make a list of the objects you found.</p> 	<p>Look out a window, and graph what you see. You might count trees, bushes, birds, squirrels, cars, and houses. Make a column for each category and draw the items in even rows. What did you see the most of?</p> 	<p>Turn empty cardboard tubes into cute critters like butterflies, elephants, and penguins. Glue on yarn for hair or fur, googly eyes, pom-pom noses, and pipe cleaners for ears or antennae.</p>	<p>Create your own bingo board! Fill it with favorite activities that you can do all by yourself or that your family can do together.</p>

Home & School CONNECTION®