

# Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

October 2019

Weatherly Area Elementary School

## Book Picks



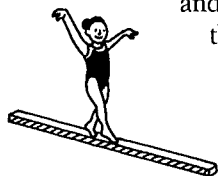
Read-aloud favorites

### ■ *Gymnastics Time!* (Brendan Flynn)

This nonfiction book takes readers inside a gym to see gymnasts in action. It explains basic facts about the sport, such as how to get started and what equipment the athletes use.

Part of the Sports Time series.

(Also available in Spanish.)



### ■ *We Don't Eat Our Classmates*

(Ryan T. Higgins)

Penelope Rex is a little dinosaur who ate her classmates on the first day of school. (Could she help it if they were delicious?) Now no one wants

to be friends with her. It takes a lesson from the class goldfish to put Penelope on the right track.



### ■ *Space Taxi: Archie Takes Flight*

(Wendy Mass and Michael Brawer)

Archie Morningstar is excited to spend Take Your Kid to Work Day in his dad's taxi. But when he climbs in the car, he discovers that his dad is a taxi driver for aliens from outer space. Instead of a trip around the city, Archie is on an intergalactic adventure! The first book in the Space Taxi series.

### ■ *A Full Moon is Rising*

(Marilyn Singer)

Poetry, geography, and culture come together in this volume. Each poem is about a full moon in a different part of the world. A special section offers interesting facts about each place mentioned in the poems.



## Writing is practical

Show your youngster how useful writing can be by giving him real-life reasons to put pencil to paper. Here are a few ideas.

### To-do lists

What does your child want or need to do this week? Help him make lists to keep track. He might list Lego structures he plans to build (castle, rocket) or chores he needs to complete (water plants, dust). Or maybe he'll list upcoming events, such as going to the book fair and eating dinner with Grandma. He can check off each item as he finishes it.



### Memory book

Suggest that your child start a notebook of favorite memories. Each night before bed, he could write and illustrate three things he wants to remember about the day. *Examples:* Jumping in a pile of leaves, listening to his teacher read a good book, learning a funny joke.

*Note:* If your youngster is just learning to write, ask him to write letters or words he knows, and help him fill in the rest. ♥

### Reminders

Let your youngster be your secretary and write reminders for you. *Examples:* "Buy milk." "Sign field trip form." Provide a pad of sticky notes (and a little spelling help) for him to jot them down. Then, set up a place to leave the notes where you will see them. Encourage reading practice by leaving notes for him, too.

## A record of my reading

These ongoing craft projects will help your child keep track of books she reads this year—and show her how she's progressing as a reader.

● **Paper chain.** Help your youngster write each book title on a strip of construction paper. She can link the strips together to form a colorful chain that will get longer the more she reads. *Idea:* Suggest that she use different-color strips for different types of books (green for animal tales, purple for poetry).

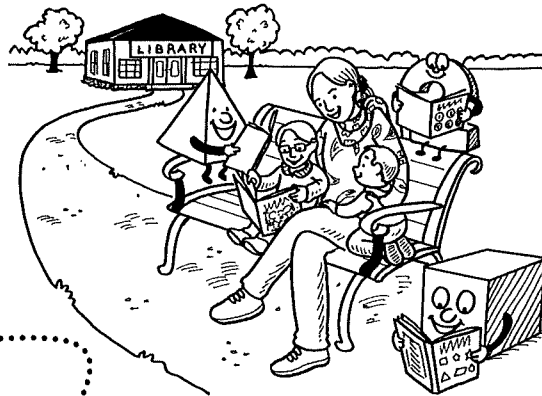
● **Patchwork quilt.** Have your child write book titles on separate construction-paper "quilt" squares. Encourage her to decorate each one—maybe she'll make a red-and-white striped square for *The Cat in the Hat* (Dr. Seuss). Now help her tape or staple the squares together in rows and columns for a quilt that grows throughout the year! ♥



# I can learn from nonfiction!

Nonfiction books are fun for your youngster to read—and they build knowledge she needs in school now and later. Help her become a fan of nonfiction with these tips.

**Explore school subjects.** Let your child check out nonfiction library books that are related to topics she studies in school. As she learns about



numbers and shapes, for example, read math picture books. Or she could find a biography of a historical figure she's studying. She'll learn new facts and gain a deeper understanding of the topic.

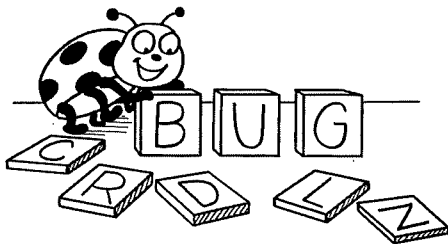
**Read graphics.** Many nonfiction books include charts, tables, maps, and diagrams like those your youngster will see in textbooks. When you read together, be sure to read the graphics, too, so she becomes comfortable with them. For instance, she'll learn to read the titles, captions, or data they contain. *Idea:* Suggest that she

make her own graphic. After reading a chart about endangered animals, perhaps she'll draw a chart showing animals that live in your neighborhood.♥



## Real or nonsense?

How are the words *fan* and *can* related? They both belong to the *-an* word family! Give your youngster's reading and spelling skills a boost with this word family game.



1. Get a set of magnetic letters or letter tiles. Set aside the vowels, and mix up the consonants in a bowl.
2. Let your child choose a word family, such as *-an*, *-op*, *-ug*, or *-et*, and find the magnetic letters or tiles for his "family."
3. Take turns drawing a consonant from the bowl and saying it with the word family. Does it make a real word or a nonsense word? For instance, adding *b* to *-ug* makes *bug* (real). But adding *g* makes *gug* (nonsense).
4. If it's a real word, the player writes it down. When all the consonants have been used, the person with the longest list picks the next word family so you can play again.♥

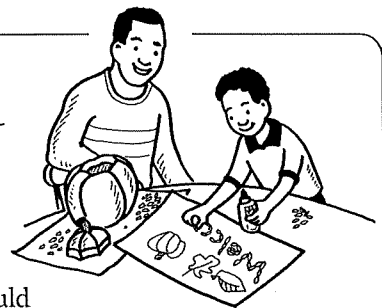
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## Autumn fine-motor play

Your child's hands need to be strong and coordinated for tasks like writing and cutting with scissors. Try these fall-themed activities to give his little fingers a workout.



**Pumpkin pincushion.** Let your youngster stick pushpins all over a small pumpkin. Then, he could stretch colorful rubber bands between the pins to create designs.

**Apple tree.** Have him draw the outline of a tree on paper. He can place red pom-pom apples on his tree and then use tweezers to "pick" them up.

**Leaf rubbing.** Together, gather leaves from the ground outside. Encourage your child to tape one to a table, place a sheet of paper on top, and rub the side of an unwrapped crayon over it. The leaf's outline will appear!

**Seed signs.** Ask your youngster to create a sign for your door by gluing apple or pumpkin seeds onto paper to spell "W-E-L-C-O-M-E."♥

## Q&A Working with the reading specialist

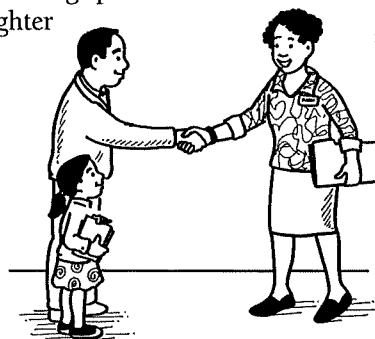
**Q** My daughter meets with the school reading teacher each week. How can I work with the teacher to help my child do her best?

**A** Start by asking the reading specialist what you and your daughter can do at home. For example, the teacher might suggest specific cues to give your child when she reads a word incorrectly. Or maybe she'll have ideas for word games that are

especially helpful for students who struggle with reading.

The specialist may also tell you what your daughter is doing well and where they're working on ways to improve.

Finally, be sure to attend all IEP (Individualized Education Program) meetings. The teacher will answer your questions, explain anything that you don't understand, and help you plan for your daughter's reading success.♥



# Math+Science Connection

Beginning Edition

Building Excitement and Success for Young Children

October 2019

Weatherly Area Elementary School

## TOOLS & TIDBITS

**Number "hat trick"**  
Score a "win" with this sequencing game. Have

your child number slips of paper 1–20 and place them in a hat. Take turns pulling out three numbers and arranging them from smallest to largest. Choose one number to keep, and put the rest back. The first person to get three numbers in a row (4, 5, 6) calls out, "Hat trick!"



## Earth's path in space

Give your youngster an idea of how Earth orbits the sun. Let her stick a big ball of play dough (the sun) on the middle of a pie plate. Then, help her tilt the plate to roll a smaller play dough ball (Earth) around the edge. Although Earth's orbit isn't a perfect circle, this model helps her understand how we travel around the sun.

## Book picks

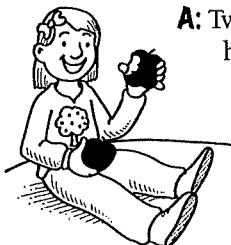
▣ Your child will learn pumpkin facts as he skip counts with Charlie and his classmates in *How Many Seeds in a Pumpkin?* (Margaret McNamara).

▣ The story of *Magnet Max* (Monica Lozano Hughes) will inspire your youngster to figure out what's magnetic and what's not.

## Just for fun

**Q:** If a tree has 10 apples and you pick two, how many apples do you have?

**A:** Two, because that's how many you picked.

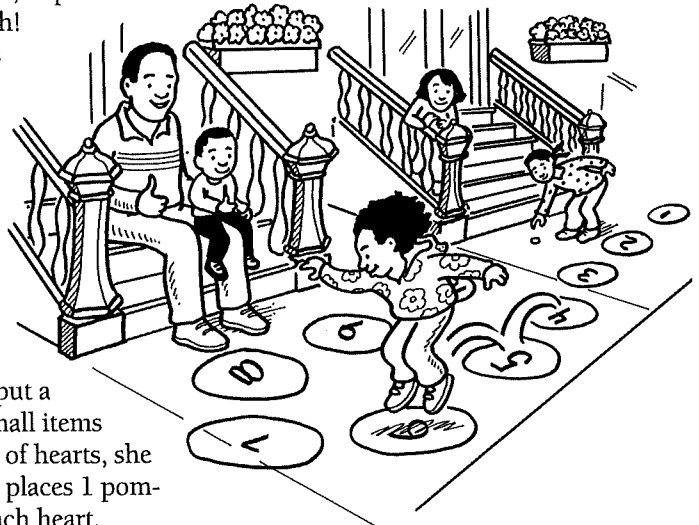


## Fun with number sense

Play cards, eat a snack, hop like a frog—and do math! Here are hands-on ideas for building your child's number sense.

### 1-to-1 matching

Playing cards are ideal for matching up objects 1-to-1. Let your youngster arrange cards faceup on the table (face cards removed, ace = 1) and put a matching number of small items on each card. For the 6 of hearts, she could count to 6 as she places 1 pom-pom or jelly bean on each heart.



### Snacks at a glance

As an adult, you can probably tell how many objects are in a small group without counting. Help your child practice this skill. Arrange 1–10 small snacks (pretzels, raisins) on a plate, and give her a few seconds to look before you cover the plate with a napkin. Ask her to tell you how many snacks there are, then count to check. Now it's time to eat!

### Lily pad hop

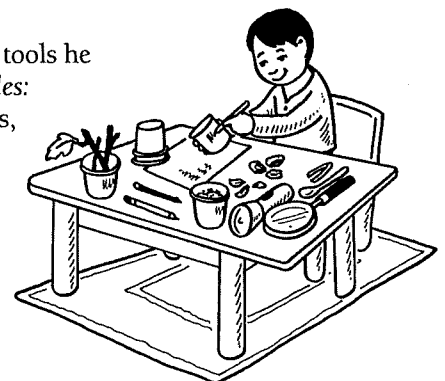
Your youngster can pretend she's a frog while counting from numbers other than 1. Let her use green chalk to draw 10 lily pads, numbered 1–10, on a sidewalk. She should roll a die and stand on the number rolled (say, 4). Ask her to hop and count on to 10 (5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10) or backward to 1 (3, 2, 1). **Challenge:** Erase the numbers—can she count the circles without them? 🐸

## My science station

Inspire your junior scientist to make discoveries by helping him set up a science station.

First, let your youngster gather science tools he can use to investigate and explore. **Examples:** magnifying glass, flashlight, tweezers, cups, spoons, paper, pencils, crayons.

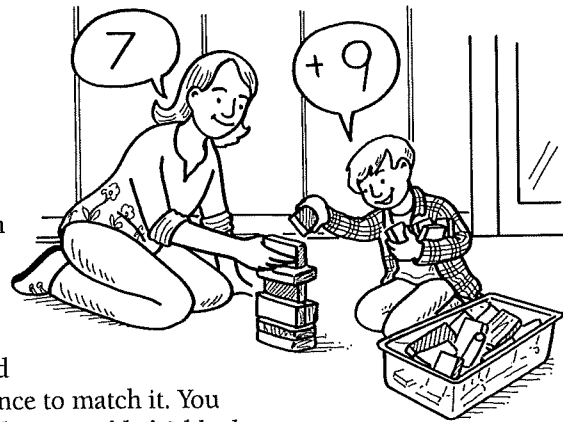
Then, encourage your child to collect natural objects, or "specimens," from the ground outside (bark, rocks, dirt, sticks, flower petals). He can label and display them, then use his tools to observe them closely. Have him draw what he sees. 🐸



# Let's build story problems

Your youngster builds a tower with 30 blocks. The dog knocks down 15 of them. What a problem—a math story problem, that is! ( $30 - 15 = 15$ ) Solve story problems together with these activities.

**Build it.** Make up a story problem, and have your child write a number sentence to match it. You might say, "I built a house with 7 blocks. You added 9 blocks."



How many blocks did we use in all?" ( $7 + 9 = \underline{\quad}$ ) Now use blocks to act out the problem so he can find the answer. You would stack 7 blocks, then he'd add 9 and count the total (16 blocks, because  $7 + 9 = 16$ ).

**Take it apart.** Once you have several buildings, use them to create subtraction problems. You could say, "Our tower is 35 blocks tall. A friend wants to use 12 of the blocks for her tower. How many blocks will we have left?" Your youngster can write the number sentence ( $35 - 12 = \underline{\quad}$ ), remove 12 blocks, and count to get the answer (23 blocks, because  $35 - 12 = 23$ ).



## Q & A What can we measure with?

**Q:** My daughter is learning about measurement in school, but she's not using a ruler. Why is this, and how can she practice measuring at home?

**A:** Children first explore the concept of measurement with familiar objects, such as pasta noodles or paper clips. Later, your daughter will move onto standard units like inches or centimeters.

Together, find fun items to measure with, and give your youngster "measurement challenges" she'll enjoy. You might ask, "How many noodles long is your shoe?" or "How many pencils long is the table?" Then, help her line up the objects carefully, end to end, and count them to check. (Each object must be the same length, just like an inch is always the same. For example, brand-new pencils would work, but not used pencils.)

When your child learns to use a ruler, she'll already know the importance of measuring with units that are all the same size.



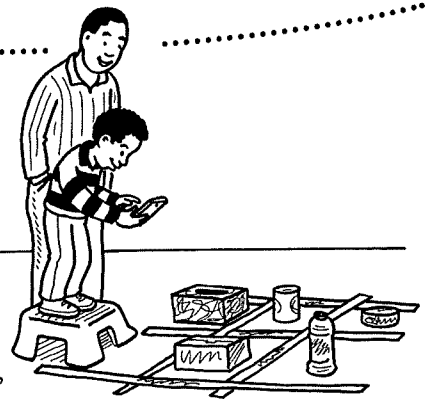
## MATH CORNER View from above

How does your child think your town looks to a bird flying high above it? With this map-making activity, he'll find out—and develop spatial reasoning skills.

Encourage your youngster to create a miniature town with masking tape "streets" and "buildings" from the recycling bin. For instance, he might use a tissue box for his school and a soup can for a water tower. Now let him pretend he's a bird—he can stand over his finished town and take a photo or draw a sketch.

Have your child use the picture to make a map. He'll realize that birds see the tops of things, so he might simply draw a rectangle for his school and a circle for the water tower. Finally, hide a small toy person or animal in one of the buildings in his town, and mark an X in the matching spot on his map. Can he find the toy based on its location on the map?

**Idea:** The next time you visit a mall, park, or historic place, let him use a map to locate attractions.



## SCIENCE LAB "See" the oxygen

Your youngster will gasp when this experiment shows her how plants give off oxygen!

**You'll need:** lettuce, two bowls, measuring cup, water

**Here's how:** In each bowl, have your child place a lettuce leaf and add 2 cups warm water. She should set one bowl in a sunny spot and the other in a dark room, then check the leaves in 1 hour.

**What happens?** Tiny bubbles form on

the surface of each leaf. The leaf in the sun, however, has more bubbles.

**Why?** Plants, such as lettuce, make their own food with the help of water and sunlight. Water contains oxygen, which plants don't need (but humans do), so as plants make food, they let out the oxygen they got from the water. The

plant in the shade couldn't release as much oxygen because it didn't have sunlight to help it start the food-making process.



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