

Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

January 2018

Book Picks

Read-aloud favorites

■ My First Coding Book

(Kiki Prottsman)

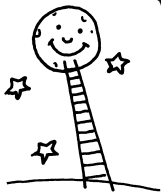
Your child doesn't need a computer to learn about coding! The puzzles, flaps, and games in this nonfiction book make coding fun. Complex terms become easy to understand, and colorful illustrations add to the enjoyment.



■ Ladder to the Moon

(Maya Soetoro-Ng)

Suhaila wishes she could meet her grandmother, who died before she was born. Her wish comes true when Grandma Annie travels down a magical ladder. The pair go on a fantastical journey to help people in need. A dreamlike folktale about empathy. (Also available in Spanish.)



■ On the Spot: Countless Funny Stories

(Amy Krouse Rosenthal and Lea Redmond)

This clever rhyming book invites readers to join in the storytelling. Each page has a fill-in-the-blank spot where your youngster can place a sticker or small object—and it becomes part of the tale. Read the book again using new items, and get an entirely different giggle-worthy story.

■ How People Learned to Fly

(Fran Hodgkins)

People tried many ideas on the path to inventing the airplane. Your child will love these fun facts about the history of flight. An activity at the end invites readers to experiment with creating their own airplanes.



Vocabulary builders

“Fancy” nouns, clever verbs, awesome adjectives—all kinds of words make up a good vocabulary. Here are ways to increase the number of words your child knows, making her a stronger reader, writer, and speaker.

Bring nouns to life

Your youngster has probably sat on an *ottoman*, but she may not realize that's what it's called. When she hears or reads a “fancy” noun (person, place, or thing), encourage her to write it on a sticky note. Have her use the note to label the object. She could stick *bureau* on her dresser, or label the hallway with *corridor*.



acting out a word from the list—whoever guesses it goes next.

Add an adjective

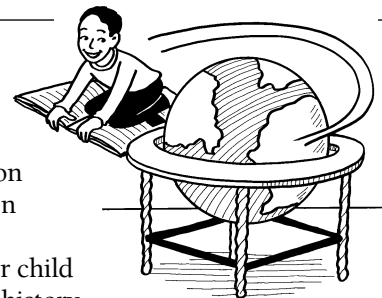
Have your youngster find an object and choose an adjective (descriptive word) for it. *Example*: “This is a *purple* hairbrush.” Then, you take the item and add a word, perhaps an unusual one (“This is a *sturdy purple* hairbrush”). Pass it back and forth until you can't come up with another adjective. Play again with a new item.♥

Read around the world

Turn your youngster into a world traveler by helping him learn about other countries through books.

Together, look at a world map, and list the seven continents. Next, find library books set on each (a Japanese fairy tale, a nonfiction book on Australian animals).

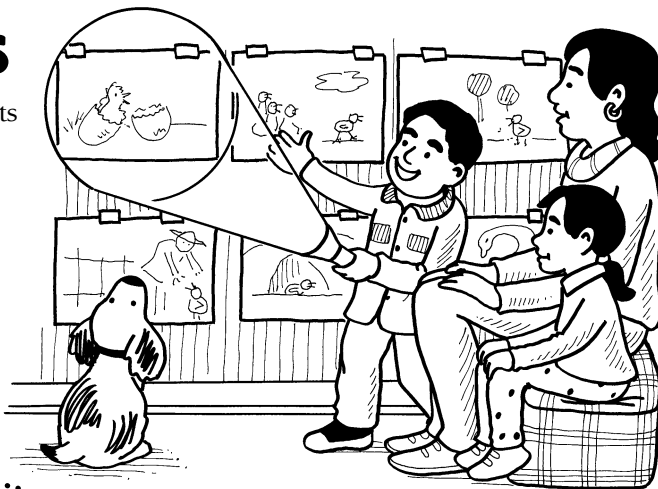
As you read, talk about what you learn. Your child may discover tidbits about a country's culture, history, and traditions, and even learn a word or two of the language spoken there. When you've finished reading, he could make a tally mark beside each continent on his list. How many books can he read for each continent?♥



Retelling stories

Did you know that retelling a story boosts your child's reading comprehension? As he describes the characters, setting, and plot, he's putting events in sequence and picturing the story in his head. Make retelling more fun with these activities.

Slide show. Invite your youngster to draw each scene from a story on a separate sheet of paper and hang them in order on a wall or door. Then, he can put on a



show! Turn out the lights, and have him shine a flashlight on each picture as he tells you the story.

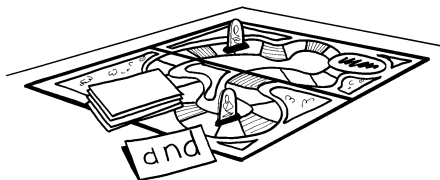
Story figures. Let your child search through old magazines and cut out pictures to represent characters, places, and objects from a book. For a story about a boy who took his puppy to school, your youngster might

Fun with Words

Game-night sight words

Replace the dice in any board game with sight words, and voila! You'll add reading practice to game night.

Ask your child's teacher for a list of sight words (commonly used words) they're working on in class, or find a list online at sightwords.com/sight-words/dolch/#lists. Help your youngster print each word on a separate index card, and stack them facedown.



Choose a board game with dice (Monopoly Jr., Chutes and Ladders). Play as usual—but instead of rolling dice, draw a card. Read the word aloud, and move your piece the number of letters in the word. So *and* lets your little one move three spaces, and *yellow* will send her zooming ahead six. Set the cards aside as they're used. If you run out before the game ends, mix them up and stack them facedown again.

Don't be surprised if your youngster wants to learn longer words so she has a chance to move farther on each turn!♥

OUR PURPOSE

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

Resources for Educators,
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128 N. Royal Avenue • Front Royal, VA 22630
800-394-5052 • rfeustomer@wolterskluwer.com
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find a photo of a little boy, a classroom, and a puppy. He can tape each one to a building block and use the picture blocks to retell the story.♥

Q&A

Paint the alphabet

Q My daughter is learning to write her letters. How can I help her work on this at home?

A Handwriting practice can be lots of fun for little ones.

Have your daughter dip a cotton swab into vegetable oil and use it to "write" any letter on paper. Then, let her paint over the letter with watercolor paint. Since oil and water don't mix, the oily letter will "resist" the watercolor, and the letter will be visible!

Make practice more challenging by giving her clues that tell her which letter to form: "Write the last letter in Mommy's first name" or "Your favorite food starts with this letter."

Once your child gets going, she might like to write the entire alphabet and paint over the letters with different colors.♥



Parent to Parent

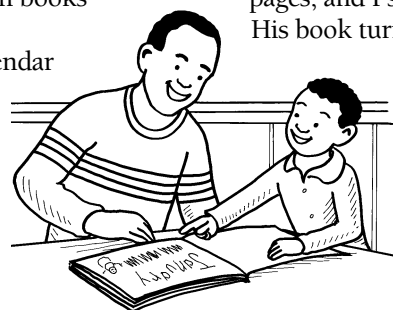
My calendar book

My son Elijah told me that his class writes and puts together "real books" this year, and he wanted to make his own books at home.

His first one was a "calendar book." He counted out 12 sheets of paper, and then I helped him write the name of a month on every page. Next, he thought about each month and added a

sentence describing it, such as "January is for snow," "March is for kites," and "August is for the beach."

Finally, Elijah illustrated the pages, and I stapled them together. His book turned out super cute, and



he was happy to read it to me. The pictures helped him read the names of the months. Next, he wants to make a book all about shapes.♥