

Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

May 2014

Waller Independent School District
First Grade, Second Grade, Third Grade

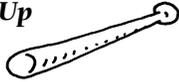
Book Picks



Read-aloud favorites

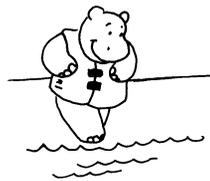
■ *The Fenway Foul-Up*

Who took star player Big D's lucky bat? Mike and Kate are watching the Boston Red Sox practice when a mystery unfolds. Now the two nine-year-olds must find the bat to help their team win the game. The first book in David A. Kelly's *Ballpark Mysteries* series.



■ *Hippos Can't Swim*

Hippos' bodies are too dense to float, but sea turtles can swim as fast as 35 miles per hour. This nonfiction book by Laura Lyn DiSiena and Hannah Eliot



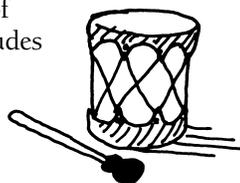
includes fascinating facts about various animals, such as raccoons, kangaroos, and great blue herons.

■ *Ladybug Girl and the Bug Squad*

When Lulu wears her ladybug costume, she becomes a superhero—Ladybug Girl! Her latest “mission” is to apologize for hurting her friend's feelings during a play date. Part of the *Ladybug Girl* series by David Soman and Jacky Davis. (Also available in Spanish.)

■ *More Than Moccasins*

The hands-on activities in Laurie Carlson's book introduce your child to different aspects of Native American cultures. He can learn to make simple toys and crafts, play traditional games, and communicate using codes. Each set of instructions includes tidbits about Native American history.

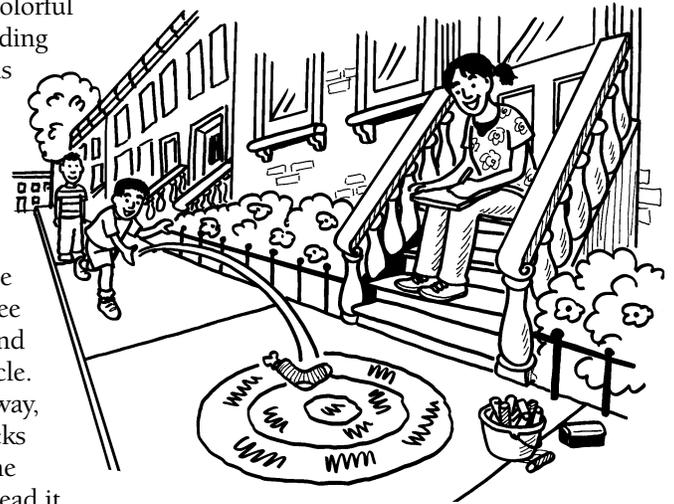


Adventures with sidewalk chalk

Make your sidewalk a colorful canvas for your child's reading and writing adventures this summer. Here's how.

Hit the target

Your youngster will write and read words with this game. Help him draw a target and write one word in the bull's-eye, three words in the next circle, and five words in the outer circle. To play, stand a few feet away, and toss bean bags (or socks filled with dry beans) at the words. If you hit a word, read it aloud and erase it. Score 1 point for outer words, 5 points for ones in the middle ring, and 10 for the bull's-eye word. Tally your scores. Then, write new words, and play again.



clues to figure out unknown words. Next, let him write a sentence for you.

Gather objects

This activity lets your youngster practice following written instructions. Draw a big triangle, and next to it, write what your child should put inside. For instance, you might write, “Find one short twig, one medium twig, and one long twig.” He has to read the directions and put the correct objects in the triangle. Finally, ask him to draw a different shape and write instructions for you to follow.♥

Guess the sentence

Have your child stand at one end of the sidewalk with his back to you. Starting right behind him, write a sentence—one word per sidewalk square. He walks or hops backward so he sees one word at a time and reads them aloud. Before he hops over the last word, ask him to guess what it will be. He'll practice using *context*

What's our word of the day?

Big words might sound scary to your youngster, but they don't have to. *Demystify*—there's a big word!—them by starting a word-of-the-day ritual in your house.

Each day, someone posts a new word on the refrigerator. You might find words in a book, in the newspaper, or on a food package. Look for words that sound interesting or are fun to say, such as *vibrant*, *astonishing*, and *mesmerized*.

Together, look up the word and read its definition aloud. Then, use it all day long. By the end of the day, your child will have added another word to her vocabulary!♥



Explore and experiment

It's fun to discover maps and do science experiments! Your youngster can try these ideas that combine reading with geography and science.

Geography expedition. Pin a world map to a wall in your child's room, and check out fact books about faraway places. Each time she reads about a different land, help her find it on the map and mark it with a sticker. Together, sound out the names of surrounding countries and cities. You could also talk about which



direction you'd travel to get there (north, south, east, or west) and what transportation you'd use (car, airplane, ship).

Science experiment.

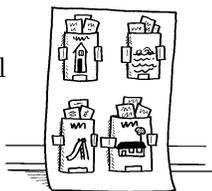
Check out a book of science experiments, and do a few together. This will help prepare your youngster for reading and doing experiments in school. For example, you might create a rainbow by

shining a flashlight through a glass of water onto white paper. As you go through the steps in the experiment, try to use science words from the book. "What do you *observe* on the paper?" (A rainbow.) "What is our *conclusion*?" (You can make a rainbow with light and water.) ♥

Summer to-do board

What will your family do this summer? Your child can help decide—and practice writing—by making this activity board.

1. Brainstorm places where your family will go (grandparents' house, swimming pool, park). Have your youngster write each one on an index card.



2. Help him make pockets by taping the cards—bottom and sides only—to a poster board.

3. For each location, your youngster should think of activities you could do while he's there. He can write his ideas on slips of paper and put them in the correct pockets. For the "grandparents' house" pocket, he might write, "Lie in the hammock and count fireflies," "Explore the attic," and "Bake cookies."

Before you go to one of the places on your board, he gets to pull out a slip and then do the activity while you're there. ♥



Q&A The thank-you habit

Q I want to get my son in the habit of writing thank-you notes from an early age. Any suggestions?

A Sure! Here's a thoughtful activity that will help—plus he'll spend time reading and writing.

First, have your son decorate a small box, such as a shoebox or tissue box, for each family member. Every week or so, he can write two or three short thank-you notes. For example, "Thanks for taking me to the circus, Mom! The tightrope walkers were my favorite." Or "Dear Andy, Thank you for helping me clean my fish bowl." Try adding a few of your own notes showing your appreciation. "Dear Ethan: Thank you for organizing the DVDs. The family room looks great."

Each time someone receives a thank-you note, let your child read it aloud to your family after dinner. ♥



Parent to Parent An outdoor reading nook

My daughter Leah has a cozy reading area in her room, but now that the weather is nice, I thought she might like a reading nook outside, too.

I helped her pack a tote bag with books for both of us, a dictionary for looking up words, snacks, and water bottles. Then, we walked around until we found a spot she liked in a grassy area near our

townhouse. It was shady and quiet, and one of the trees had fallen during a storm, giving us a log to lean against. So we settled in, read our books, and enjoyed a snack. Reading outdoors felt peaceful, and we read longer than we normally do.

Now Leah wants to visit her nook all the time—turns out, it was a great way to get both of us reading regularly! ♥



OUR PURPOSE

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

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