

Reading Connection

Working Together for Learning Success

October 2005

Book Picks



■ Lunch Money

Even though Greg is already a great athlete and artist, what he really wants is to make a lot of money. But what can he sell? The fun begins when Greg decides to peddle his own comic book at school in this story by Andrew Clements.



■ Lily B. on the Brink of Cool

It looks like another boring summer, until Lily meets a completely cool family of distant relatives. Author Elizabeth Cody Kimmel introduces Lily through her journal, where Lily and the reader discover that this family isn't what it seems to be.

■ Animals Eat the Weirdest Things

Satisfy a taste for the unusual in this book of the strange and sometimes gross things animals eat.



Color illustrations and boxed highlights make this book by Diane Swanson both entertaining and informative.

■ When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit

In 1933, Anna's life changes when her father disappears and her family must leave Germany to escape the Nazis. Judith Kerr traces Anna's journey from country to country as the family searches for safety. (Also available in Spanish.)



Do as I do

Encouraging young readers

Have you ever heard the phrase, "Do as I say, not as I do"? When it comes to your child, promoting reading habits may be as simple as demonstrating them yourself.

Try modeling some of these reading behaviors for your youngster.

Explore everyday reading.

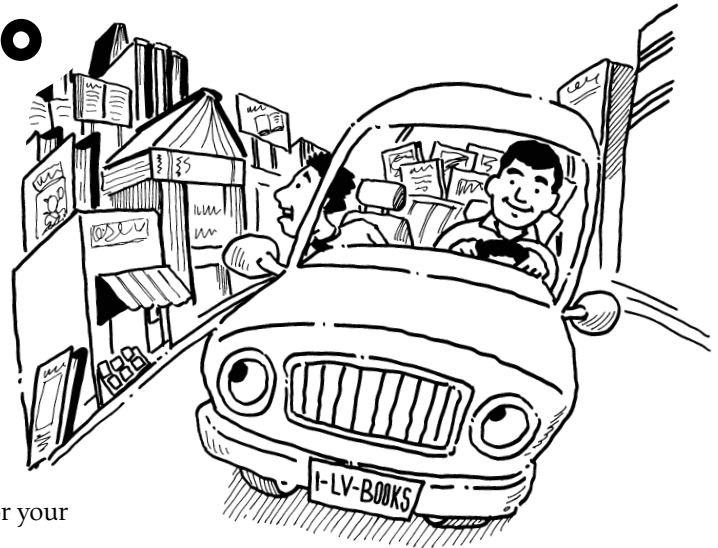
Introduce your child to the types of reading that help you get through the day. Show him lists you make to keep track of errands. Point out signs that guide your way as you travel. Let your youngster see you using phone books, maps, recipes, and instruction manuals.

Offer reading materials.

The next time you head out to the library or bookstore, invite your child to go along. Including your youngster gives her the opportunity to see the many types of reading materials that are available. She just might find a book or magazine she'd enjoy reading, too.

Choose reading for leisure time.

Simply picking up the evening paper and reading quietly, instead of switching on the television, will show your child that you value reading for pleasure. Consider



reading where he will see you for at least a few minutes each day.

Share reading. When you find something you enjoy, read it out loud to your family. Controversial statements might spark a discussion, while lighter pieces can inspire a shared laugh! ■

Subject-verb agreement

In a sentence, the "subject" (a thing or person) must agree in number with the action being performed (the "verb"). Share these tips on subject-verb agreement with your child:

■ When the subject is singular, the verb must also be singular. *Example:* "My brother goes to work." When the subject is plural, the verb must also be plural: "My sisters go to dance class."

■ Sometimes subjects and verbs are separated by other words. You must think carefully to make the words agree. *Example:* "The members of the club meet weekly." The subject is "members" and plural, so the verb "meet" must agree with "members," even though "club" is closer to the verb. ■

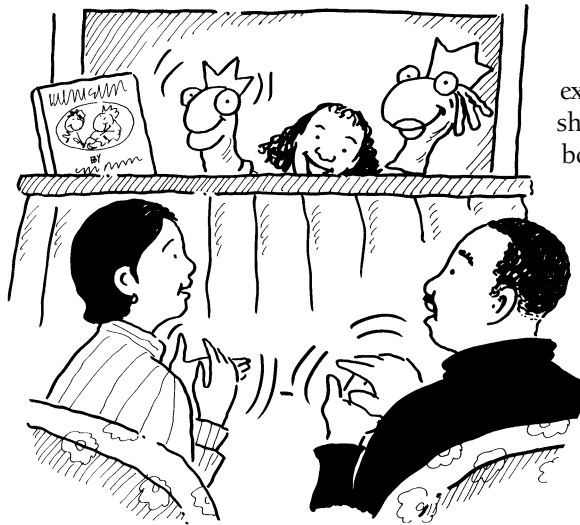


Q&A Book report primer

Q My daughter has to present several book reports this year. She's already complaining, even though she can choose any format she likes. How can I help her?

A Begin by encouraging your youngster to spend some time thinking about which books she'll read. Writing will seem less like a chore if she chooses books she enjoys.

Suggest that she get an early start so she has plenty of time to read the book before preparing her report. Remind her to read the entire book, not just skim it.



Finally, help her explore the various ways she could present the book reports. Does she have a flair for the dramatic? She might want to reenact a scene in a puppet show. If she's artistic, challenge her to design a book jacket. A child who likes to build could create a scene in a shoe box.

Choosing a book and format she likes, as well as being prepared, will make working on and sharing her report more enjoyable. 📖

Fun with Words Rooting out root words

Want to build your children's vocabulary? Help them learn root words, a key to guessing the meanings of new words. *Example:* "Bio" means "life," and "graph" means "write." So, a "biography" is a written life story.



Write 10 root words and their definitions on index cards. Shuffle the cards and place them face down in a stack. Players take turns flipping over a card from the pile and saying a word that uses the root. If a player thinks of a word, she gets to keep the card. If she can't come up with a word, she replaces the card and reshuffles the stack. Whoever collects the most cards wins.

Try roots like "hydro" (water), "biblio" (book), and "geo" (earth). For more root words, check out *Best-Ever Vocabulary Word Study Games* by Lorraine Hopping Egan, or go to www.awrsd.org/oak/Library/greek_and_latin_root_words.htm. 📖

OUR PURPOSE

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

Resources for Educators,
a division of Aspen Publishers, Inc.
3035 Valley Avenue, Suite 103, Winchester, VA 22601
(540) 723-0322 • rfecustomer@aspenpubl.com
ISSN 1540-5583

Other Picks

MAGAZINES

■ Dig

Do you have a budding archaeologist in your family?

Dig is filled with fascinating facts about ancient and modern people and cultures. Published nine times a year, each issue focuses on a specific theme like mummies or Civil War battlefields. 800-821-0115, www.digonsite.com

■ Popular Science

Excite your child's imagination as he learns about the latest gadgets and advancements in transportation, computers, and outer space. Regular features explain new ideas in science and technology. 800-289-9399, www.popsci.com



WEB SITES

■ A Game a Day

Beef up critical-thinking skills and problem solving with a daily brain exercise. This site rotates games like brainteasers, word searches, anagrams, and trivia quizzes for every day of the month. Two skill levels to choose from. www.agameaday.com

■ Kids Party Fun

Let your child be in on the fun of planning your family's next party. From making invitations and decorations to party themes, this site has it all. Spark creativity during any holiday. www.kidspartyfun.com



Parent 2 Parent Seeing clearly

Last year, my son seemed to tire quickly and sometimes complained of headaches. He once told me that pulling on the corners of his eyes when reading made the words clearer!

I knew he must be having trouble with his eyesight, so I scheduled an appointment with a doctor. Sure enough, she discovered astigmatism, an eye disorder that makes it difficult to focus. The doctor told us that people with astigmatism often squint or tilt

their heads to try to correct blurry vision. She also said it can grow worse with age.

My son's vision problems were solved with a pair of glasses that he wears for reading. And because he's still growing, we plan to visit the doctor every year to have his eyes retested. 📖

