

Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

September 2014

Wake County Public Schools Title I
Melanie Rhoads, Director

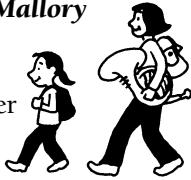
Book Picks

Read-aloud favorites

■ *Back to School, Mallory*

(Laurie Friedman)

Mallory and her music teacher mother are starting at a new school—together.



At first, the little girl is unhappy about being a new student and bringing her mom along. Will she change her mind? Part of the Mallory series of chapter books. (Also available in Spanish.)

■ *The Boy Who Loved Math:*

The Improbable Life of Paul Erdos

(Deborah Heiligman)

The son of two math teachers, Paul loved numbers. In fact, he counted and did math all day long. This biography shows how he grew up to be a famous mathematician and travel around the world to share his knowledge.

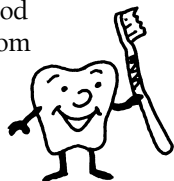


■ *Ball* (Mary Sullivan)

Everyone knows that dogs love to play fetch. This picture book, in which the only word is “ball,” shows an adorable little girl and her dog enjoying the game. The dog’s only problem is how to occupy himself while the girl is at school.

■ *Open Wide: Tooth School Inside*

If teeth were students, what would their school day be like? In this cute story, the 32 teeth learn about brushing and flossing, have a food fight, and get a visit from the tooth fairy. Your youngster will enjoy the fun lesson on dental hygiene.



A reading-friendly home

Your child learned to talk by listening to people talk. Everywhere he went, he heard words, and he probably repeated lots of them.

Learning to read is kind of like that, too. If your youngster sees people reading and is surrounded by letters, words, and books, he’ll naturally pick up reading skills. Here’s how to make your home a great place to raise a reader.



Words, words everywhere

Stick magnetic letters on your refrigerator, and arrange them to make a different word each day. Use index cards to label objects in your house (“wall,” “chair,” “table”). Seeing the words regularly will help your child learn to read them.

Front and center

Put books on the coffee table, in the car, and on nightstands. Leave the cereal box on the table during breakfast. Place

takeout menus in your youngster’s toy kitchen. He will get the message that reading is part of life, and he’ll always have something to read within arm’s reach.

Readers all around

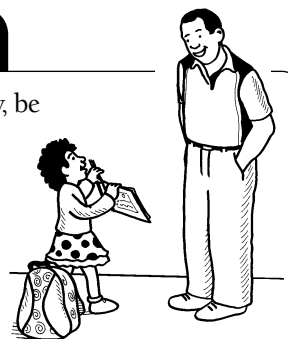
If your child sees people he loves enjoying books, it can make him want to read, too! And the more he reads, the better he’ll be at it. You could set aside a regular family reading time—say, every evening after the dinner dishes are done.♥

“What did you read in school today?”

When you ask your child what she did in school today, be sure to ask about what she read, too. Showing interest in school—and in reading—is an important way of helping her succeed. Here’s how:

- Have your youngster tell you the title and author of a book her teacher read aloud or that she read by herself. Encourage her to summarize by asking, “What was it about?” Or help her pick out information and give opinions by saying, “What was your favorite fact in the book?”

- If your child mentions a book she particularly liked, visit the public library to check it out. She’ll take pride in showing you a book she’s familiar with, and reading it again will deepen her understanding.♥

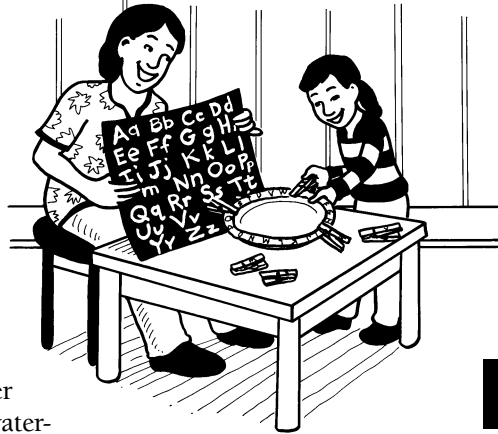


B is for button

Recognizing letters paves the way for reading and writing. Make learning about the alphabet extra fun for your youngster with these ideas.

A BC "magic"

Here's a "magical" activity that will result in a handy alphabet chart for your child. Help her print the alphabet (uppercase and lowercase) on white paper using a white crayon. Then, let her use watercolors to paint over the letters—they will show up! Ask her to identify the letters as they appear so she can practice naming them.



Button letters

This ABC activity is cute as a button. Have your youngster glue buttons, beans, or other small objects on index cards to form letters, looking at her chart to make them correctly. This will help her feel the letters' shapes so she learns them more quickly. She could hang her alphabet cards in order on a wall.

Clothespin matchup

Encourage your child to match uppercase and lowercase letters. First, work together to write the uppercase alphabet around the edge of a paper plate. Then, use a permanent marker to print each lowercase letter on a clothespin. Your youngster can pair them up by clipping the lowercase clothespins on the correct uppercase letters. *Hint:* She can use her alphabet chart as a reference if she gets stuck.♥

Fun with Words

What am I?

Writing is fun with this guessing game that lets your youngster practice using facts.

1. Ask your child to think of an animal, a food, or a place that could be the answer to a "riddle." Then he can work backward to write the riddle itself.



2. Have him write facts about the answer. For *squirrel*, he might list, "Eats nuts, has a bushy tail, can be gray or brown." (Let him dictate facts to you if he isn't writing on his own yet.)

3. Help your youngster use his list to write the riddle: "I eat nuts. I have a bushy tail. I can be gray or brown. What am I?"

4. Now he can read his riddle aloud to someone else. Can that person figure out the answer?

5. Once your child has the hang of it, take turns writing riddles for each other.♥

Q&A

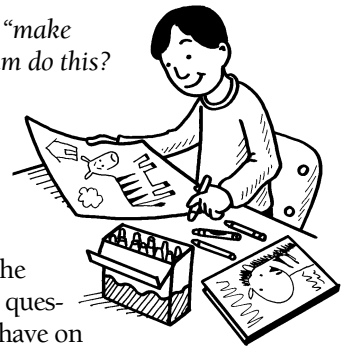
Story time: Listen and draw

Q My son told me his teacher said that good readers "make movies" in their heads as they read. How can I help him do this?

A Your son's teacher is right—*visualizing* is an important strategy for understanding books. Strengthen your son's reading comprehension with this idea.

When you read him a story, give him paper and crayons. As you read, encourage him to draw what he imagines. If his picture doesn't have much detail, ask questions like "What expression does the main character have on his face?" or "What does his house look like?"

Also, have him look at the book for information to help him fill out his drawing. ("Oh, it says the zebra looked unhappy, so I'll give him a sad face.") He'll practice visualizing the scenes so that he does it naturally—even when he's not drawing.♥



Parent to Parent

Family announcements

At my daughter's school, older students read morning announcements over the school's public address system. Caroline wants to be a school "newscaster" when she's older, and in the meantime, she asked if she could make family announcements at home.

I suggested that she write down important information throughout the week and announce it to us before bed on Sundays. Now every week,

she makes notes about things like her brother's upcoming strings concert, an award I won at work, and a reminder for everyone to rinse recyclables before putting them in the bin. Then on Sundays, she reads her notices aloud in her best announcer's voice.

Even if Caroline doesn't get to be a newscaster, she's having fun. Plus, she's getting public speaking practice at home!♥



OUR PURPOSE

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

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a division of CCH Incorporated
128 N. Royal Avenue • Front Royal, VA 22630
540-636-4280 • rfeustomer@wolterskluwer.com
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