

# Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

May 2009

Lake Washington School District  
Safety Net

## Book Picks



Read-aloud favorites

### ■ Little Night

Mother Sky coaxes Little Night through her evening routine: bathing in a tub of stars, dressing in a cloud gown, drinking from the Milky Way. Wanting only to play, Night hides after each task. Yuyi Morales adds a fun twist to your child's familiar bedtime routine. Available in Spanish.



### ■ The Big Orange Splot

A seagull drops a can of orange paint on Mr. Plumbean's house in Daniel Pinkwater's classic story. When his neighbors ask him to paint his house, he does—with brightly colored splots, stripes, and pictures. At first the neighbors complain, but soon his creativity inspires them to transform their houses, too.

### ■ The Hello, Goodbye Window

The little girl in Norton Juster's story loves visiting her grandparents in the summer. She rides a bike, has dinner, and listens to music. But what she remembers most is Nanny and Poppy's "hello, goodbye" window, where she gets her first and last glimpse of them on each visit.



### ■ Lady Liberty

Doreen Rappaport tells the true story of the Statue of Liberty and those who created it: the French professor who gave America its 100th birthday gift, the poet whose words are engraved on the statue. The book also includes facts about the statue and a timeline of its creation.



## Reading on location

Encourage your child to get out this summer and read! From libraries and bookstores to theaters and zoos, he can read anywhere. Try these ideas to keep his reading skills sharp for the fall.

### Visit "bookish" places

Take your youngster to places where book lovers go, such as libraries, bookstores, and coffeehouses. Seeing others enjoying reading will motivate him to read. Be sure to stop by these places on vacation, too. You can find other spots by asking at a local visitors center—you might tour an author's home that has been turned into a museum or see a famous setting described in a story.

### Find your way

Show your child that reading is an important part of everyday life. When you walk through your neighborhood or drive in the car, ask him to help you navigate by reading street signs. At an airport or a train or bus station, have



him read your tickets and sound out the destinations on the schedule boards.

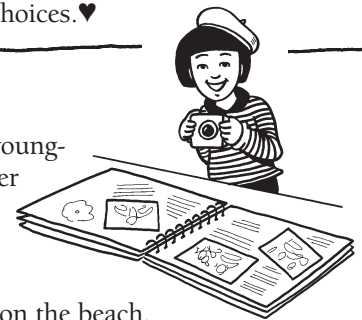
### Plan outings

Go places where your youngster can read for information. You might attend a play or musical and help him read the program during intermission—he'll learn more about the story and the actors. Visit a zoo or an aquarium where he can read descriptions of the animals and find out what they like to eat. At a garden center, have him read plant names and care instructions to help you make choices.♥

## A reading scrapbook

"That's me reading on the beach!" Help your youngster make a scrapbook to keep track of her summer reading. When she looks back in September, she may be surprised by how much she has read.

1. Snap photos of your child at story hours or reading at the playground, in your backyard, and on the beach.
2. Give her the camera so she can take shots of books she finishes and places where she reads. Encourage her to collect brochures, take-out menus, and other items she reads, too.
3. Let your youngster arrange the photos and reading souvenirs in an album. Underneath each, help her write captions.♥



# Give me five!

Got a few minutes? Here are five writing projects your child can do in five minutes or less.

**1. Postcards.** Suggest that your youngster and a classmate become postcard pen pals. Show her how to write a greeting (“Dear Sasha”), a sentence about herself (“I am learning to swim”), a question (“Do you like to go swimming?”), and a closing (“Your friend, Jenny”).

**2. Forms.** Ask her to help you complete forms at the doctor’s office or during camp registration. She can write her birthday, age, and telephone number. For fun, let her fill out subscription cards from magazines.



**3. Labels.** Have your child write her name on back-to-school items like her backpack, lunch box, and folders. Or she could label toy bins in her room (“Puzzles,” “Dolls”).

**4. Artwork.** Encourage her to add writing to her designs. If she

makes a clay sculpture, she can describe it on an index card for display. Or she might write a sentence on drawings or paintings telling about her picture.

**5. Messages.** Teach your youngster to answer the telephone, and put her in charge of taking messages. She can write them on sticky notes kept next to the phone.♥

## Fun with Words

### Build a sentence

Sentences are the building blocks of books. Try these ideas to help your youngster understand and write sentences.

**Materials:** pencil, sheets of paper cut into strips (about 3 inches high)

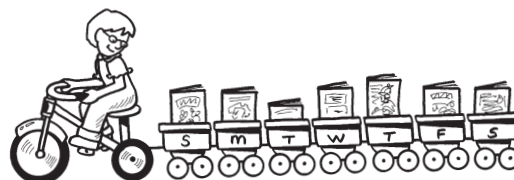
- Copy a sentence from a book onto a strip. Let your child find the sentence in the story. Then, cut the sentence into words, and have him put them back together.



- Open to a random page in a book. Help him write a sentence onto a strip using two or more words from the page.

- Ask your youngster to copy each line of a poem or nursery rhyme on separate sentence strips. Hang them on the refrigerator for frequent reading. *Tip:* Motivate him to read the words with a special pointer, such as a colorful eraser stuck on the end of a pencil.♥

## Children's Book Week



Does your child need a reason to read? No. But it’s fun to have one! Celebrate Children’s Book Week (May 11–17) with these activities:

- Read a different kind of book each day, from Nonfiction Monday to Poetry Sunday. Try biographies, how-to books, mysteries, and joke books. You’ll expose your youngster to a wide variety of reading choices.
- Hold your own family book awards. Have each person select his or her top three children’s books. Take a vote, and give out prizes for first, second, and third place. Let your child make “medals” for the winning books. Then, read them together.
- Every year, a poster is distributed to schools to celebrate Book Week. Suggest that your youngster design her own poster. She can hang it on her bedroom door for regular reading inspiration.♥

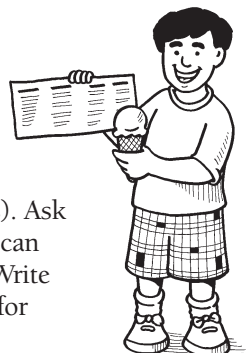
## Q&A Summer spelling

**Q** My son has struggled with spelling this year. What’s an easy and fun way he can practice over the summer?

**A** Why not let your son come up with words he wants to spell? Let him pick a summer theme each week (ice cream flavors, carnival rides). Ask him to say all the words he can think of for each category. Write them down and choose 10 for him to learn that week.

Then, think of ways he can play with the words. He might sort them into categories (ice cream flavors made with fruit or without fruit; words with one, two, or three syllables). Or he could type each word on the computer in fun fonts and colors.

When your child goes back to school, he’ll know how to spell a lot of new words—and he’ll be ready to tackle his weekly tests once again.♥



### 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.  
128 N. Royal Avenue • Front Royal, VA 22630  
540-636-4280 • rfeustomer@wolterskluwer.com  
www.rfeonline.com  
ISSN 1540-5648