Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

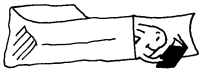
Beginning Edition

December 2015

Public School 214 Q

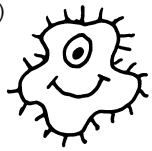
Denise Fuccillo, Principal

Book Picks



Read-aloud favorites

■ ***Tiny Creatures: The World of Microbes*** *(Nicola Davies)*



Germs make us sick, right? Actually, very few kinds of microbes, tiny organisms like viruses and bacteria, cause illness. Microbes are everywhere, and most of them are helpful. Your child will learn about these microscopic creatures in this fascinating nonfiction book.

■ ***The Best Story*** *(Eileen Spinelli)*

A little girl enters a writing contest to win a roller coaster ride with her favorite author. Everyone in her family has advice about what a good story should include, so she writes one with action, humor, and romance. Then, her mom gives her the best advice of all—and she rewrites her story straight from her heart.

■ ***Stick and Stone*** *(Beth Ferry)*

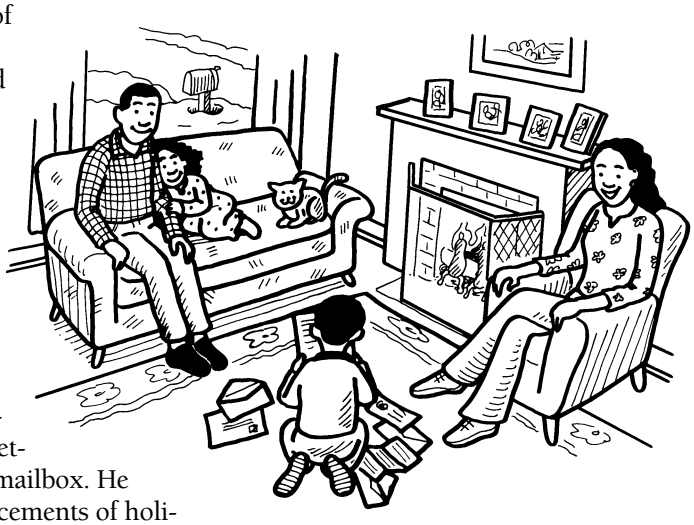
Stick knows just what to do when he sees Pinecone bullying Stone—he sticks up for the little rock. That's all it takes for the pair to become loyal friends. Will Pinecone apologize for being a bully and make friends with them, too?

■ ***Please, Mr. Panda*** *(Steve Antony)*

An ostrich, a skunk, and all the other black-and-white animals want the same thing: one of Mr. Panda's colorful doughnuts. Unfortunately, they forget to say "please" and "thank you" when they ask for their treats. A cute manners lesson. (Also available in Spanish.)

A reading vacation

Winter break is full of opportunities for your youngster to read—and for your family to spend extra time together. Try these activities that fit right into the season.



Check the mail

Gather in the living room, and let your child read aloud from the greeting cards, postcards, and family newsletters that arrive in your mailbox. He could also read announcements of holiday events—this will give him practice reading dates, times, and addresses, too.

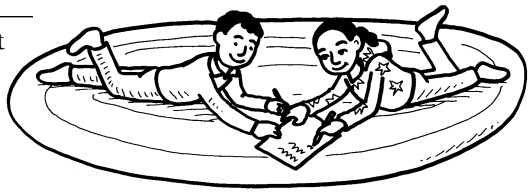
Read to relatives

It's fun to snuggle up and read to Grandpa! If you visit with relatives, your youngster could show them how he's learning to read. If you're not seeing extended family in person, suggest that your child read to them long-distance via phone call or video chat. *Idea:* Get a book of plays for children. He and his cousins could choose one, practice reading their lines, and perform it for the adults.

Play, build, or cook

Your youngster can practice reading instructions when you play a board game, assemble a train set, or make a holiday casserole. Help him read each step aloud. Diagrams and other graphics often accompany assembly instructions—and when your child uses them, tell him that's "reading," too.♥

Let's write poetry



Is your child a poet who doesn't know it? Suggest that she turn to favorite books or best friends for inspiration. Here's how.

● **From book to poem.** Have your youngster look through a book and pick out words she could rhyme. In a nonfiction book about castles, she might choose *knight* and *bright* or *moat* and *boat*. "In the castle lived a very brave *knight*. His suit of armor was shiny and *bright*."

● **Poems with friends.** Encourage your child to write a poem with a friend. They could take turns adding lines to their verse. Have them agree on a topic (say, recess). Then, your youngster could write, "We love flying high on swings," and her friend might add, "And hanging from bars and rings."♥

© 2015 Resources for Educators, a division of CCH Incorporated

At the library

The library is more than a building full of free books to read. It's also a place to make memories and help your youngster develop a love of reading. Consider these ideas.

Read around a theme. Ask your child to pick a theme for your library visit. *Examples:* snow, holidays, foods around the world. Then, go on an adventure to find related material. For snow, your youngster might check out a picture book about a snowman, a nonfiction book about an Olympic skier, and a winter issue of *National Geographic Kids* magazine.

Learn from story time. Library story hours are a great way for your child to discover new books. Attend one, and then let your youngster use it as a jumping-off point. She might look up stories by an author she enjoyed or a graphic novel like the one the librarian read.

Tour your area. If your library system has multiple branches, try visiting a few. The children's sections probably have different types of reading areas, book selections, and activities. Together, you'll become familiar with all that your libraries have to offer.♥

Q&A Young researchers

Q *This year in school, my daughter has to do research on an inventor of her choice. That sounds like a big job for a little one! How can I help her?*

A You might think of research as something that older kids do. But research is just the process of gathering information.

Your daughter may collect facts about her inventor by reading a biography or visiting a museum website. She could even interview a neighbor or relative who uses one of the person's inventions on the job.

Remind your daughter that she should always double-check facts in case a book or a website is incorrect or outdated. If a book says an inventor had more than 100 patents, she could see if a history or education website states the same number.♥

Parent to Parent Make a writing kit

My son, Evan, wasn't showing a lot of interest in writing stories. I remembered that our daughter really enjoyed writing with glitter pens and little notepads. That gave me an idea.

I gathered supplies like paper, sticky notes, index cards, colored pens and pencils, blank cards and envelopes, a hole puncher, scissors, and glue. I put everything into a shoe box, labeled it "Evan's Writing Kit," and presented the box to my son.

At first, he just drew pictures, but soon he began leaving notes around the house for us to read. And one day, he showed me a book he wrote about trucks. He had drawn and labeled a different type of vehicle on each index card, hole-punched the cards, and fastened them together with a nut and bolt!

Having his own writing kit with various materials seems to motivate Evan—and the whole family is enjoying his writing.♥

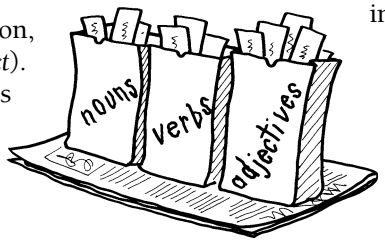
Fun with Words Parts-of-speech bags

Noun, verb, or adjective…this game makes it fun to identify parts of speech.

Materials: *3 paper lunch bags, marker, scissors, old newspapers and magazines*

First, help your youngster label each bag with a different part of speech: nouns, verbs, and adjectives. Can he tell you what each one does? If he isn't sure, here's a quick guide:

- A noun names a person, place, or thing (*cricket*).
- An adjective describes a noun or pronoun (*loud*).
- A verb shows action (*chirps*).



Then, have your child cut apart headlines into individual words and sort them into the bags. (Set aside any words that don't fit into the categories.)

Finally, he can draw one word from each bag and try to make up a sentence that includes all of them. *Example:* A cricket chirps loudly, but he is not as loud as a cicada.

Note: When he's comfortable identifying those parts of speech, add bags for pronouns and adverbs. A pronoun takes the place of a noun (*he* instead of *cricket*). An adverb describes a verb (*loudly*).♥

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

© 2015 Resources for Educators, a division of CCH Incorporated