

# Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

September 2021

## Book Picks

Read-aloud favorites

### ■ *Click, Clack, Quack to School!* (Doreen Cronin)

It's Farm Day at school, and Farmer Brown and his animals are invited. But there are a few problems. First of all, mooing, clucking, and quacking aren't allowed. And as it turns out, neither are barnyard animals, so the farmer goes to school alone. Or does he? Find out in this story from the Click Clack series.

### ■ *Rosie Revere and the Raucous Riveters* (Andrea Beaty)

Rosie, a young girl who loves engineering, is working on a contraption that uses ketchup to keep snakes away. Then she's asked to help the Raucous Riveters, her aunt's group of airplane-building women. When things don't go as planned, she learns a valuable lesson in perseverance. Book one in The Questioners series. (Also available in Spanish.)

### ■ *Wild Symphony* (Dan Brown)

Join Maestro Mouse's colorful symphony of birds, crickets, cats, whales, and other creatures in this rhyming story. Each animal has an important lesson to share, and the pages hold hidden messages that lead to a surprise at the end. Includes a free app that plays music as you read.

### ■ *Power Up* (Seth Fishman)

This nonfiction book explores the incredible human body and the energy we use to do things like read, run, and think. Your youngster will learn the importance of powering her mind and body with books, food, exercise, and more.



## Reading aloud—together!

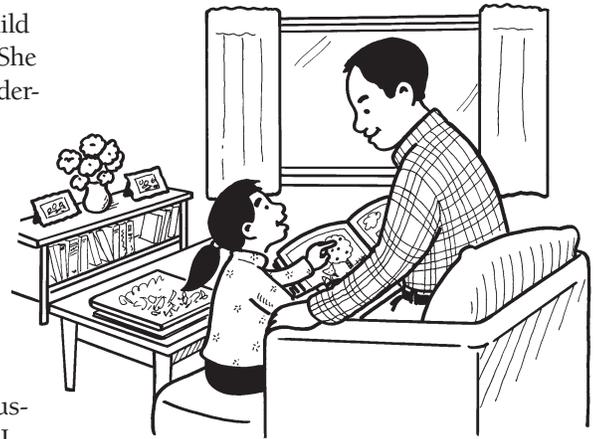
What happens when your child participates as you read to her? She learns to be an active reader, understands books more deeply, and discovers new words. Try these suggestions for getting the most out of read-aloud time.

### Get to know a book

Before you read a book to your youngster, ask what she can tell about it just from the cover. She might look at the illustration, read the title, and say, "I think Fox is going to try to make a new friend." She could also flip through and look at a few of the pictures inside. This will prepare her to listen to and understand the book.

### Pause to chat

Let your child set the pace when you read. She might stop you to ask what a word means, examine an illustration closely, or share something that the book reminds her of—all of which help her understand a story better. You could also pause from time to time to laugh or



wonder aloud about the story yourself, and you'll encourage her to do the same.

### Mix things up

Becoming familiar with different kinds of books can turn your youngster into a well-rounded reader. Try wordless books, and work together to "read" the story. Also read alphabet books, and encourage her to say more words that start with each letter. You could even read aloud from a kids' cookbook and let her choose recipes for the two of you to make.♥

## Storytelling in a box

Telling stories as a family builds bonds—and boosts your youngster's writing and speaking skills. Get started with a box full of inspiration.

● **Gather items.** Together, fill a shoebox with small objects that could spark stories. He might choose items from nature (acorn, pinecone), toys (action figure, dump truck), junk-drawer "treasures" (button, refrigerator magnet).

● **Tell stories.** Now take turns choosing objects and starting stories about them. Your child might begin, "A little squirrel was gathering acorns." You could continue, "He decided to load them into a dump truck to make carrying them easier!"

Tip: Swap out items in your storytelling box regularly to inspire new tales.♥



# What sounds are in that word?

Welcome back to sch-oo-l! Can your youngster hear the separate sounds in school? Hearing individual sounds is an important step toward reading success. Use these activities to help him notice sounds in words.

**Snack on sounds.** Label three cups “Beginning,” “Middle,” and “End,” and place them upside-down in a row. While your child looks away, hide a snack (cracker, pretzel) under the middle



cup. Now ask, “Where is the *e* sound in *pet*?” and ask him to look under the cup that matches where the sound is in the word. If he picks middle, he’ll find the snack! Repeat by putting a snack under the first cup (“Where is the *c* sound in *cat*?”) and then the last one (“Where is the *l* sound in *ball*?”).

**Talk like a robot.** Encourage your youngster to blend the sounds in a word together. Pretend to be a robot, and say a single-syllable word one sound at a time (example: “*B-e-e-p*”).

Have your child try to figure out the robot’s word by repeating the sounds, saying them a little faster each time to make them blend (“*B-e-e-p, b-eeep, beep!*”). Now it’s his turn to be the robot and say a new word.♥

## Fun with Words

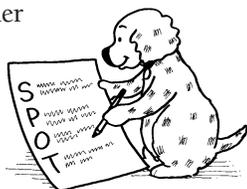
### Learning with names



Your child’s name is one of the first words she learned to read and write. Help her explore the letters in her name—and in other family members’ names—with these ideas.

#### All about me

Have your youngster print her name vertically down the left side of a sheet of paper. Now help her write a word or phrase to describe herself that begins with each letter. Lila might include “loves her family,” “interested in science,” “laughs a lot,” and “acts in school plays.”



## Q&A An at-home writer’s notebook

**Q** My granddaughter came home excited about her writer’s notebook in school. Now she wants to start one at home, too. How can I help her?

**A** It’s great that your granddaughter is enjoying her writer’s notebook. Let her decorate a special notebook to use at home—and to take with her wherever she goes.

She could use her notebook to write about her favorite things (unicorns, tacos, playgrounds), brainstorm a list of names for story characters she’d like to write about, or draw pictures that may lead to stories. She might even keep her notebook beside her bed to write about her dreams.

Invite your granddaughter to share her notebook with you. And add to her excitement by telling her that many famous authors keep writer’s notebooks. They use them to collect ideas and to stay in the habit of writing every day!♥



#### Count and compare

Help your child print each family member’s name on construction paper and cut it out. (Don’t forget pets!) Now she can count the letters in each name and line them up from shortest to longest. Then, take turns saying something that two or more family members’ names have in common. (“Dad and the cat both have *s-c-o-t* in their names—Scott and Butterscotch!”)♥

## Parent to Parent

### Parents who read and write

At back-to-school night, my son Andrew’s teacher said it’s good for kids to see their parents reading and writing. They learn that those skills are an important part of everyday life, the teacher explained.

I realized Andrew might not know how often I read and write, since I mostly do it online. So on our next pizza night, we read the print menu together and wrote down which toppings everyone wanted. He helped

me order online, and while we waited for the pizza, I checked my email. I read an email from his aunt aloud, and Andrew helped me write a reply.

As I read my son’s bedtime story that night, I told him I was looking forward to reading my new novel in bed. He said,

“You read yourself a bedtime story?” I told him bedtime stories are for everyone—and I hope reading them becomes a lifelong habit for him like it has for me.♥



**OUR PURPOSE**

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

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