

# Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

December 2014

Title I / Learning Assistance Programs

## Book Picks

### Read-aloud favorites

#### ■ *A Splash of Red: The Life and Art of Horace Pippin* (Jen Bryant)

As a little boy, Horace made art with anything he could find, like left-over house paint and scraps of charcoal.

This picture-book biography shows how he grew up to become a famous painter without ever taking art lessons. A true story about perseverance.



#### ■ *Pinduli* (Janell Cannon)

A little hyena named Pinduli is teased about her looks by the other animals in the African savanna. Pinduli tries to hide her flaws and ends up accidentally teaching the zebra, the lion, the wild dogs—and herself—an important lesson about bullying.

#### ■ *We the Kids* (David Catrow)

This book illustrates the preamble to the U.S. Constitution with pictures of three kids and a dog camping in the backyard. Using the ideas in the preamble, the campers follow rules and stay safe. An introduction to the Constitution that young readers can understand.



#### ■ *I Wish I Had Glasses Like Rosa*

(Deborah Hembrook and Kathryn Helig)

Glasses are cool!

That's the message in this story about friends Abby and Rosa. Abby thinks Rosa looks beautiful in her glasses, so she finds ways to wear glasses, too—from safety glasses for building a birdhouse to goggles at the pool and even “glasses” she makes out of clay. (Also available in Spanish.)



## Design and write

Playing “print shop” is a great way for your child to practice writing. Try these ideas to encourage her to write for different purposes.

### Greeting cards

Suggest that your youngster make a supply of birthday and holiday cards to give friends and relatives throughout the year. On the front of each, she can write a greeting (“Happy Birthday,” “Happy New Year”) and draw a picture. Then, help her write a sentence or verse inside (“I hope your birthday is fun!”). A more experienced writer might include a rhyming verse: “Roses are red, violets are blue. I’m excited to spend the New Year with you.”



### Award certificates

Let your child make certificates in honor of family members’ accomplishments. Getting a promotion, completing a 5K race, performing a violin solo...all of these are cause for celebration. Write

“Certificate of Achievement” at the top of a piece of paper. Your youngster can fill in the person’s name, the date, and the accomplishment. She could illustrate the award and hand it out at dinner.

### Signs

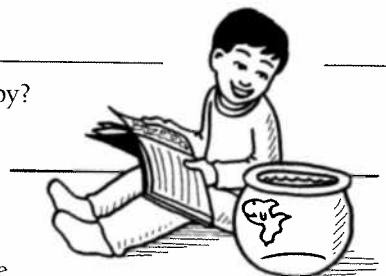
Ask your child to create signs to hang around the house. She can start with her bedroom door (“Emma’s Room”) and your door (“Mom and Dad’s room”). Next, she might post “Cool stuff” on the refrigerator, “Knock, please” on the bathroom door, and “Children playing” in the family room. ♥

## Share reading

Has your youngster ever read aloud to a baby? How about to a goldfish? Consider these suggestions to help him gain confidence—and have fun—reading out loud.

● **Younger kids.** If you attend a family gathering, encourage your child to take along favorite books. Younger cousins and siblings will love story time led by your youngster.

● **Animals.** Your child will get a kick out of reading to his pet, whether it’s a dog, cat, guinea pig, or goldfish. If he doesn’t have a pet, he might be able to read to one at a relative’s or neighbor’s home. Also, some animal shelters and libraries have programs where kids can read to dogs or cats. ♥



# Supporting a new reader

It's exciting when your child first begins to read. In addition to reading with him, here are three things you can do to help him make progress.

**1. Talk about reading.** Tell your youngster what you read today, whether it was a memo for work, instructions for a sewing project, or a magazine for pleasure. This shows him that reading is something grown-ups do, too.



**2. Team up with teachers.** Kids succeed with reading when parents and teachers work together. Find out whether your child is reading at the level his teacher expects this time of year. If he's below where he should be, ask what you could do at home to help.

**3. Read, then write.** Writing will help your youngster with reading, and vice

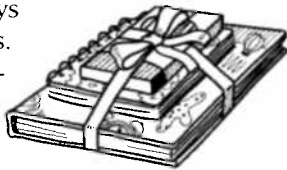
versa. After he reads a book that he likes, suggest that he write and draw about his favorite part. You might help by giving him a fill-in-the-blank sentence to complete: "My favorite part was \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_." ♥

## Q&A Gifts that teach



**Q** A few relatives have asked for suggestions of gifts to give my daughter. Can you recommend gifts that would help her with reading and writing?

**A** Books always make great gifts. You could mention an author or a series that your daughter enjoys.



Other ideas include a picture dictionary for looking up spellings and definitions, journals and colorful pens to inspire writing, and board or card games that teach her about words. Small, portable family games are a good bet, too. They might try Spot It! Alphabet, Pairs in Pears, or Scrabble Slam. There are also board games based on favorite books, such as Goodnight Moon Game and The Very Hungry Caterpillar Game.

Finally, toys that encourage creativity and language can help her read and write. Consider asking relatives for items like finger puppets, flannel board sets, and storytelling dice. ♥

## Fun with Words

### All about alliteration

"Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers." This familiar tongue twister is an example of *alliteration*—all of the words begin with the same sound. Encourage your youngster to make up her own tongue twisters. She'll practice hearing beginning sounds in words and pronouncing words carefully.

First, have her pick a name—she'll probably want to start with her own. So Beth could use B. Then, ask her to think of a verb, or an action word (*bouncing*), and related words (*basketball*, *basket*). Together, arrange the words to make a tongue twister: "Beth bounces basketballs beneath the basket." Who can say it the most times without messing up?

After she finishes laughing, let your child choose another name and make up another silly tongue twister! ♥



## Parent to Parent

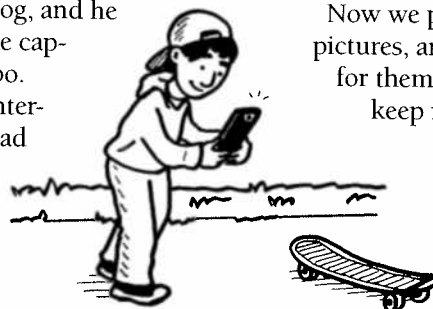
### Take a picture, write a caption

My son, Lionel, loves to take pictures with my phone. One day, he saw me type a caption for a picture I posted on my blog, and he said he wanted to write captions for his photos, too.

I was glad he was interested in writing, so I had a few of his pictures printed at a local store. I let Lionel glue each photo on a sheet of paper, and

then he wrote a caption beneath it. For the one showing our yard after a big snowstorm, he wrote, "We got four feet of snow!"

Now we print Lionel's favorite pictures, and he writes captions for them in a photo album. We keep it under our coffee table along with our other albums—Lionel is proud to show his pictures and his writing to friends who visit. ♥



#### OUR PURPOSE

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

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