

Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

January 2020

Harrison Park Elementary
Mr. Jeffrey Swartz, Principal

Book Picks

Read-aloud favorites

■ *Spend It!* (Cinders McLeod)

Sonny Bunny has a big list of things to buy. But his allowance doesn't stretch very far—especially when he wants a bouncy castle that costs 100 carrots. With a little help from his mom, Sonny learns a lesson about money. This is the first book in the Moneybunny series.



■ *The World Is Not a Rectangle: A Portrait of Architect Zaha Hadid* (Jeanette Winter)

Young Zaha Hadid loved designing clothes, furniture, and buildings. When she grew up, she wanted to be an architect, but her designs were so unusual that no one wanted to build them. This biography tells how Hadid's persistence helped her realize her dreams.

■ *Moldylocks and the Three Beards* (Noah Z. Jones)

The Three Beards aren't home when Moldylocks and her friend Princess drop by for a visit. So the girls enjoy some chili, test the chairs, and jump on the beds. What will happen when the Three Beards return? Book one in the Princess Pink series. (Also available in Spanish.)



■ *Book of Bones: 10 Record-Breaking Animals* (Gabrielle Balkan)

This award-winning nonfiction book invites your child to explore animal skeletons. He'll get answers to questions like "Which creature has the most bones?" and "What has a skeleton but no bones?"



The give and take of conversation

A good conversation is a two-way street that includes speaking and listening—two skills your child needs to succeed in school. Use these ideas to help her practice.

Take turns

Sit on the floor facing your youngster, and roll a ball back and forth as you carry on a conversation. The person with the ball is the speaker, and the other is the listener. Your child will learn to listen and wait for you to roll the ball before it's her turn to talk.

Ask questions

Let your youngster see how questions keep a conversation going and show interest in what the other person said. Make a statement and ask a question. Example: "I like cookie dough ice cream. What's your favorite flavor?" Then your child answers your question and asks a related one: "Strawberry. What's your favorite topping?"



Build on

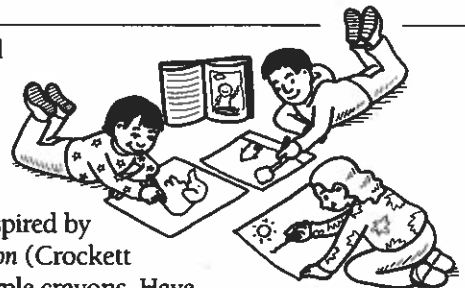
Create a block tower to show your youngster that a conversation involves building on each other's ideas. Lay down a block, and start a discussion. ("Monopoly is a fun game.") Your child puts a block on yours and adds to what you said. ("It is fun, but it takes a long time.") Keep talking and adding to your tower until you run out of things to say. Now your youngster gets to start a new tower—and a new conversation.♥

Throw a book party

Celebrate reading with a party based on a book of your youngster's choice. You'll improve his comprehension by giving him fun ways to connect with the story. Here's how.

● **Play.** Let your child plan an activity inspired by the story. For *Harold and the Purple Crayon* (Crockett Johnson), everyone might draw with purple crayons. Have your youngster imagine he's Harold—what might he draw that wasn't in the book?

● **Eat.** What party snacks would go well with *Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs* (Judi Barrett), for example? Ask your child to think of foods mentioned in the story, like meatballs, dill pickles, and cherry tomatoes. If he lived in the town of Chewandswallow, what other foods would he want to rain down?♥



Reading Connection

INTERMEDIATE EDITION

Working Together for Learning Success

January 2020

Harrison Park Elementary
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Book Picks

■ *Fablehaven* (Brandon Mull)

Kendra and Seth discover a secret: Their grandfather is the caretaker of a forest filled with magical creatures. When Seth breaks a rule, everyone is in danger, and it's up to the children to save everyone. Book one in the Fablehaven series. (Also available in Spanish.)



■ *The Poetry of US*

(Edited by J. Patrick Lewis)
Organized by regions of the United States, this collection includes poems by Langston Hughes, Robert Frost, Maya Angelou, and many others. The poems highlight things found in America, from plants and animals to songs and food. Where will the next poem take you?

■ *Crow Smarts: Inside the Brain of the World's Brightest Bird*

(Pamela S. Turner)

In this nonfiction book, your youngster will find facts about brilliant birds who can solve puzzles and build and use tools. Includes photographs and an "Ask the author" section. Part of the Scientists in the Field series.

■ *It's Raining Cupcakes*

(Lisa Schroeder)

Winning a trip to New York City in a cupcake-baking contest is Isabel's only hope for summer travel. But she'll need to beat her best friend, Sophie, and avoid upsetting her mom, who has her own ideas about the contest. A story about following your dreams.



Write around the house

How does writing make your child's life easier and more fun? Show him with these ideas for building writing into your family's routine.

Weekly calendar

Place a calendar in a central spot, and have family members write their activities on it. This encourages your youngster to take responsibility for his schedule and helps everyone plan ahead. *Idea:* Have each person use a different ink color for their calendar entries—you'll be able to tell who has what at a glance!



Grocery list

Post a sheet of notebook paper on the refrigerator where your child can keep a running grocery list. He could list things you're getting low on like whole-wheat pita bread, hummus, or clementines. Before going grocery shopping, see how many items he remembers from the list without looking at it. He'll realize that a written list is a handy tool.

Jokes

Ask your youngster to write down jokes or riddles he comes across. He might look for them on cereal boxes, in joke books, or online. Or he might write his own! Suggest that he read his jokes at dinner or hide them around the house (behind a picture frame, under a pillow) for people to uncover and get a good laugh. 📖

Reading symbols on a map

Symbols are everywhere, from your youngster's math and science textbooks to street signs and electronics. Here are ways your youngster can use maps to practice reading symbols:

- Cover up the key on a map. Point to a symbol, and ask your child to figure out what it represents. *Example:* star = capital city. She can check the key to see if she was right and then pick a symbol for you to identify.
- Suggest that your youngster draw a map of a familiar place (your neighborhood, her school). She could include a key to show what each symbol means, perhaps a slide for a playground and a desk for a classroom.

Idea: Ask your child to read symbols when you're out together. For instance, at the airport, she might see a fork and knife to represent a restaurant or a suitcase for baggage claim. 📖

