

# Home & School

## Working Together for School Success

### CONNECTION®

May 2020

Frazier Elementary Schools - Kelly Lombard, Principal  
Title 1

#### SHORT NOTES

##### Family volunteering

Children who do community service with their parents learn compassion and are more likely to volunteer as adults. To find opportunities, search online, ask neighbors, or call libraries and community centers. Or strike out on your own. *Examples:* Pick up litter at the park. Donate outgrown books to a homeless shelter.

##### Tick season: Beware

Warm weather means tick season. Check your youngster's head after he plays in wooded or grassy areas, and help him check his body. If you spot a tick, use tweezers to remove it right away. Call his doctor if you can't get it all or if he develops a rash, fever, or headache.

##### Savvy school shopping

Save money on next year's school shopping by starting early. Let your child help you clip coupons and look for sales on basics like paper and pencils. When you get her supply list, shop for everything else (like binders of a specific size) as soon as possible before the best deals sell out.

##### Worth quoting

"First you have to dream, and then you have to believe in your dreams. That is the only way for them to come true."

Caroll Spinney

#### JUST FOR FUN

**Q:** When do you go at red and stop at green?

**A:** When you're eating watermelon.



## Summer brain boosters

Fill summer break with fun activities that help your youngster remember what she learned during the school year—and lead to even more learning. Playing these roles will keep her skills sharp.

##### Reading athlete

Suggest that your child "run" a reading marathon and chart her progress on a map. Each hour of reading equals 1 mile. If she reads a chapter book for 30 minutes after lunch and you read her a bedtime story for 15 minutes, that's 45 minutes, or  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile. Can she read "26.2 miles"—or more—by the end of the summer?

##### Math photographer

Your youngster can take photos and find the math in them. Perhaps she'll snap a shot of a quilt and tell you which shapes she sees. Or she could photograph part of a brick wall and multiply to find the number of bricks in the picture (6 rows of 8 bricks each = 48 bricks).



##### Backyard scientist

Let your child use science to make outdoor summer activities more fun. She might experiment to create a bubble solution that produces bigger or longer-lasting bubbles. Or maybe she'll cook s'mores in her very own solar oven. *Note:* Make sure she chooses safe experiments, and provide supervision.♥

## Show appreciation for teachers

Did you know that some of the best gifts you and your child can give his teacher don't cost a thing? Consider these suggestions.

● **Send kudos.** Have him write a letter telling the teacher what he liked about school this year. He might mention an interesting history lesson or the cozy classroom writer's den. Then, you could email the principal to let her know what you appreciated about the teacher.

● **Collect memories.** Gather any photos you took during classroom or school events, and ask other parents to share theirs. Your youngster can compile them into a binder and add captions. ("Our class STEM fair had some creative inventions!")

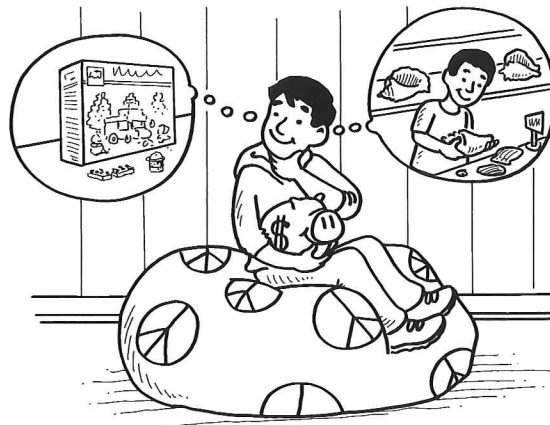
*Tip:* Also use these ideas for specialists like art, music, and PE teachers.♥



## What a smart decision!

Your child is still learning the strategies it takes to make good choices. Teach him to ask himself the following questions when he's faced with a decision.

**What might happen?** Have your youngster imagine possible outcomes of a choice. You could ask, "What will happen if you spend your allowance on Legos?" He may say that he wouldn't have souvenir money for an upcoming trip.



Or he can think to himself, "If I borrow my sister's toy without permission, what could happen?" Maybe he'll realize that would make her angry—and less apt to share with him in the future.

**Is it right for me?** Is your child considering watching a scary movie because his friend asked him to? Does he want to quit soccer because his teammate did? Suggest that he pause and think about what's right for him.

This will lead to better decisions—

and arm him against peer pressure, too. *Idea:* Brainstorm what to say if he's presented with an option that's not right for him. ("I like funny movies better. Want to watch one and laugh together?")♥

## Outside-the-box thinking

Thinking flexibly will help your child do well in school, whether she's using a vocabulary word in different ways or coming up with a new approach to a math problem. Try these ideas to stretch her thinking.

### Tell jokes and riddles

Ask your youngster, "What has four wheels and flies?" She'll need to consider that "flies" might mean "insects" or "travels fast." The answer? A garbage truck! Or try, "What has one eye but can't see?" She should think of non-living things that have an eye, such as a needle



or a hurricane. Are there any other possibilities?

### Find new uses for objects

Take turns choosing a household object and thinking of different ways to use it. Your child might say a spatula could be a golf club, and you could suggest using it as a flyswatter. What can she do with a game board? Perhaps she'll unfold it halfway and prop it upside-down—it's a tunnel for her toy trains.♥

### OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

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## ACTIVITY CORNER

### Outdoor art studio

Doing art projects outside can supercharge your youngster's creativity. Head outside together for these painting projects.

**Nature prints.** Have your child collect leaves, flowers, and other natural objects from the ground. She can dip them in paint and press them on paper to make colorful prints.

**Rock sculptures.** Suggest that your youngster brush paint on rocks. When they dry, she might stack them in different ways to create sculptures.

**Toe painting.** Instead of finger painting, your child could take off her socks and shoes and paint with her feet!♥



## Q & A

### The give-and-take of conversation

**Q:** How can I teach my son to carry on a good conversation?

**A:** Here's an easy way for your child to remember what makes a good conversation. Encourage him to think of it like Ping-Pong—the ball goes back and forth, and the game wouldn't work if one player kept the ball on his side of the net.

To help your son practice, bounce a

small ball across the table to "serve" a conversation starter. ("On my way to work this morning, I saw a mother deer with her fawns.") Now he can bounce the ball back and pose a "Ping-Pong question"—one that will keep the conversation going. *Example:* "Wow, how many fawns were there?"

Go back and forth a few times. Then it's your child's turn to serve, and you ask him a question to keep the ball bouncing.♥



# Math+Science Connection

Beginning Edition

Building Excitement and Success for Young Children

May 2020

Frazier Elementary Schools - Kelly Lombard, Principal  
Title 1

## TOOLS & TIDBITS

### Coin impressions

Your youngster can make play dough

"coins" to practice recognizing pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters. Have her press the front and back of each type of coin into a different color circle of play dough. Then, encourage her to sort a handful of change, saying each coin's name and value as she stacks it on its impression.

### Search for critters

Take a walk with your child to observe animals in their natural habitats. He might see squirrels and birds in a tree and ducks and frogs in a pond. Suggest that he draw each habitat and its animal residents—he

will discover that different creatures can share the same habitat.

### Book picks

■ *A Second, a Minute, a Week with Days in It* (Brian P. Cleary) shows the many units and methods people use to measure time.

■ *Flowers turn toward the sun. Roots search for water. Plants Can't Sit Still* (Rebecca E. Hirsch) teaches readers that plants move even if they stay in the same place.

## Just for fun

**Q:** How far into the woods can a deer run?

**A:** Halfway. After that, he's running out of the woods!



## Go for math gold!

Your child can be a math gold medalist as he watches the 2020 Summer Olympics. Try these ideas that encourage him to read numbers, count medals, and add miles.

### Find the math

The Olympics are full of math, from scores to jersey numbers to distances. Watch events together, and make a game out of trying to spot the math. Your youngster may count a gymnast's flips, read the lane numbers on a track, or look for geometric shapes on playing fields.

### Track the medals

Let your child label three containers "Gold," "Silver," and "Bronze," and wrap checkers in foil to make "medals." Then, he can pick a country to follow. Each time he sees one of its athletes receive a medal, he should drop a checker into the matching jar. Have him count the medals he saw awarded and announce the totals. Pretend you're a sports reporter, and ask questions like "Which medal did the country win the most of?"

### Carry the torch

The Olympic torch travels thousands of miles. Suggest that your youngster make a "torch" out of craft supplies and take it along in the car this summer. After each car ride, tell him how many miles you drove (to the nearest mile). In a notebook, he can record the distance. Then, he could add the total miles his torch travels each week, each month, and by the end of the summer. 🦋



## Engineer a no-drip ice-cream cone

If your youngster doesn't lick her ice cream fast enough on a hot day, it will drip down the cone! Suggest that she solve this sticky problem by engineering a dripless cone.

Ask what she could add to a cone that would catch melting ice cream. She might use nut or seed butter to stick raisins around the rim.

Now help your child scoop ice cream into the cone. Does any drip onto her hand? If so, the next time she eats ice cream, she can try a new design and test it. 🦋



# Sandbox learning


Scoop, pour, measure, and more! These activities let your child explore math and science in a play-ground sandbox or at the beach.

**How many scoops?** Have your youngster scoop heaping shovel-fuls of sand into a bucket. Encourage her to count each scoop and keep track by making tally marks in the sand. When the bucket is full, she can dump it out and try again—this time counting tiny scoops of sand. Does she think it'll take more or fewer



scoops to fill the bucket? How could she fill it with about the same number of scoops every time? (Level off each scoop—just like when you measure flour or sugar for baking.)

**"Shrinking" sand.** What does your child think will happen if she pours water into a full bucket of sand? Let her try it to find out. The sand appears to shrink! Explain that water makes the tiny grains stick together, so the sand takes up less

space. Now help her turn over her bucket, tap the bottom to loosen the sand, and pull the bucket straight up. The water holds the sand together, even when she removes the bucket. 




## PARENT TO PARENT

### License plate numbers

In the car recently, my son Josh noticed a license plate with the same numbers as ours—471. That gave me the idea to "play math" with license plates.

Now we often take turns giving each other challenges like "Spot a license plate with a smaller number than ours" or "Find a plate with the same digits but in a different order." This gives Josh practice reading and comparing numbers.



He also invented a game for our long drive to his grandparents' house this summer. He created a bingo card for each passenger, with a 2- or 3-digit number in each square. He and his brothers will cross out numbers they see on license plates (like 52 in 352) and call "Bingo!" when they get five squares in a row vertically, horizontally, or diagonally. 

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## SCIENCE LAB


### A rainbow of colors

Making this "tie-dyed" paper will show your youngster the science of mixing colors—and give him an early chemistry lesson.

**You'll need:**  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup whole milk, shallow baking pan, food coloring (red, yellow, and blue), dish soap, white paper

**Here's how:** Ask your child to pour the milk into the pan. He should count as he squeezes 5 drops of each color into the middle of the pan and adds 1 drop of dish soap. Have him wait 1 minute, then press the paper into the liquid until colors appear on it. Set the paper aside to dry.

**What happens?** When the dish soap hits the milk, the colors begin to swirl and blend. His paper contains the colors of the rainbow!

**Why?** The soap "chases" the fat molecules in the milk, bumping into the colors. As the colors move, they combine to create more colors—orange, green, and purple. 



## MATH CORNER

### Music + math = fun


Use familiar songs to help your child explore patterns and numbers. Here's how.

#### Sing counting songs

Together, sing a song that includes numbers, perhaps "Ten Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed." Your child can act it out with 10 stuffed animals, making one fall off the bed as you sing each verse. For a bigger challenge (without stuffed animals), make it about 100 monkeys

and count backward by 10 as you sing that version. Other counting songs: "Hickory Dickory Dock," "This Old Man," "Five Little Speckled Frogs."

#### Make patterns

Together, sing a familiar song like "The Wheels on the Bus," and create a pattern of movements to go with it. *Example:* "The wheels on the bus go snap, clap, stomp, snap, clap, stomp." Do a different pattern for each verse. 



# Math+Science Connection

Intermediate Edition

Building Understanding and Excitement for Children

May 2020

Frazier School District

Title I

## INFO BITS

### Compare the weights

Ask your youngster which he thinks weighs more: a mug or a water bottle. To find out, he can hold one in each hand and compare. Encourage him to try other objects, too: shampoo vs. a pair of socks, or toothpaste vs. a roll of paper towels. Some things might compare as he expected, but others may surprise him.



### Thumbs up!

Humans are one of the few species with opposable thumbs, or thumbs that move in a different direction than the other fingers on that hand. Suggest that your child try to button a coat, put on a hat, and write her name—with and without using her thumbs. She'll see that opposable thumbs make grasping things much easier.

### Book picks

■ Zachary has to think fast when he forgets his math show-and-tell. Read about measurement in *Zachary Zormer: Shape Transformer* (Joanne Reisberg).

■ Using *Beginning Birdwatcher's Book: With 48 Stickers* (Sy Barlowe), your youngster can learn to identify common bird varieties.

### Just for fun

**Q:** What's the shortest month?

**A:** May, because it has only three letters!



## A backyard carnival

Step right up and play some math games! Let your child organize these carnival activities to keep her math skills sharp this summer.

### Ping-Pong sums

On the bottoms of 12 empty cups, have your youngster write random 2- or 3-digit numbers. Then line up the cups (right side up) at the end of a table. Each player tries to bounce 2 Ping-Pong balls, one at a time, into the cups until she lands both. She adds the numbers on the cups for her score. After 5 rounds, the player with the highest score wins.

### Times tables race

Ask your child to draw 20 circles on a poster board and cut 20 circles out of construction paper. She should write a multiplication problem ( $3 \times 7$ ,  $8 \times 6$ ) in each poster board circle and the answers (21, 48) on the paper circles. Time each player as she races to place all the

answers on the matching problems. The fastest player wins.

### "Golf" fractions

Let each player make a 9-hole golf scorecard. For each "hole," roll 2 dice and form a fraction by putting the smaller number on top of the bigger number (roll 1 and 3, and create  $\frac{1}{3}$ ). Roll again for another fraction (say,  $\frac{3}{6}$ ), and add them together on your scorecard:  $\frac{1}{3} + \frac{3}{6} = \frac{5}{6}$ . Whoever gets the lower sum wins each hole—because low score always wins in golf. 🎲



## Model a tsunami

Have your child imagine 18 adults standing on top of each other. They'd reach about 100 feet. That's the same height as a typical tsunami—a huge wave caused by an underwater earthquake or volcanic eruption.

Your youngster can try this demonstration to see how a tsunami starts. Have him fill a sink with water and submerge his hand so his fingers almost touch the bottom of the sink, with his arm propped against one side. When the water settles, he can move his hand back and forth rapidly underneath the water's surface, keeping his arm steady. This time a wave rises at the opposite side of the sink—like in a tsunami. 🌊



## Logic puzzles

Challenges that require your child to think logically help to develop his math thinking. Try these brainteasers.

**Magic square.** Have your youngster write the numbers 1–9 on separate sticky notes. Then challenge him to form a square (3 notes across and 3 down) so the numbers in each row, column, and diagonal add to 15. He can arrange and rearrange until he solves the magic square! (Hint: Start by placing 5 in the middle spot and any even number in the top left corner.)



one to push another. (Hint: The least possible number of moves is 7.)

**Triangle transformation.** Let your child arrange 6 pennies so they're touching each other in a triangle—1 on top, 2 in the middle, and 3 at the bottom. Now he should slide 1 penny at a time until all 6 are in a straight line. The catch? He may only slide a penny into a position where it touches 2 other pennies. Also, he can't pick up a penny or use

## PARENT TO PARENT

### Menu math

Recently when our family went out to eat, our kids were getting antsy waiting for their food. We distracted them by using a little math and our menus.

I started by asking how much the most expensive meal would cost. My son picked the priciest appetizer, entree, and dessert, and added the prices on a napkin. Then he wondered what combinations we could order for about \$15. We rounded the prices and soon had several options, like a house salad (\$4), lasagna (\$9), and chocolate pudding (\$2).



This is now our go-to game to play when we dine out, and we even play if we're eating in. Using a grocery circular or take-out menu, we pose math questions about the food we're eating around the kitchen table.

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## SCIENCE LAB

### Baseball (and basketball) science

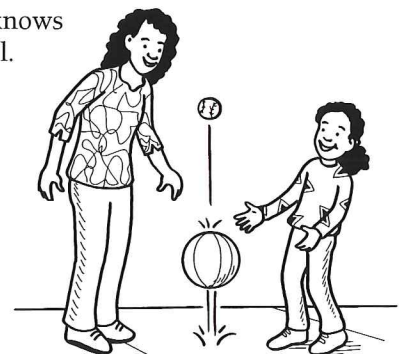
Your youngster probably knows that a basketball bounces higher than a baseball. But what happens if she drops both balls together? Science has a surprise in store.

**You'll need:** baseball, basketball

**Here's how:** Have your child drop the baseball and then the basketball on a sidewalk, noticing how high they bounce. Then she should hold the baseball so it sits on top of the basketball and drop them together, again observing the results.

**What happens?** When dropped together, the baseball will bounce much higher than before, likely soaring over her head. The basketball, however, won't bounce as high as it did when bounced alone.

**Why?** This happens because energy is transferred from the basketball to the baseball. The basketball doesn't bounce as high because instead it shared most of its energy with the baseball, making the baseball bounce higher than it did on its own.



## MATH CORNER

### Let's clap for math vocabulary

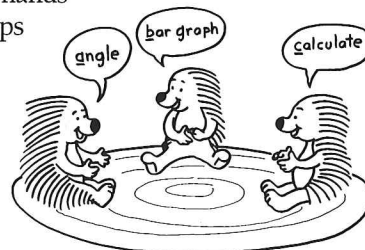
What do the words *quotient*, *x-axis*, and *eighteen* have in common? They're all math words. Here's a group game to give your child practice with math vocabulary.

Players sit in a circle. At the same time, everyone slaps their hands on their legs twice and claps their hands once. When everyone claps, your youngster says a math word that starts with A, like *angle*. Going clockwise around the

circle, the next person says a math word beginning with B on the next clap, like *bar graph*, and the next player continues with C (*calculate*).

If a player can't think of a word, the

next person gets a chance. No one is out—just keep going for a fun cooperative activity! Can you go through the math alphabet more than once?



# Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

May 2020

Frazier Elementary Schools - Kelly Lombard, Principal

Title 1

## Book Picks



### Read-aloud favorites

#### ■ **Say Something!** (Peter H. Reynolds)

Every voice matters. This picture book shows how kids can make a difference in the world—through words *and* actions. Readers will be inspired to do good deeds, stand up to bullying, and more. (Also available in Spanish.)

#### ■ **Little Owl's Night**

(Divya Srinivasan)

Little Owl is happy in the forest at night. He and his animal friends gaze at the moon and stars. But he's curious about daytime, so one night, he tries to stay awake until the sun comes up. Will he get to see what happens when night ends?



#### ■ **The Post Office Book: Mail and How It Moves** (Gail Gibbons)

Everyone knows that mail starts its journey at the post office and gets delivered to its destination. But what happens in between? Your youngster will discover what it takes to move mail from place to place and get it in the correct mailbox.



#### ■ **Tap the Magic Tree**

(Christie Matheson)

This story asks your child to tap the pictures, shake the book, clap his hands, and more. After he does each movement and turns the page, "magic" happens—the bare tree grows leaves, apples drop to the ground, and snowflakes fall from the branches!



## A fairy tale summer

Castles and giants and talking animals, oh my! Fairy tales invite your child into magical worlds—and they're filled with opportunities to strengthen her reading comprehension. Enjoy these activities together.

### Design a house

What kind of house would be best for the three bears? Read a fairy tale to your youngster, and let her design a home for the characters using recyclables and craft supplies. What was the problem in the story? What design features could solve it? For example, the bears had an uninvited visitor (Goldilocks), so your child might make a home security system using string and a bell.

### Create a map

After reading a fairy tale, suggest that your youngster draw a giant map of its setting on the sidewalk or driveway. She could draw the Gingerbread Man's path through the countryside or map Hansel and Gretel's route through the forest. Invite her to walk through the map, retelling the story as she goes.



### Read and compare

Together, ask a librarian to help you find multiple versions of fairy tales like *Cinderella* or *Jack and the Beanstalk*. Read them with your child, and talk about how they're similar and different. Maybe they take place in different countries or an author retold a story from the villain's point of view. *Idea:* Suggest that your youngster pick a fairy tale and write her own version.♥

## Write a story for a pet

This fun idea gives your youngster practice writing for a specific audience: pets!

First, let your child choose a pet, such as his goldfish or a neighbor's puppy. Next, help him decide what the animal might like to read about. The fish would probably appreciate a story about a sunny lake, while the puppy may enjoy a how-to book on walking his person.

Remind your youngster to think about his audience as he writes. What other fish live in the lake that the goldfish could play with? What important rules does the puppy need to know? Now have him read his story aloud to the pet—and to you.♥



# Have a ball with wordplay

Throw, catch, and shoot! Get a ball, and head outside with your child for these games that combine wordplay with physical activity.

**Word catch.** Work on beginning and ending sounds. Say a random word (*fireworks*), and toss a ball to your youngster. If he catches the ball and says a word starting with the last letter of your word (*sunshine*), the game keeps going. How many words can you string together before someone misses the ball or can't think of a word?

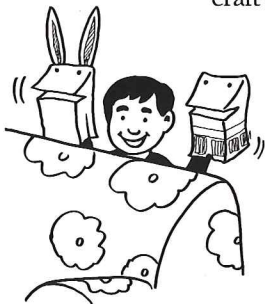


**Spelling basketball.** Play H-O-R-S-E with these twists. Take turns trying to sink a basket, but instead of getting a letter for missed shots, earn one for each shot you make. Start by using any six-letter word. For a game of F-R-I-E-N-D, players would get an F for the first shot made, R for the second, and so on. The first player to collect every letter picks the word for the next game. ♥

## My puppet show

Putting on a puppet show lets your youngster work on speaking and telling stories. Here's how.

First, let your child choose a familiar story to act out, such as *The Tortoise and the Hare*, and make a puppet for each character. He could draw faces on paper lunch bags or construction paper taped to craft sticks.



Now your youngster can hide behind a couch or chair and hold up his puppets to put on a show for your family. Encourage him to use a different

voice for each character—and for a narrator. When the tortoise crosses the finish line, the fox puppet can announce, "Slow and steady wins the race!"

**Idea:** Suggest that your child keep his puppet theater open all summer and put on shows using other stories. ♥

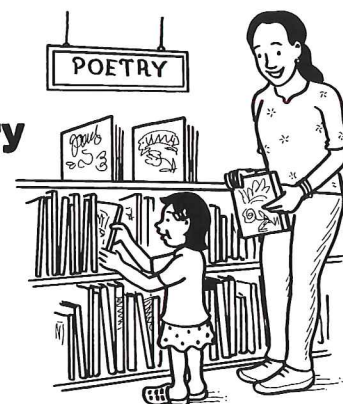
## Q&A Read and write poetry

**Q** My daughter is excited about the poetry unit her class is doing. How can we enjoy exploring poetry outside of school?

**A** It's no wonder your child is excited—poetry is a lot of fun! Start at the library, and check out volumes of children's poetry. Then, hold a family poetry night where you take turns reading poems aloud. Work together to write your own poem, and your daughter can read it to everyone.

When you pick out greeting cards, look for ones that contain poems, and let your youngster read them aloud. Suggest that she make cards and write poems inside for friends and relatives.

Finally, listen to music in the car—can your child hear that song lyrics are often poems, too? Say your favorite lines or verses. Your daughter might even be inspired to write lyrics that rhyme. ♥

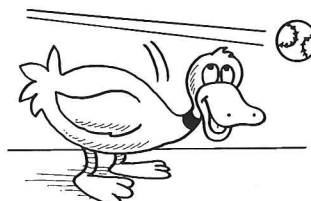


## Fun with Words

### One word, two meanings

"Duck!" That's a word your youngster can say if she's pointing out a duck swimming in a pond—or warning someone to dodge a flying object. Strengthen her vocabulary by having her make a comic book about words with two meanings.

**1.** Together, list words that can be both a noun (person, place, or thing) and a verb (action word). For instance, trees have *bark* (noun), and dogs *bark* (verb). Other examples: *play*, *fly*, *run*, *jam*, *wave*, *color*.



**2.** Have your child draw two comic panels for each word—with the illustration and caption showing the word in different ways. For *play*, she could draw an actress on stage and write "This girl starred in the school *play*." Then she might draw a checkerboard and write "I like to *play* checkers."

**3.** Staple the pages together to make a book, and let her read it to you. Encourage her to keep an eye out for new words to add. ♥

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# Reading Connection

Working Together for Learning Success

May 2020

Frazier Elementary Schools - Kelly Lombard, Principal  
Title 1

## Book Picks

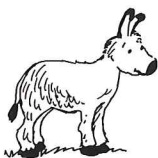
### ■ *Straight Talk: The Truth About Food* (Stephanie Paris)

This book explores food from many different angles. Charts, diagrams, and detailed photos combine with entertaining facts to help your child learn about and choose nutritious foods. (Also available in Spanish.)



### ■ *Saving Winslow* (Sharon Creech)

When Louie's dad brings home a sick baby donkey, Louie takes responsibility for nursing his new buddy Winslow back to health. Then, the tables are turned when Winslow winds up being a comfort to Louie after the boy's older brother leaves home to join the military.



### ■ *Clang! Ernst Chladni's Sound Experiments* (Darcy Pattison)

In 1806 the scientist Ernst Chladni went on the road with his sound experiments to raise money for his research. In this nonfiction book, learn how Chladni entertained his way through Europe, popularizing science and exploring acoustics along the way.

### ■ *Home Sweet Motel* (Chris Grabenstein)

P.T. and his friend Gloria want to do everything they can to save P.T.'s family business, the Wonderland Motel. The duo combines P.T.'s creativity and Gloria's business ideas to try to keep the Wonderland open. The first book in the Welcome to Wonderland series.



## Reading all summer long

For some kids, summer reading comes naturally. Others need a little motivation. Either way, you can use these tips to make reading a big part of your child's life while school is out.

### Take books along

Encourage reading on the go. Help your youngster fill a backpack with things to read. Along with novels, tuck in joke books, brainteasers, and comics. Complete the package with a word search or crossword puzzle book and a pencil. Taking the backpack on the road will make it easy for your child to read and play word games anytime.

### Go outside

Find opportunities to read outdoors. Borrow nature books from the library, and take a neighborhood hike. Your child might start a leaf collection or list all the different bugs he can identify using a field guide. Read books about constellations and the solar system, and

stargaze together at night. Your youngster will see that books can help him enjoy and learn about nature.

### Plan events

Show your child how reading makes it easier to plan summer fun. He can check newspaper listings for upcoming events or read your town's website to find places to visit. When you go to the pool or community center, have your youngster scan the bulletin boards for interesting flyers. ■



## The power of persuasion

Advertising a summer business can help your youngster practice persuasive writing. Share these secrets for creating eye-catching ads:

- Have her look for convincing words in magazine ads and make a list for her business. For example, "ice cold" and "refreshing" are good choices for a lemonade stand.

- Teach your child persuasive techniques, like using logic or appealing to emotions. ("Don't have enough time to play with your cat or guinea pig? My pet-care service provides the attention your pets need!") *Tip:* Help her post flyers around the neighborhood to advertise her business. ■



## Writing to communicate

The more your child writes, the more easily her words will flow. Try these activities that will encourage her to communicate with you and other family members on paper or via email.

### Start a conversation journal.

Begin by writing a sentence or two in a notebook ("Guess who I saw at the store today"). Pass the journal to your child or leave it in an agreed-upon spot (kitchen counter, coffee table). She can respond ("Was



it one of my teachers?") and give it back to you. Continue the discussion as long as possible. Encourage her to start your next conversation on a new page.

**Have a pen pal.** Invite relatives to participate in a family pen-pal exchange. Your youngster could put names in a hat and each month draw one to be her pen pal. In her letters, she can ask about what's going on in the person's life ("Are you going to play hockey this year?") and share her own news ("I have my first piano recital this week").

## Parent 2 Parent

### Play and read

My wife and I recently discovered a way to give our children extra reading practice. We let them take turns choosing a board game and being the official reader.

For example, when we play Trivial Pursuit Family Edition, the reader is in charge of asking the questions. In Apples to Apples, the reader reads the green apple cards aloud.



Playing games together has also inspired us to add to our collection. We shop at yard sales, flea markets, and thrift shops. And when we play a new game, the reader has a big job: reading the rules to the rest of us. Now I look forward to hearing one of the kids shout, "It's my turn to read!"

### OUR PURPOSE

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

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## Q&A

### Think critically about books

**Q** My son loves reading, but he struggles when he's asked to do things like "analyze" or "evaluate." How can I help him with this at home?

**A** When the teacher asks your child to analyze or evaluate what he reads, she's asking him to think critically. For instance, he might have to give his opinion and back it up with details from the text. Or he may need to consider an article's purpose and how the author's viewpoint influenced his own thinking.

Over the summer, talk with your son about things you're reading, and encourage him to do the same. Another idea is to suggest that he join a book club at the library. As he discusses books with others, he'll work on reading critically.



## Fun with Words

### Bowling for words

This homemade version of bowling will boost your child's vocabulary and sentence-building skills.

Have your youngster cut 10 strips of masking tape. Then, he can flip through a book, pick 10 random words, and write one on each strip. *Examples: bear, mysterious, garden.* He should stick the strips to the bottoms of half-filled water bottles. Then, let him set up the bottles like bowling pins.

Take turns "bowling" with a tennis ball or softball. Read the words on the pins you knock down, and try to say a sentence that includes as many of the words as possible. ("The *bear* discovered a *mysterious* new vegetable growing in his *garden*.") Score 1 point for each word you use, and set up the pins for the next player. After five rounds, the person with the highest score wins. Write new words, and play again!

