





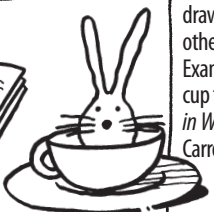














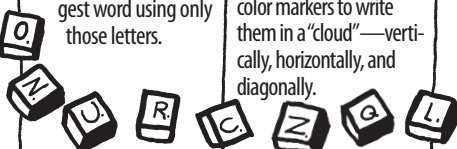




Note to Parents: Fill in the month and dates, and post this calendar on your refrigerator. Then, encourage your child to do an activity a day.

Daily Reading & Writing Calendar


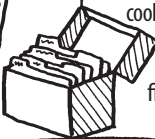



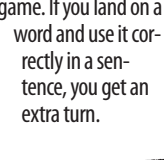




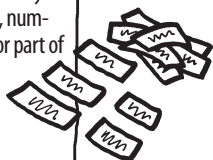







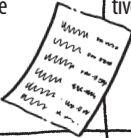




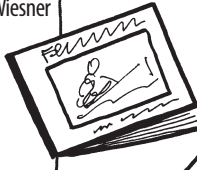



(INTERMEDIATE EDITION)

						MONTH	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
<p>List four types of reading that begin with different letters of the alphabet (autobiography, chapter book, field guide, mystery). Read one a week this month.</p> 	<p>Ask someone to give you five random nouns (sailboat, bear, guitar, house, pumpkin). Can you write a story that includes every word?</p> 	<p>Write a message for a family member on a dry-erase board or a notepad. ("Thanks for dinner, Mom." "Good luck on your test, Matt!")</p>	<p>Take turns making up lines of a family story that begins, "Remember when we... (got lost, built our tree house)." Use dramatic voices and act out exciting parts.</p> 	<p>Illustrate a pair of rhyming words for someone to guess. For instance, you might draw rain falling on blossoms (flower shower).</p> 	<p>Set up a magazine swap with a friend.</p>	<p>Borrow an issue from each other, and return it when you finish reading.</p> 	
<p>Pretend you're famous, and write an encyclopedia entry about yourself. Example: "Jon Jones set a world record for scoring the most goals in a soccer game..."</p> 	<p>Use a photo to practice inferring (reading between the lines). What are the people in the picture thinking? How can you tell?</p> 	<p>Take turns thinking of a book and drawing clues to help other players guess it. Example: rabbit and teacup for <i>Alice's Adventures in Wonderland</i> (Lewis Carroll).</p>	<p>Practice your spelling words using American Sign Language. Search for the alphabet online, or find it in a book (try <i>Sign Language for Kids</i> by Lora Heller).</p> 	<p>Celebrate one writer's birthday by reading a book written by that person. Search online to learn which authors were born this month.</p> 	<p>Write a letter to a company that makes a product you use (baseball glove, modeling clay). Explain why you like it or what could be better.</p> 	<p>Write down names of 10 items you see (thermostat, computer, pillow), and have a friend do the same. Look at each other's lists for one minute, and try to write the words from memory.</p>	
<p>Invent descriptive names for your favorite colors. Examples: traffic cone orange, evening sky blue, snowball white.</p> 	<p>Use a photo to practice inferring (reading between the lines). What are the people in the picture thinking? How can you tell?</p> 	<p>Practice being a ventriloquist. Read from a joke book, and use a sock puppet to say the punch lines without moving your lips.</p> 	<p>Find five acronyms in a newspaper, and try to figure out what the letters stand for. Example: NASA = National Aeronautics and Space Administration.</p> 	<p>Play book charades. Act out the words in a book title or the action in the book. Whoever guesses correctly acts out a book for you.</p> 	<p>Cover a shoebox with construction paper, cut a slit in the lid, and write "Family Suggestion Box" on top. Invite suggestions, and read them at dinner once a week.</p> 	<p>Think of a place (Mars) for a friend to guess. Give clues (red, rocky) until he figures it out. Then, trade roles.</p> 	
<p>Look through a library book of quotations, and fill a poster board with your favorites. Example: "Today was good. Today was fun. Tomorrow is another one." (Dr. Seuss)</p> 	<p>To remember their or there, point out that "there" has the word "here" inside it. Suggest he use the phrase, "here or there" to help him remember that "there" is for places.</p> 	<p>At the grocery store, take turns pointing out foods with three or more syllables (celery, macaroni, tomato). Who can find the product with the most syllables?</p>	<p>List friends' birthdays in a small notebook. Use your birthday book to remind yourself to make cards for your friends on their special days.</p> 	<p>Read a newspaper article about another country. Tell someone three things you learned about that country (name of a city, the climate).</p> 	<p>Lay eight Scrabble tiles faceup. Using pencil and paper, see who can make the longest word using only those letters.</p> 	<p>Look them up in a dictionary. Then, use different color markers to write them in a "cloud"—vertically, horizontally, and diagonally.</p> 	<p>Make a list of things you can do every day to help the environment (take shorter showers, walk to school). Post your list on the refrigerator.</p> 

Note to Parents: Fill in the month and dates, and post this calendar on your refrigerator. Then, encourage your child to do an activity a day.

Daily Reading & Writing Calendar

(INTERMEDIATE EDITION)

MONTH						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Make up a short story about a famous painting. You can find paintings in library books or at art museum websites (<i>metmuseum.org</i>, <i>nga.gov</i>). Or look for paintings hanging on the wall when you're in the bank or a doctor's office.</p> 	<p>Collect recipes featuring your favorite food (strawberry salad, strawberry smoothie, strawberry cheesecake). Read cooking magazines, websites, and cookbooks to find new recipes.</p> 	<p>Open a dictionary at random, and count the number of words that you recognize on the page. Learn three new words.</p> 	<p>Think of a business you'd like to start. Design a business card with your slogan. <i>Example:</i> "Pete's Pet Sitting Service. We sit. You go!"</p> 	<p>Imagine that you are making a movie of your favorite book. Choose an actor to play each character based on the descriptions in the book.</p> 	<p>Write vocabulary words on sticky notes and place them on random spaces of a board game. If you land on a word and use it correctly in a sentence, you get an extra turn.</p> 	
<p>Make a word-search puzzle on graph paper by hiding your vocabulary words among random letters. Ask a friend to make one for you, and trade papers.</p> 	<p>Play a word game like Scrabble, Boggle, or Upwords. Keep a dictionary handy to look up words if you challenge another player.</p> 	<p>Choose a chapter book for you and a friend to read. Plan to meet in two weeks to discuss it, and then get reading!</p> 	<p>Pretend to visit the setting of a favorite story. Make a postcard that tells what you saw there. ("Today I went to Terebithia. The castle was huge!")</p> 	<p>Write vocabulary words on separate slips of paper. Then, sort the words in different ways (by vowel sound, number of syllables, or part of speech).</p> 		
<p>Place a jar in a central location and have your family fill it with jokes written on slips of paper. When you need a laugh, draw a slip and read it aloud!</p> 	<p>Write words that end with each letter of the alphabet (<i>area, cab, optimistic</i>). How many ending letters can you use?</p> 	<p>Make a story mural. Paint three scenes from a book: one from the beginning, another from the middle, and a third from the end. Use your mural to tell someone the story.</p> 	<p>Create a rebus story (told with both words and pictures). For a spooky tale, you might replace the words <i>moon</i>, <i>owl</i>, and <i>house</i> with drawings.</p> 	<p>Misspell a word (<i>trampoline</i>), and ask a friend to spell it correctly (<i>trampoline</i>). Then, let her misspell a word for you to fix.</p> 		
<p>Read a how-to guide such as <i>Yo-Yo World Trick Book</i> by Harry Baier or <i>Magic Tricks with Coins, Cards, and Everyday Objects</i> by Jake Banfield. Show someone what you learn.</p> 	<p>Write instructions for a craft you're familiar with (friendship bracelet, craft stick house). Read over your directions to be sure the steps make sense and are in the correct order.</p> 	<p>Think of people your family calls regularly (grandmother, best friends). Make a list of their phone numbers and hang it on the refrigerator.</p> 	<p>What does your name mean? Look it up in a book of names. Then, look up friends' and relatives' names.</p> 	<p>Write a short comic. Cut several pictures of people or animals from old magazines, and glue them on a strip of paper. Draw balloons above each character, and add dialogue.</p> 	<p>Save bottle caps or look for bingo chips at a dollar store. Print the alphabet on them, and arrange the letters to spell words.</p> 	
<p>Research your state tree, flower, and bird in an encyclopedia or online at <i>50states.com</i>. Draw and label a picture of each one.</p> 	<p>Read a wordless picture book such as <i>Flotsam</i> by David Wiesner or <i>The Red Book</i> by Barbara Lehman. Make up a story to go with the pictures.</p> 	<p>Write a short review to convince a friend to read a book you enjoyed. Summarize the story, and explain why you liked it—but don't give away the ending!</p> 	<p>Check out a poetry book from the library. Toss two dice and read the poem on that page number (<i>example:</i> roll 2 and 5 and read page 25). Repeat to read more poems.</p> 	<p>Combine two fairy tales to create your own. For instance, you might write "Snow White and the Seven Pigs" or "Goldilocks and Gretel."</p> 		

Unlocking New Words

Your child is cruising through a book when she suddenly comes to an unfamiliar word. It's like an obstacle in the road, causing her to slow down or stop. Use the ideas in this guide to give her a plan of attack for reading and understanding new words and getting back on track.



Sound it out

Suggest that your youngster start by saying each syllable of a word separately. Then, have him blend the sounds together by saying the word aloud slowly. This might help him realize that he knows it after all. ("Dis-in-fec-tant. Oh, *disinfectant*, like a cleaner!")

Use a similar word

Does the unfamiliar word remind your child of a word she knows? If she reads, "The doctor told Maya to *elevate* her broken foot," she might notice that *elevate* sounds similar to *elevator*. Because elevators go up and down, she might realize that *elevate* means "to raise."

Think about the topic

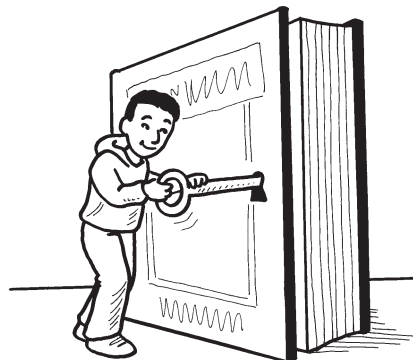
Your youngster's knowledge of a subject can help him unlock mystery words. For example, if he's reading about the solar system and gets stuck on a word

that begins with *a*, he might think of *a* words that have something to do with outer space (*astronaut*, *astronomy*, *asteroid*). Would one of them make sense in the sentence?

Find a definition

Instead of stopping when she sees a tricky word, encourage your child to read on and come back to it. Sometimes the author will state the definition directly, especially in a textbook or other nonfiction book. *Example*: "A tree's *circumference* can help scientists determine its age. They measure the distance around the trunk. For some trees, 1 inch equals 1 year." (*Circumference* means "distance around.")

continued



Taking words apart

Prefixes, suffixes, and roots can all provide clues to a word's meaning. Suggest that your child try these steps to break words into parts and discover their meanings.

1. When your youngster comes to a tricky word that has a prefix, have her write the word on paper and cover the prefix with a sticky note. (Common prefixes include *ir-*, *im-*, *il-*, *in-*, *re-*, *un-*, and *dis-*.) Then, she can write the meaning of the prefix on the note. For

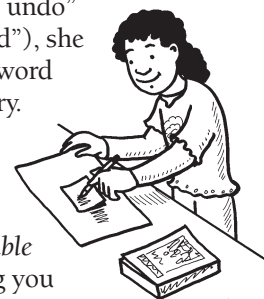
irreversible, she would cover up *ir* and write *not* on the sticky note.

2. If the word has a suffix, have your child cover it up, too. (Frequently used suffixes are *-ing*, *-es*, *-able*, *-ed*, *-ly*, and *-ful*.) For example, she could cover up *ible* in *irreversible* and write *able* to on the sticky note. *Note*: Some words, like *carefully*, have more than one suffix.

3. Once your child has covered the prefix and suffix, only the root (*reverse*)

will be visible. (*Note*: The last letter might be cut off.) If she doesn't know the definition ("to undo" or "to go backward"), she can look the root word up in the dictionary.

4. Finally, your youngster can put all three parts together. (*Irreversible* means "something you are not able to undo.")





Try context clues

Your youngster can use clues in the sentence to figure out what a word means. Have him read the sentence, leaving out the unknown word. If he's stuck on *vicinity*, he would read, "Since Charlie lived in the ____ of the mall, we agreed to pick him up on our way." Next, have him try a word that would make sense in the blank: "Since Charlie lived in the *area* of the mall, we agreed to pick him up on our way." (*Vicinity* means "area.")

Search for other uses

Sometimes your child can skip ahead in a paragraph or chapter to see if the word appears again. For instance, the meaning of *migration* isn't clear from a sentence like, "Students tracked the butterflies' *migration*." But the next time the word is used, she might be able to figure it out: "The butterflies will fly thousands of miles during their *migration* from Canada to Mexico." (*Migration* means "journey.")

Go beyond words

Textbooks and novels sometimes include maps, drawings, charts, or photographs that can help your youngster sort out the meaning of a new word. If he gets stuck, suggest that he look through the page for clues to the word. For instance, he might wonder what a mine shaft is. He can use a diagram of a mine to learn that the shaft is a tunnel that miners travel through.

Look it up

Suppose that your child tries several strategies and still can't understand a section because she doesn't know a word. Have her look it up in a dictionary and reread the passage with understanding. If she can make sense of the section without knowing the word's meaning, she might put a sticky note on the word and look it up when she finishes reading. That way, she won't get frustrated by having to stop and start.



Vocabulary games

The more words your youngster recognizes at a glance, the fewer road-blocks he'll encounter when he reads. Try these activities to encourage him to learn new words.

Synonyms

Choose a word, such as *hungry*, and take turns saying synonyms for it (*starving*, *famished*, *ravenous*). Continue until no one can think of a new synonym. Then, check a thesaurus to see if you missed any before picking a new word to try.

Beginnings and endings

Call out any two letters (*j* and *t*). Ask your child to make a list of words that

begin with the first letter and end with the second. Examples: *jet*, *judgment*, *jolt*, *jubilant*. When he runs out of ideas, he can look in a dictionary for more.

Definitions

Open the dictionary to a random page and choose a word you think your

youngster won't know (*revive*). If he can tell you the definition (bring back to life), he gets to try to stump you. If he doesn't know what the word means, use the dictionary entry to give him clues until he guesses ("Revive includes the root word *vive*, which means *to live*").

Headlines

Have your child look through the newspaper for a word with five or more letters (*bicycle*). Encourage him to write his own headline in which each word starts with a letter, in order, from the chosen word ("Baby Iguanas Can Yodel, Cries Leading Expert").

