

# Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

December 2020

Moore Public Schools

Title I Reading

## Book Picks

Read-aloud favorites

■ **Earmuffs for Everyone! How Chester Greenwood Became Known as the Inventor of Earmuffs** (Meghan McCarthy)

Chester Greenwood is credited with inventing earmuffs. But he wasn't the first person who designed a product to keep our ears warm. This book shows how inventors often stand on the shoulders of those who came before them.



■ **Smashy Town** (Andrea Zimmerman and David Clemesha)

Follow Mr. Gilly on an eventful day of work at a construction site as his machines crush buildings to make room for new ones. Colorful illustrations and onomatopoeias (words like *vroom* and *hiss* that sound like what they describe) make this an exciting story for budding readers.



■ **Outside In** (Deborah Underwood)

Nature isn't just something that's only outside. From houseplants to sunlight streaming through windows, nature is indoors, too. This inspiring story describes how nature can be a friend to people and encourages readers to appreciate it wherever it's found.

■ **Thank You, Omu!** (Oge Mora)

*Omu* means *queen* in Igbo, the language of the author's parents, and it's the name she called her own grandmother. In this story, Omu can't wait to eat her delicious stew. But when visitors follow their noses to her door, Omu shares every drop. A final knock brings a special surprise. (Also available in Spanish.)



## Let's tell stories

Add excitement to story time by making up your very own stories. Not sure where to start? These activities will turn anyone into a storyteller—and build your child's speaking skills and creativity.

### Read and tell

What would happen if Wilbur the pig from *Charlotte's Web* met the Three Little Pigs? Read two familiar books with your youngster, and together, make up a story that combines elements of each. Maybe the little pigs will live on Wilbur's farm, safe from the Big Bad Wolf. Your child will stretch her reading comprehension as she thinks of ways to connect the two plots.

### Share family tales

Children love to hear stories about when they were "little"—and these tales of her past are nice examples of nonfiction. Ask your youngster to pick a memory (say, her first trip to the beach), and begin a story: "Stella saw the ocean for



the first time when she was five years old." Now take turns adding details. ("She built a big sandcastle.")

### Make story dice

Let your child make three giant "dice" out of empty cardboard boxes. Help her write nouns (*cereal*, *house*) on one die, verbs (*fly*, *dance*) on another, and adjectives (*tasty*, *striped*) on the third. Take turns "rolling" the dice and telling a short story using all three words you roll. ("Once upon a time, I got to fly over my house in a striped hot-air balloon.")♥

## How to build a snowman

Whether it snows where you live or not, your youngster can build a snowman with this idea for writing instructions.

First, have your child cut snowman parts out of construction paper: three circles for the body and head, plus eyes, nose, mouth, buttons, and hat. Now he can build his snowman by gluing the parts on a big sheet of paper. As he adds each one, help him write an instruction beside it for building a real snowman. ("Step 1: Roll up a big snowball." "Step 2: Put a smaller snowball on top." "Step 3: Add an even smaller snowball for a head.")

Then, if it snows, he could use his instructions to make a snowman outside!♥

