

Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

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Moore Public Schools

Title I Reading

Book Picks

Read-aloud favorites

■ Shelter Pet Squad: Jelly Bean

(Cynthia Lord)

Suzannah has just become the youngest member of the Shelter Pet Squad, a group of kids who help local shelter animals. Her first mission is to find a forever home for an adorable guinea pig named Jelly Bean. Book one in the Shelter Pet Squad series.



■ In Mary's Garden

(Tina and Carson Kugler)

This biography tells how Mary Nohl loved art as a little girl and grew up to create an unusual garden. She used materials like sand, metal, wood, and rocks to make interesting sculptures, turning her garden into what would become a historic landmark.

■ The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs!

(Jon Scieszka)

According to the big bad wolf, the story everyone knows about the three little pigs is wrong. And he's here to set the record straight. Readers will laugh at the wolf's elaborate tale of how he never meant to eat the pigs—he just wanted to borrow a cup of sugar. (Also available in Spanish.)



■ If You Were the Moon

(Laura Purdie Salas)

The child in this story thinks the moon just hangs around in the sky. But it really has many "jobs," from making ocean waves to waking night-time animals. This picture book uses a conversation between a girl and the moon to present scientific facts.



Pretend play boosts vocabulary

"I'm grooming my stuffed dog." "I can fix that car—I'm a mechanic!" Imaginary play gives your child chances to say words that he might not use every day. Try these ideas to grow his vocabulary through make-believe.



Find props

Give your youngster new things to talk about. You could put a wrench and a socket with his toy cars. Or offer him empty food packages to play store. When you notice him using the props, name them for him. You could say, "I see you're repairing your cars with a wrench and socket" or "Oh, your grocery store sells relish and chickpeas."

Play together

Spend time pretending with your child, and introduce new words. Maybe you'll hold a chopstick and say, "I'm a conductor. I'm using this baton to conduct the symphony." Or if you're playing vet, ask,

"What kind of dog do you have? Mine is a Siberian husky."

Act out a story

It's common for youngsters to pretend they're book characters after hearing a story. When you read to your youngster, explain unfamiliar words he can use to act out the book. If the story was about a scuba diver, perhaps he'll pretend his pajamas are a wet suit. He might turn a cardboard tube into a snorkel and go on an imaginary underwater adventure! ♥

How to handle reading errors

Oops! Your youngster just goofed while reading to you. What should you do? Keep these tips in mind:

- Wait to see if she catches her own mistake. If she doesn't notice her error by the end of the sentence or paragraph, ask, "Did that part make sense?" or "What other word would make sense there?" She'll learn to self-correct—an important step toward becoming an independent reader.
- Resist the urge to correct every mistake your child makes. That can interrupt the flow of the story. For example, if her error doesn't really affect the meaning of the sentence (say, she reads *house* instead of *home*), consider letting her keep going. ♥

