

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

(BEGINNING EDITION)

MONTH _____

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
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| <p>Cover a cookie sheet with shaving cream. "Write" each letter of the alphabet. (Smooth the shaving cream out between letters.)</p> | <p>Ask three grown-ups to tell you their favorite children's books. Then, check the books out of the library.</p> | <p>Take turns spelling words for the other person to write down. Pick something in the room ("I see a t-a-b-l-e").</p> | <p>Look at pictures in a cookbook, and choose a dish to try. Ask someone to help you read the recipe and write the ingredients on a grocery list.</p> | <p>Read aloud from a joke book. Try <i>Kids' Silliest Jokes</i> (Jacqueline Horsfall) or <i>What Do You Hear When Cows Sing?</i> (Marco Maestro).</p> | <p>Invent a new ending for one of your books. Draw a picture, and dictate or write the new version.</p> | <p>Write a question on a sticky note, and post it on the refrigerator. ("What is your favorite color?") Someone can use magnetic letters to answer ("blue") and then write a question for you.</p> |
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| <p>Write a "What am I?" riddle for someone to solve. Example: "I am long and scaly. I say 'sss.' What am I?"</p> | <p>Start a comic strip collection. Read comics in the newspaper, and cut out ones you like. Keep them in a folder or an envelope.</p> | <p>List everything you read today (license plate, book, magazine). Ask family members to add things they read to your list.</p> | <p>Write five words you know how to spell. Try to find them on signs or packages. You can also spot them inside longer words (example: highway contains way).</p> | <p>Read two fairy tales. Tell someone how they're alike and different.</p> | <p>Copy each line of a nursery rhyme on a separate strip of paper. Mix up the strips, and put them back in the right order. Read the rhyme to a parent.</p> | <p>Hold a reading "show-and-tell." Each family member finds one thing to read (fortune cookie, greeting card). Take turns reading your items aloud.</p> |
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| <p>Write a thank-you note to a family member. Mention something nice that person did today. ("Thanks for taking me to the ball game, Mom.")</p> | <p>Start a list of new words that you discover while reading. Try to add a word to your list every day.</p> | <p>Read a non-fiction book. Tell someone at least three facts that you learned.</p> | <p>Use glue to write words on cardboard. Sprinkle glitter on the words. When the glue dries, shake off the extra glitter.</p> | <p>Match grocery coupons to items in the pantry or cupboard. Use the pictures on the coupons or other clues to read the words.</p> | <p>Write a math story about an addition problem (4 + 5). Example: "I ate 4 strawberries and 5 blueberries. All 9 were delicious."</p> | <p>Read an award-winning book. Ask a librarian for a list of Newbery Medal or Caldecott Medal winners.</p> |
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| <p>Flip through a book and list all the adjectives (descriptive words) you see. Go through again and write all the verbs (action words).</p> | <p>Read during errands. Browse a catalog in a department store, find words you know on a building, or read a magazine at the doctor's office.</p> | <p>Look at a map or globe. Find "North America." Look for your state, and read its name.</p> | <p>Draw a tree trunk with branches. Write a word ending (-all) on the trunk. Write words with that ending (tall, hall) on paper leaves. Glue them on the branches.</p> |
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|  |  | | <p>Attend a story hour at a library or bookstore. When you get home, hold your own story time with an audience of stuffed animals.</p> | <p>Write down five words that should be capitalized (teacher's name, your city and state). Then, write five words that start with lowercase letters.</p> | <p>On separate pieces of construction paper, write a word or sentence about yourself. Illustrate the pages, and staple them together. It's an autobiography!</p>  | <p>Start a reading log. Cut circles from construction paper, and write the title of each book you finish. Display them on your door to make a "bookworm."</p>  |
| <p>Draw a picture of your favorite storybook dog (Clifford, Spot, Biscuit). Underneath, write a title for a new book about him.</p>  | <p>Ask a parent to give you a handful of coins or a dollar bill. Identify as many letters and words as you can.</p>  | <p>Pack a bag of books, and read outdoors with a grown-up. You might sit on a park bench or on a blanket in your yard.</p>  | <p>At the grocery store, see how many items you can find that begin with the first letter in your name. At home, write down the ones you remember.</p> | <p>Make household signs. Cut shapes of road signs from construction paper, and add messages like "Quiet! Children reading."</p>  | <p>Dip cotton swabs in paint. Write the name of each color using that color paint. Example: Use purple paint to write purple.</p>  | <p>Play tic-tac-toe with consonant blends. Each player chooses a blend (tr, br). Take turns writing a word with your blend (train, bread) in a square. Three in a row wins.</p> |
| <p>Ask a parent to help you write down the words to your favorite song. Read the lyrics as you sing together.</p>  | <p>Write instructions for something you know how to do (set the table). Use the instructions to teach someone else.</p> | <p>Start a list of state license plates in the car. Each time you see a tag from a different state, add that state's name to your list.</p>  | <p>Read a book. Then, tell someone about the main characters, the setting, and the plot.</p>  | <p>Make your own stationery. Decorate the border of a piece of paper with stamps, stickers, or drawings. Use it to write a letter to a friend or relative.</p> | <p>Ask an adult to help you read something from the newspaper. Try a photo caption or a weather forecast.</p>  | <p>Look at an object for 30 seconds (vase, toy car). Put it away, and write down everything you remember about it. Compare your list to the actual item.</p>  |
| <p>Take turns reading lines of a poem aloud. Get poetry books at the library, or search online for "children's poetry."</p>  | <p>Before an outing, write down 10 things you hope to see. For a zoo trip, you might list different animals. Check them off as you find them.</p>  | <p>Divide a sheet of paper into two columns. In one column, list words that end with -ing. In the other, list words ending in -ed.</p> | <p>Using old magazines, cut out one picture that starts with each letter of the alphabet. Glue the pictures on paper in ABC order.</p> | <p>Read a book. On three index cards, write and draw what happened in the beginning, middle, and end of the story.</p> | <p>Spell the name of a friend or pet vertically on a sheet of paper. Add one word or phrase that starts with each letter and describes the person or pet.</p>  | <p>Ask a parent to write down five words. Have her time you to see how quickly you can look up all the words in the dictionary.</p>  |
| <p>Make a "wish list." You might list books you'd like to read, places you want to visit, or foods you plan to try.</p>  | <p>With an adult's help, send an email to a friend or relative. Include questions for the person to answer—then read the person's reply.</p>  | <p>Use a marker to write each letter of the alphabet on dried lima beans. Make two extra sets of vowels (a, e, i, o, u). Grab a handful of beans, and make as many words as possible.</p> |  | | | |

Reading Connection Beginning Edition

Hooray for Wordplay!



What do words and toys have in common? They're both fun to play with! Wordplay builds children's vocabulary and helps them learn to read, write, and spell. See how with these activities.

Word bank

A homemade piggy bank is a fun place for your youngster to save words from his favorite books. Have him make the bank by decorating an empty tissue box. Then, let him cut five "coins" from construction paper. Now it's time to collect words. Before you read aloud to him, ask him to choose a type of word (five-letter words, words that start with his favorite letter). As



you read, he can pick out words from the book that fit his criteria and write each one on a coin. Then, help him read each word aloud as he "feeds" it to his bank. He can cut out more coins and give the "pig" new words each time you read together. When his bank is full, let him dump it out—how many words can he read all by himself?

Letter escape

Can your youngster figure out which letter has escaped? This multiple-choice activity will help her become a better speller. Ask her to cover her eyes while you spell a word with Scrabble tiles. Leave one letter out and set it aside with two other letters. For example, you might spell *g_ing* and lay out *p*, *t*, and *o* as possible missing letters. When your child uncovers her eyes, it's her job to look at the word and choose the

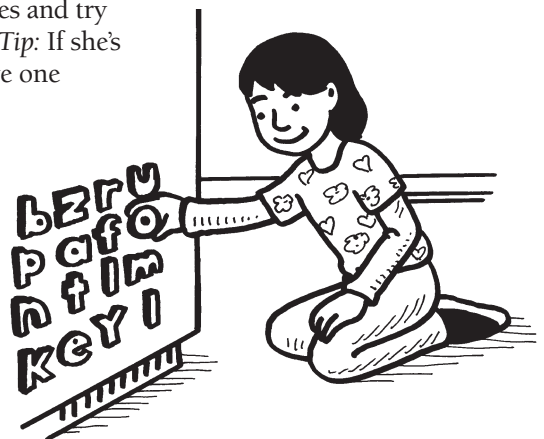
escaped letter from the options on the table. Help her sound out each choice. ("Gping?" "Gting?" "Going!")

Word switcheroo

Your youngster can play with *word families* to learn the sounds that letters make. A word family includes words that share the same ending sound (*hug*, *mug*, *rug*). Together, choose a word (*bit*), and write it down. Ask him to replace the first letter and say the new word he has made (*sit*). Take turns changing the first letter until neither of you can make another word. Then, choose a different word family to play with. A few to try include *-an*, *-ing*, *-ill*, and *-ake*.

Refrigerator word search

This hands-on word search can increase the number of words your youngster recognizes. Have her close her eyes while you use magnets to spell a three- or four-letter word (*key*, *ball*) on the refrigerator. The word can be vertical or horizontal. Surround it with random letters so that your word is hidden. Then, have your child open her eyes and try to find the word. *Tip:* If she's struggling, remove one letter at a time from the refrigerator—she may be able to spot the word with fewer letters around it. After she finds it, let her hide one for you.



continued

Alphabet actions

Try this silly way to pass time in a waiting room while boosting your child's knowledge of verbs, or action words. He can start by saying, "I _____ a worm," filling in the blank with a verb that begins with *a* (*ate, attacked, answered*).

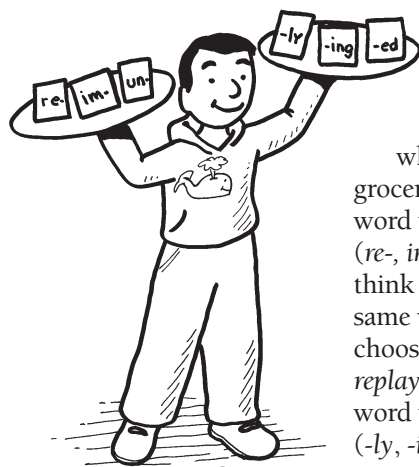
You repeat his sentence, but replace the verb with one that starts with *b* ("I *battled* a worm"). Keep working through the alphabet to see how many words you can come up with. If either of you is stumped, brainstorm a verb together.



coming up with funny things that household items might say. Start by having her choose an object and brainstorm a list of three words that are related to it. For a *refrigerator*, she might write *cold, food,* and *freezer*. Then, help her use one or more of the words to write dialogue for the fridge. ("Don't worry. I'll keep your food cold for you.") *Idea:* She can write the phrase in a word balloon on a sticky note and put it on the item.

Vowel pictures

A *mnemonic* is a device that can help your child remember something more easily. Here's one that she can use to learn vowel sounds. First, help her think of a word for each vowel (*a, e, i, o,* and *u*). Then, have her illustrate the word, making sure to include the actual letter somewhere in her drawing. She might draw a cat with *a*'s in place of its ears and nose and an umbrella with a giant *u* in the curved handle. When she's sounding out a word while reading, she can remember her drawings. ("The letter *u* makes the *uh* sound, like in *umbrella!*")



Beginnings and endings

Your youngster can explore prefixes and suffixes

while waiting in line at the grocery store or bank. Pick a word with a common prefix (*re-, im-, un-*), and ask him to think of words that begin the same way. For example, if you choose *rewind*, he might say *replay* and *redo*. Next, pick a word with a common suffix (*-ly, -ing, -ed*), and have him come up with three words

that end the same way. For *quickly*, he could say *quietly, carefully,* and *slowly*.

Talking objects

If your refrigerator could talk, what would it say? Your youngster can build her vocabulary and practice writing by

Made-up definitions

Your youngster can practice reading and writing definitions while building his vocabulary. Pick three words from the same category (baby animals). Write a simple definition for each word—but make one of the definitions false. *Examples:* "A fawn is a baby deer." "A calf is a baby horse." "A chick is a baby bird." Help your child read each sentence aloud, and ask him to figure out which one is fake (a calf is a cow, not a horse). Then, let him pick words from a new category (planets, colors) and make up three definitions for you. He can write them down or dictate them to you, and you point to the false one.

Syllable snakes

Here's a colorful way for your child to practice breaking words into syllables—a skill that can help her sound out long words. First, have her cut circles from several different colors of paper. (*Tip:* She can trace around a soup can to make circles.) Look in a magazine for a word with several syllables (*television*). Read the word to her, and then say it together slowly, clapping once for each syllable (*te-le-vi-sion*). Help her print the syllables on individual circles and glue them on paper to make a "snake."

Encourage her to find more words and make other snakes.

