



## Who Knew?, New News!



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# January Newsletter

## Reading with Your Child

By: [Bernice Cullinan](#), [Brod Bagert](#)

With this overview, learn why reading aloud to children from an early age is so important, and how to make it a motivating and meaningful experience.

There is no more important activity for preparing your child to succeed as a reader than reading aloud together. Fill your story times with a variety of books. Be consistent, be patient, and watch the magic work.

It's no secret that activities at home are an important supplement to the classroom, but there's more to it than that. There are things that parents can give children at home that the classrooms cannot give.

## Start young and stay with it

At just a few months of age, an infant can look at pictures, listen to your voice, and point to objects on cardboard pages. Guide your child by pointing to the pictures, and say the names of the various objects. By drawing attention to pictures and associating the words with both pictures and the real-world objects, your child will learn the importance of language.

Children learn to love the sound of language before they even notice the existence of printed words on a page. Reading books aloud to children stimulates their imagination and expands their understanding of the world. It helps them develop language and listening skills and prepares them to understand the written word. When the rhythm and melody of language become a part of a child's life, learning to read will be as natural as learning to walk and talk.

Even after children learn to read by themselves, it's still important for you to read aloud together. By reading stories that are on their interest level, but beyond their reading level, you can stretch young readers' understanding and motivate them to improve their skills.

## It's part of life

Although the life of a parent is often hectic, you should try to read with your child at least once a day at a regularly scheduled time. But don't be discouraged if you skip a day or don't always keep to your schedule. Just read to your child as often as you possibly can.

If you have more than one child, try to spend some time reading alone with each child, especially if they're more than 2 years apart. However, it's also fine to read to children at different stages and ages at the same time. Most children enjoy listening to many types of stories. When stories are complex, children can still get the idea and can be encouraged to ask questions. When stories are easy or familiar, youngsters enjoy these "old friends" and may even help in the reading.

Taking the time to read with your children on a regular basis sends an important message: Reading is worthwhile.

## Citizenship Assembly

For the month of January the students will be working on respect. Sixth grade will be presenting at the assembly this month. The assembly will take place January 25<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m. Please come out and support the children if you can.

## 5 Ways to Build Math into Your Child's Day

[HomeOur Work / For Families / Articles for Families on Math / 5 Ways to Build Math into Your Child's Day](#)

By Laura Bilodeau Overdeck

Math is everywhere. That's great news for parents, because we can talk with our kids about math in fun, natural ways. And that kind of math-talk is really important.

Studies show that a child's math skills at kindergarten entry are a better predictor of future academic success than reading skills, social skills, or the ability to focus. As parents, we can give our kids a head start by helping them get comfortable with math concepts like measuring and counting at home.

Here are five ways to add math to your child's day.

### 1. Bake something together

You can't help but use math when you're baking. Doubling recipes requires multiplying, halving a recipe requires dividing, and measuring a  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup or a  $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon gets you working with easy fractions. At a more basic level, kids love counting out chocolate chips. (And so do the parents; we speak from experience!)

**Ask your child:** *How many chocolate chips do you think it will take to fill one cup? How many for 1/2 cup? Count together and see how close you came to the right answer!*

### 2. Measure, count, and record

Most kids love stopwatches, and watching the seconds tick by gives them opportunities to practice counting. Measure distances and heights. Count jumping jacks, push-ups, or consecutive kicks of a soccer ball.

**Ask your child:** *How far can you throw a ball? Take a guess, then throw the ball as far as you can and measure the distance. How many jumping jacks can you do in a minute? Try it! How many times can you jump rope or bounce a ball without missing? Count and see.*

### 3. Build something together

Big or small, any project that involves measuring includes counting, adding, and multiplying. It doesn't matter whether you're making a clubhouse out of shoeboxes or building a genuine tree house. Legos and other building toys are wonderful tools for incorporating both numbers and spatial thinking into playtime.

**Ask your child:** *How high can you build that stack of Legos? How many Legos do you need to stack to reach as high as the coffee table? Can you make a square? A rectangle? Other shapes? Talk about the shapes of whatever your child has created.*

### 4. Plan dinner or a party

Whether you're planning a party or just getting ready for a family dinner, there are plenty of math concepts involved. Have your child help set the table and count out the plates, napkins, and silverware. For a party, have your child help with the shopping. You know you're going to have to do some math since all of those plates, balloons, and party favors are packaged in different quantities!

**Ask your child:** *How many plates, napkins, and forks do you need for dinner? If you're inviting 10 guests to a party, and the plates come 8 to a pack, how many packs are you going to need? How many are going to be left over? If you're not planning a party in the near future, get creative. Why not host a tea party for your child's favorite stuffed animals?*

### 5. Mix in math to your bedtime reading

Most families read to their children at night. Why not add a math problem to the mix? Here's one to try.

#### Melt in Your Mouth

No matter how much you love your favorite snack (apples, marshmallows, pound cake), it probably tastes even better dipped in something warm and gooey. That's what you do when you eat fondue. You fill the fondue pot with cheese or chocolate, put it over a hot flame, and then dip pieces of food into the yummy meltedness using long skinny fondue forks.

**Ask your 3 or 4-year old:** *If you dip 2 apple slices and 3 banana slices into your fondue, how many pieces did you dip?*

**Ask your older child:** *If there are 2 people sharing cheese fondue and everyone wants 3 apple slices, how many apple slices do you need to serve?*

There are plenty of other ways to keep kids thinking about math—board games, stickers, and stargazing, to name a few. The important thing is just to encourage your child to see the numbers all around us and to keep things fun. This is how we'll raise a next generation that thinks math is cool!

## Labels Information

Every time a class turns in a thousand labels they earn a free recess. At the end of the year, the class that has turned in the most labels will receive a prize. Here are the results as of January 7<sup>th</sup>:

Kindergarten—1,286

1<sup>st</sup> Grade—1,179

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade—2,008

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade—1,023

4<sup>th</sup> Grade—776

5<sup>th</sup> Grade—523

6<sup>th</sup> Grade—1,500

## Upcoming Events

January 21<sup>st</sup>—No School

January 25<sup>th</sup>—Citizenship Assembly at  
12:00 p.m.

## Reminders to Parents

- All lunch money is due at the beginning of the week.
- If lunches exceed the \$10 limit, an alternate lunch will be served.