

# Parent Connection

A Newsletter Full of Ideas to Help Your Child Become a Better Reader and Writer



## Tip

Asking your child to give you a play-by-play is an effective way to improve vocabulary. It also helps your child practice with skills needed to become a good reader such as summarizing and sequencing events.

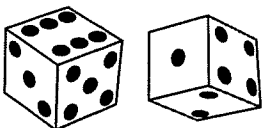
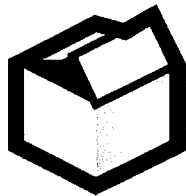
Focusing on one event makes this a manageable activity. After your child has been to a party, sports event, seen a movie, or played a game is a great time to give this a try.

Be sure to . . .

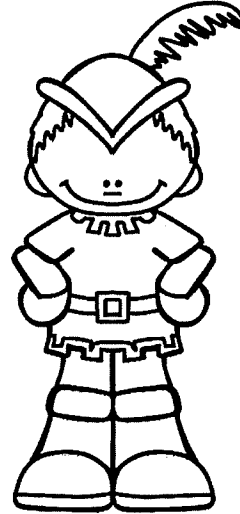
- Ask questions to guide your child through the sequence of events.
- Repeat portions of what your child says using new and interesting words.
- Praise when your child for explaining the situation well or using fascinating words.

## Thinking Outside the Box

Reading game instructions is a terrific way to get your child reading difficult material. You can try out a new game that you have never played before, or ask your child to verify a rule about something you are unsure of in a game you have played many times. Either way, your child must read and understand the rules.



## Free Online Resources



Here is a collection of six websites where children can hear and read books. You'll find everything from picture books, chapter books, and magazines.

<http://www.bookunitsteacher.com/parent/2.htm>

## Activity to Try

Play "I'm Thinking of an Object." This game may be played while driving in a car, eating breakfast, or just about any time you have a few moments.

The questioner may ask up to 10 questions to figure out the object. The questions must be answered with "yes" or "no."

Examples

- Is it alive?
- Can you find it in a house?
- Is it bigger than a car?

If the questioner can guess the object in 10 questions or less, s/he receives a point. Once the 10 questions are asked, repeat the game with the other player thinking of an object.

This activity is great for building vocabulary.

- Reading Bengalow

## Going beyond "How was your day?"

Questions to ask your child after school to get a conversation started.

1. What was the best thing that happened at school today?
2. What was the worst thing that happened at school today?
3. What was the hardest thing you had to do today?
4. Tell me something that made you laugh today.
5. Tell me about what you read in class today. What did your teacher read to you today?
6. If you could choose, who would you like to sit by in class? Who would you not want to sit by in class? Why?
7. What's the biggest difference between this year and last year?
8. Who did you sit by at lunch today? What did you talk about?
9. Can you show me something you learned today?
10. What part of school is your favorite?
11. Tell me the name of 3 kids you sat next to today.
12. What was the most interesting/funny thing your teacher said today?
13. What class rules does your teacher say are important?
14. Tell me one interesting fact about your teacher.
15. What's your favorite time of day at school?
16. What are you looking forward to at school tomorrow?
17. Did you get frustrated with anything at school today?
18. Were you able to finish all of your work today?
19. Tell me about a new word you heard today at school.
20. If I called your teacher tonight what would she/he tell me about you?

