

Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

January

Donald C. Parker Early Education Center

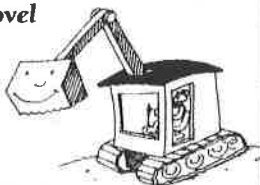
Book Picks



Read-aloud favorites

■ *Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel*

Mary Anne is a hardworking red steam shovel. Her driver, Mike, is upset because all of



the jobs are being given to shiny new trucks that run on gas or electricity. What will happen to Mike and Mary Anne? A classic tale by Virginia Lee Burton. (Also available in Spanish.)

■ *I Lost My Tooth in Africa*



Your child might be surprised to discover that the African tooth fairy leaves chickens in exchange for lost baby teeth. Based on a true story, Penda Diakité's book tells of her little sister's exciting experience during the family's visit with relatives in Mali.

■ *A Day with No Crayons*

The world is full of art supplies! That's what little Liza discovers after she colors on the walls and her mother takes away her crayons. In this story by Elizabeth Rusch, Liza finds other ways to express her creativity—using mud, flower petals, and even toothpaste.

■ *Andy Shane, Hero at Last*

Andy isn't sure he can win a bike-decorating contest against his friend Dolores. But as the children ride their bikes in the town parade, Andy has a chance to be a hero. The latest book in the Andy Shane series by Jennifer Richard Jacobson.



Fun at the library

Where can your child go to hear a good story, find the latest books and magazines, and surround himself with information about almost any topic? The public library! Here are a few ideas for making the most of your next trip.

Listen to a story. Ask a librarian for information about story hour. Some libraries even have special read-alouds that include crafts, puppets, or snacks. You can also have your own story time. Let your youngster choose a few books. Then, find a quiet corner and read to him. Or let him pretend to be a librarian—he can read to you or to a younger sibling.

Find out what's new. Look for a "new arrivals" display. Your child can read the latest book from his favorite author or discover a brand-new writer whose stories he might enjoy. (Tip: Put his name on the waiting list for new or upcoming releases you think he'd like to check out.) Also, browse the children's magazines. He can



read the most recent issues of *Fun for Kidz*, *Ladybug*, *Click*, *Humpty Dumpty*, and others.

Read around a theme. Together, choose a theme for your library visit. You might pick something your youngster is studying in school or another topic that interests him. Then, encourage him to explore different sections of the library as he gathers books that go with his choice. A winter animal theme, for instance, could include a story about a polar bear, a non-fiction book on penguins, and the biography of an Antarctic explorer.♥

Reading helpers

As children learn to read, they can benefit from the support of as many adults as possible. Here's how you can help with the reading program at your youngster's school:

- Offer to read aloud to the class, small groups, or individual students. You could also listen while students read to you.
- Tell the teacher if you know another language. She might pair you up with a child who speaks that language and is learning English.
- Make books. When students write stories, volunteers may be needed to staple or bind the pages together.
- Help children use computers and encyclopedias to look up information.
- Assist with after-school events such as book fairs or literacy nights.
- Volunteer during your youngster's library time to help students find books they'd like to check out.♥

