



Early Intervention

Strengthen Holiday Language Skills at Home By Kelly Faulkenberry Cheek, M.S.P, CCC-SLP Super Duper Handy Hand- outs #29

The holiday break gives parents the opportunity to spend more time with their children. With the following activities, parents can use this valuable time to strengthen their children's language skills and have some fun, too!

Use Family Pictures to Develop Strong Language Skills

Placing pictures into a personalized picture book, such as an inexpensive "flip-book" type album, can help your children understand and use more language. Talk with your children about people, objects, and colors and take turns describing each. En-

courage your children to describe the pictures and use words like who, what, when, where, and why. Allow them to describe their memories of these events and expand upon these with your own.

Reading and Telling Stories: A Great Way to Develop Imagination and Language Skills

Another way to spend quality time with your children, and strengthen language skills at the same time, is by reading and telling stories together. Let your children predict the characters' actions and describe the pictures using nouns, verbs, and adjectives. Ask your children to retell the story while adding your own ideas and giving clues to the sequence of events.

Tell stories to your children to allow them to build their imagination skills. Children love to hear stories about their parents and other close family members. Tell them funny stories about what they did when they were little, such as their first birthday, their first word, or when they first learned to talk. To bond with your child and strengthen their language skills, make this a part of your bedtime ritual.

There's more, much more to Christmas
Than just candle-lights and cheer;
It's the spirit of sweet friendship
That brightens all the years;
It is thoughtfulness and kindness,
It is hope that is reborn again,
For peace, for understanding
And for goodwill to humans!



PREKINDERGARTEN

The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart. Wishing you happiness.

--Helen Keller

We would like to share with you some proven ideas from research for parents for "A Child Becomes a Reader" by Ambruster, Lehr, and Osborn.

- Teach your children about print and letters.
- Help your children learn to recognize their names in

print. As they watch, print the letter of their names, saying each letter as you write it.

- Display their names in special places in your home. Encourage them to spell and write their names.
- Point out words and letters everywhere you can. Read street signs, traffic signs, billboards and store signs. Ask your children to begin naming common signs and find some letters.

- Teach your children to sing the alphabet song. After they master the singing, continue with saying the letters of the alphabet.

- Share alphabet books with your children. Some alphabet books have songs and games that you can learn together.
- Put magnetic letters on your refrigerator or other smooth metal surface.
- Ask your children to name the letters as they play with them.

Play games using the alphabet. Ask your children to find letters in books, magazines, newspapers and other print.

The prekindergarten children are in the midst of our letter of the day activities. Please continue to review the information we send home with each letter. Take some time to talk with your children about the activities that were done at school. It is important that you review the letter of the day with your child. Make a game of it, drilling your children may decrease their interest and you might not get the results you may desire. Many department stores have letter games that are rather inexpensive. Use the materials we send home to make your own games.



The children are eagerly waiting for Christmas. We have been busy making ornaments and special surprises. The children are also excited about their reading. Please continue to take time over the holidays to read each day. When the pre-decodable books come home, enjoy listening to your kindergarten read the book to you. We practice reading stories,

have shared readings and practice poems each day. The number of sight words the students can recognize is growing. We work on stretching out the sounds within words. This helps us when we try to write new words in our journals. Take credit for reading by marking it on the reading log.

down until Christmas. We continue to work on recognizing numbers 1-20. We have been sorting objects, extending patterns, and creating graphs. We have been counting by 10's and counting dimes. We update the calendar daily and practice the date, months of the year, days of the week and the seasons. We count the days of school with sticks and make groups of ten every ten days. This is helping us learn place value. When we get to day 100, we will have a big CELEBRATION!

We practice counting backwards as we count the days



FIRST GRADE

November flew by! It was wonderful to see many of you at parent conferences. Now that the first quarter is over we are increasing our goals and expectations for our students. We expect best printing on all of our school work.

tree to be trimmed and a Christmas program to prepare for. During all this merriment the students will still be working hard on many new and exciting concepts.

child or simply discussing events that occurred throughout the day.

Our students are progressing extremely well in reading and we will continue to progress monitor them to monitor growth each month. In math we are already in unit two and practicing our math facts daily with "Rocket Math".

We will continue to review our short and long vowel lessons and sequencing. Long vowels continue to be a difficult concept for the children to master. Remember the long vowels say their name such as /a/ for apron. Sequencing is another skill we are addressing. Sequencing is putting events in order from first to last. You can practice this skill while reading a book with your

Lastly, we are involved in a "race" with the other classrooms in the building. We have to read and document the book and the time you read on the reading log each night. The more we read the further our car will go! Please remember to keep the reading log in your child's folder so we have it for the race. Thank you parents for all that you do! As a team, we can take your child's learning to the next level. Have a great h o l i - day.

With the holiday season upon us the school is bustling with excitement. There are decorations to be hung, the



SECOND GRADE

Though the excitement and anticipation of the holiday season is upon us, second grade students continue to remain focused upon our current reading theme "Our World." This theme reveals how we gain insight into the world by understanding growth and change. Children will discover and explore the fascinating cycles of our natural world. We encourage parents / family members to continue to reinforce some of those strategies good readers use:

- Self-correcting
- Creating mental images
- Making inferences
- Sequencing & summarizing events

through our Rocket Math program. The second grade expectation is completion of the addition kit A-Z by the end of the second quarter. Math skills or concepts at this time include two digit subtraction with and without regrouping. Remember, it is important for children to see time, money and addition used outside of school in real-life situations!

Moreover, as you read with your child, ask questions using words such as: who, what, where, when, why and how. Discuss new vocabulary as it is encountered and what clues could be used to figure out the word meaning.

Happy Holidays!

- Decoding & looking at word bits and parts

We continue to work toward the mastery of addition and subtraction facts





THIRD GRADE

Thank you for attending parent conferences. We always look forward to meeting with you to discuss how we can better help your child. By keeping communication lines open, we can work together to provide the best education for all children.

The excitement of Christmas is in the air. We know that this time of the year can be very hectic, but please remember to encourage your child to read for at least 15-30 minutes each night and complete their homework.

We are "electrified" with science! The students are learning all about electricity by creating simple circuits. Have fun with your child at home discussing electricity and magnets.

In social studies students are learning all about protecting the environment. We have been learning how land and water affect people and the community; and how nature provides us with the natural resources we cannot live without. Remember to "respect, reuse and recycle."

"Friends to Grow With" is the title of the reading theme the children are working on. The children observe people growing and changing through their relationships with others by reading about ways in which friends and family influence real people and fictional characters.

The children have completed the math unit on time and money. These two skills are an essential part of your child's future. Please be sure to allow your child to practice counting money and telling time. While checking out at the register, allow your child to count out the correct amount of money to pay the cashier or quiz your child on the time of day periodically throughout the weekend.

In health all students completed the second step program. Each child was required to complete a mobile including information that they recently learned. Our next lesson in health will be on personal hygiene. Remind your child to wash their hands frequently throughout the day.



FOURTH GRADE

What We Have Been Doing:

- * *Science:* We are doing experiments to learn about different forms of energy.
- * *Social studies:* We are learning about Native Americans who lived in Pennsylvania years ago.
- * *Health:* We are learning about the effects of tobacco and alcohol so we are prepared to make good decisions.
- * *Reading:* We are reading stories about cooperation in theme two.
- * *Math:* We are multiplying and dividing larger math problems.
- * *Writing:* We are working on adding content and style to our writing.

What You Can Do At Home:

Encourage your child to practice multiplication facts for a few minutes each night. Ideas: Learn one new fact a night. Write it repeatedly. Say it aloud repeatedly. Before you know it, you will have mastered all of the facts! All students must master their multiplication facts by the end of the second marking period.

Ensure that your child reads nightly for 15-30 minutes. Record the reading on the reading log, which needs to be handed in once a week. Every Monday we can move our racecar a certain distance on the race track depending on how many children complete their reading logs!

Review content area subjects with your child frequently. Science, social studies, and health tests are not open book; it is necessary for students to study.

Look for the homework folders in your child's backpack every night. Check it over to make sure that your child is filling out his or her Homework Assignment Booklet and completing homework assignments. Together, we can ensure that your child has a successful year!

FIFTH GRADE

In December, the fifth grade is studying the thirteen original colonies. Can your child tell you where they were settled and who settled that area? Also the students are focused on the study of solutions and mixtures. They will be working in the lab on some experiments that show how solutions and mixtures are formed.

In math, the students are working with mean, median and mode. Please con-

tinue to practice the multiplication and division facts over the holiday break. One way to do this is while shopping for the holidays, have your child estimate costs of multiples of an item, or add prices of different foods in the grocery store.

Spelling is also an important part of our writing every day. We ask that the students study the spelling words.

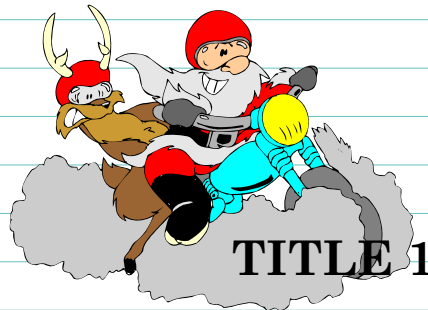
The fifth grade team would like to wish everyone a warm and special holiday this





Autistic Support-Nadine Prutzman & Jessica Trescavage

In December both classrooms will be going to "Operation Santa Claus' at Tobyhanna Army Depot"! It is Tobyhanna Army Depot's annual holiday charity drive which distributes toys, electronics, food, personal care items and other needs and wants to locals served by more than 20 regional agencies. The group served by the drive includes children, armed forces veterans and others. Our students will enjoy holiday crafts and musical entertainment and even a visit from Santa Claus! The drive is supported by fundraising events at the Depot and contributions from regional businesses. 😊 We're excited!



Take time during the hustle and bustle of the holiday season to make reading a part of every day. There are many wonderful holiday and seasonal stories that add to the joy of the season when shared. Encourage your children to select some from the school library, sit together, and read! You, as a parent, can read to your child; then switch and have them read to you if possible. Some recommendations from the Children's Choices book list for 2011 are:

Beginning and Young Readers

- Little Pink Pup by Johanna Kerby
- Lunch Lady and the Summer Camp

Shakedown by Jarrett J. Krosocz

Olive and Snowflake by Tammie Lyon

Intermediate Readers

Moon Over Manifest by Clare Vanderpool

The Red Pyramid-The Kane Chronicles by Rick Riordan

Chasing the Nightbird by Krista Russel

Visit your local Wayne County library for a vast selection of books. Make this a special holiday season with a new book under the tree. Just remember to READ, READ, READ each and every day!

