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5 ENGAGING LITERACY IDEAS TO TRY WITH YOUR CHILD THIS WEEK

For Parents: A Quick Introduction

By the age of 8 children are often starting to develop stronger reading and writing skills — but confidence still matters just as much as ability. Literacy does not need to feel heavy or formal. Short, focused activities can build fluency, vocabulary and comprehension in simple, manageable ways. Here are 5 practical ideas you can use this week.

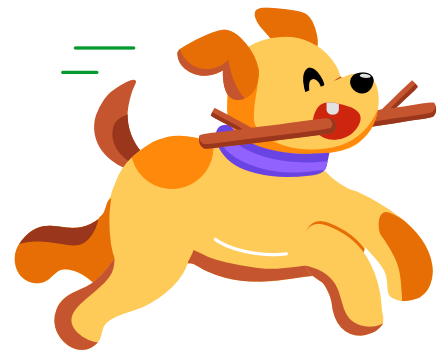


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News Reporter Challenge



ASK your child to read a short news article or child-friendly report. Then ask them to summarise it in 3-4 sentences, explain the key facts and share their opinion. This builds comprehension and structured thinking.



Upgrade the Sentence

Start with a simple 3 word sentence like "The dog ran." Challenge your child to improve it by adding adjectives, adverbs or extra detail. For example: "The nervous sandy dog ran excitedly through the muddy field, clutching his prize possession stick in his mouth."

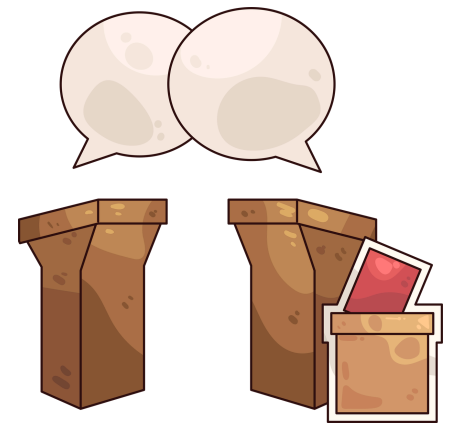
This is fun to do aloud but will strengthen their descriptive writing skills. If they enjoy drawing, they could try to draw the sentence they have created and write it if they want to!



Character Perspective Meeting



After reading a chapter, role play a meeting, where your child or you can “take the minutes”. On the agenda: Why did this character act in that way? How might another character describe the same event? What do we think is going to happen next? Discussions like this will help your child to develop inference skills and deeper understanding.



Debate It

Choose a light topic such as “Should school exist?” or “Is technology helpful or harmful?” Ask your child to give two reasons for and two reasons against. This develops persuasive writing and structured thinking. It is really hard for some children to think of arguments that they don’t agree with but it is a healthy skill to practise as it helps build tolerance of others! You could set up a debate where you take it in turns to argue for and against various topics too!





Word Wonder



Choose a children's book and take it in turns to roll 2 dice. The combined total of the 2 dice determine the page you need to turn to. Let your child close their eyes (or use a blindfold!) and place their finger on the page. Whatever word they are pointing at has to be looked up in the dictionary.

If it is a word your child knows, then they have to guess what the dictionary definition will be.

If it is a word that your child doesn't yet know, then they have to guess what it might mean. Keep new words on a pin board where you can see them and reuse them.

This activity will strengthen your child's vocabulary and alphabetical order knowledge.



Parents...

Hopefully you have been able to try a few of these ideas with your child. It is a great idea to keep a record of the ideas that work well as well as ideas that didn't work so well but you might want to come back to another time.

Literacy confidence grows steadily when children feel supported and encouraged. At Learn Laugh Play, our lessons combine structured curriculum coverage with calm teaching and flexible participation. If you would like to explore our live lessons and recordings, or the other learning resources that we offer, take a look at our website:

www.llplearningspace.co.uk

“There are many little ways to enlarge your child’s world. Love of books is the best of all.”

Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis

