

# Carver Elementary School Newsletter



August/September, 2010

*“The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand, and the determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand.”*

*Vince Lombardi*

Dear Families,

**Welcome to the 2010-2011 school year!** We hope each and every family enjoyed a summer full of fun, rest, and adventure. Everyone at the Carver Elementary School has worked hard during the summer to ensure that the school is ready for the first day. Thanks to the office staff, the custodial staff, and the teaching staff for the many hours of preparation for the Carver Elementary School students.

**Our Staff:** Please join us in welcoming our new teaching staff! Miss Kelli Dolan is one of the new second grade teachers as well as Mrs. Jody Olson who was a teacher here from 1999-2003. Other changes that have taken place for this school year: Mrs. Campopiano, Ms. Stahl, and Mrs. Steed have moved to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Mrs. Lombardi and Mrs. Kelley will be teaching 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Mrs. Kent is a 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher; Mrs. Calef is one of the reading interventionists, and Mrs. Linane will be a special education teacher. Ms. Kristin Umina will be the long-term substitute for Mrs. Wronski while she is on maternity leave. Speech/language pathologist, Ms. Roy, is now Mrs. Narducci.

**Parent/Guardian Information Night (Open House):** Please take special note of our school calendar in this issue. On **Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>**, we will hold our annual Parent/Guardian Information Night (Open House) from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. This will be an opportunity for you to meet your child’s teacher and learn about the curriculum and educational programs at our school. More detailed information will be sent to you at a later date.

**PTO Board Changes:** As many of you know, Jeannine Roche and Jill Lapsley have resigned from their positions on the PTO Board. We thank them for their hard work and the **many** hours they gave to the students and staff at the Carver Elementary School. This summer others parents have come forward and volunteered to serve on the Board of Directors. They are Dorene Allen-England, Marie Blotner, Tracy Condon, Thea Dickinson-Rowles, Jani Donnelly, and Joyce Macrina. Please take a moment to view the website, [www.carverpto.org](http://www.carverpto.org).

**Literacy, Math and Writing:** This school year will be another busy and productive one for your child. We will continue to implement the Scott Foresman reading program and continue with the intervention schedule. This means that the students will be grouped according to their skill level for 45 minutes each day in addition to receiving 60 to 90 minutes of core reading instruction daily. This is our fourth year of implementing the *Everyday Math* program. The response to our family math night was very positive; therefore, we look forward to planning another family math night this fall. Writing will be another area that we will focus on this year. Please read the two attachments: *Reading Connection* and *Home & School Connection* for some great tips.

**School Council:** According to the 1993 Education Reform Act, every school is required to have a School Council, which is a group of teachers, parents, the Principal, and a community representative who meet monthly to develop the School Improvement Plan and act as an advisory group to the Principal. Returning as parent representatives this year are Leanne Allegrini, Steve Fenton, Marie Blotner, and Paula Kibbe. Our community representative is Gina Hanlon. These monthly meetings are open to all, so please join us. We meet monthly in the EKW building conference room. Our first meeting will be held on **Monday, October 18 at 3:00 p.m.**

**Bullying Prevention and Intervention:** The Governor of Massachusetts recently signed into law SB 2404, An Act Relative to Bullying in Schools. This new law requires that all school staff receive annual training regarding the Carver Public School District’s bullying prevention and intervention plan. We also are required to give our students education in bullying prevention and intervention. Our plan is to present a program regarding bullying prevention and intervention to the parents at a PTO meeting in the fall. This program will be presented by the Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center (MARC), located at Bridgewater State University. More information will be coming to you at a later date.

**Volunteers:** If you would like to volunteer in any capacity at the Carver Elementary School, please complete an application and forward it to Mrs. Maestas, one of our Associate Principals, as soon as possible. Remember: anyone wanting to volunteer in any capacity, **even chaperoning a field trip**, needs to complete a CORI form in order to participate. The CORI process can be completed through the Superintendent’s Office or either of the school offices. You will need proper identification for the process. Thank you for your quick response to this request.

**2010-2011 Family Directory:** Thanks to Mrs. Kelly Yenulevich for compiling the Family Directory for the 2010-2011 school year. You will receive a family directory if you send in the form by **Friday, September 17, 2010**. (The form is in your child’s welcome back pack.) This user-friendly directory is handy to use for play dates and birthday party invitations. Our goal is to send the directory home by the end of September. To be sensitive to all our students’ feelings, we ask that you do not send home birthday invitations through school. Thank you for your cooperation!

**School Hours:** The Elementary School starts at 8:45 a.m. When you drive your child to school, please be sure to be here promptly so that your child does not miss any time at school. The first 2 hours of school are devoted to literacy or math instruction; therefore, if your child is late, (s)he will miss out on very important instruction. Thank you in advance for your cooperation to this important request.

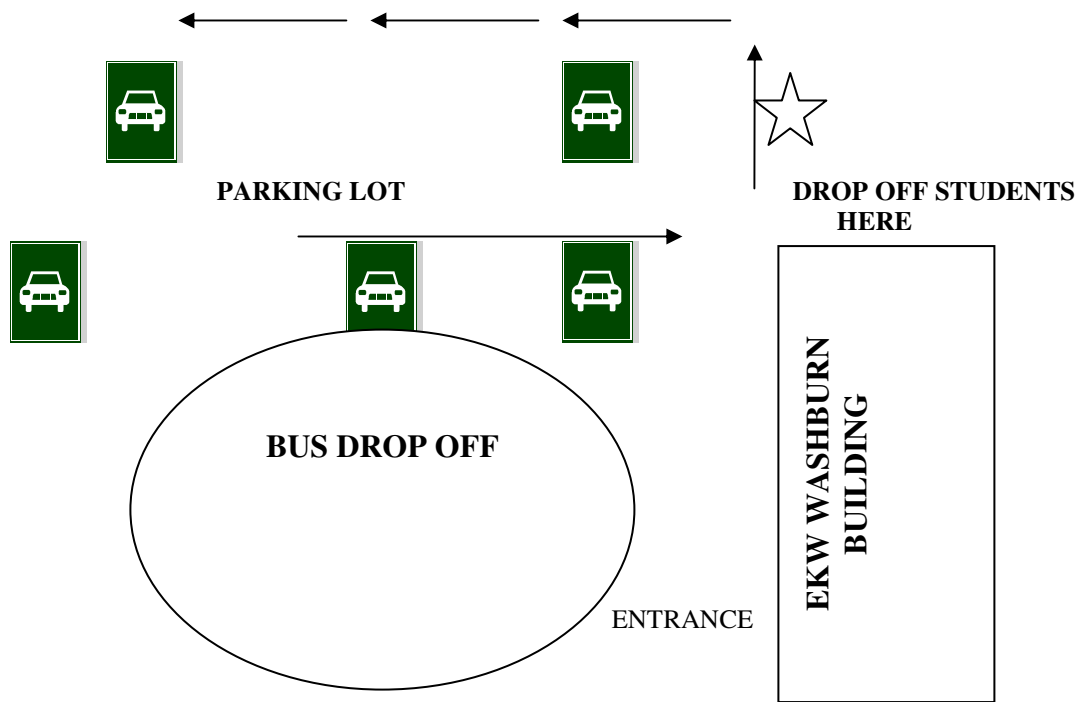
We look forward to working with you and your child this year. Research tells us that when parents and educators work together, children benefit from this collaboration. We share your desire to have your child become the best (s)he can be. Let’s have a wonderful school year together!

Sincerely,  
*Candace E. Weiler*  
Principal

*Paula Foley*  
Associate Principal

*Ruby Maestas*  
Associate Principal

**Morning Drop Off:** For the safety of all students and staff, we respectfully request your cooperation with this procedure. If you are dropping off a 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> grade student, please do so at the Elementary Building Cafeteria. If you are dropping off a Kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2 or grade 3 student, please do so in the side parking lot and be sure your child walks on the sidewalk, NOT BETWEEN THE BUSES. We understand that this procedure may take a little longer when dropping your student(s) off, but it will ensure safety of all. Please see the diagram below. Thank you.



**Student Interns:** We are fortunate to have nine high school seniors who will be interning at the Carver Elementary School. These students, Kendle Arrigal, Stephanie Carter, Bonnie Crehan, Elizabeth Dunlop, Jackie Garner, Emily Levenson, Katie Phippen, Marissa Pimental, Felicia Robichaud and Jordan Peoples have chosen to work at the Carver Elementary School. We look forward to working with them.

**Welcome Back Packets and Notices from school:** This year we are sending home a teal folder filled with information. When you open this folder, you will notice that in the right pocket we have included forms that need to be returned to the school as soon as possible. In the left pocket, we have included the September newsletter, school calendar and the School Handbook. Please look through the folder and read these important pieces of paper. We suggest that you save the folder so that you can add other important information to it throughout the school year. We will continue our practice of sending home notices from the office on Mondays and Thursdays. Please remember to check your child’s backpack everyday for notes from the teacher and your child’s work.

**PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION NIGHT (OPEN HOUSE)**  
**Thursday, September 23, 2010**  
Please circle your calendar to be sure that you come to our annual Parent/Guardian Information Night (Open House). During this time, you will meet your child’s teacher, learn about our curriculum, and the teacher’s expectation. We will have a prize for the classroom that has the most parents in attendance.  
**BE SURE TO COME!**

**CARVER PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
The Carver Public Library is offering a free Babysitting/Home Alone Class to those who are age 11 and older. The class will meet on 5 consecutive Tuesday evenings from 6:30 – 7:30 beginning Tuesday, September 28th and ending Tuesday, October 26th. The class is for those who wish to learn about babysitting as well as for those who stay home alone. There will be guest speakers covering topics such as fire safety, personal safety, nutrition, child development and activities. The class will be held in the Small Meeting Room. Registration is required. Please call the library at 508-866-3415 to sign up.

**PAPA GINOS FUNDRAISER**  
A fundraiser at Papa Ginos will be held on Thursday, September 23, 2010, 4-9 pm. Papa Ginos will donate 20% of all profits to the “All for Fun, Fun for All” project. This project will help to build an accessible addition to our current playground. Although this is scheduled for Open House Night, we hope you will be able to find some time before or after to stop by and pick up a pizza or two.

Upcoming Events:

Tuesday, August 31, 2010	School Begins, Grades 1-12
Tuesday, August 31, 2010	Kindergarten Orientation (by appointment)
Wednesday, September 1, 2010	Kindergarten Assessment (by appointment)
Thursday, September 2, 2010	Kindergarten Assessment (by appointment)
Tuesday, September 7, 2010	Kindergarten Begins
Thursday, September 9, 2010	Preschool Begins
Tuesday, September 14, 2010	Early Release Day, 11:45 am dismissal
Monday, September 20, 2010	School Picture Day
Thursday, September 23, 2010	Parent/Guardian Information Night (Open House), 6-8 pm
Friday, September 24, 2010	Reading Logs Due
Friday, October 1, 2010	Bullying Assembly
Saturday, October 2, 2010	Grades 4 & 5 Instrumental Pick-Up – Elem. Café – 9:00 am
Thursday, October 21, 2010	Early Release Day, 11:45 am dismissal
	Parent/Teacher Conferences

Please remember to check the Carver Public Schools’ website for information: [www.carver.org](http://www.carver.org)

# Surfing the Net with Kids

## By Barbara Feldman

Although printed books will probably be center stage for reading activities with preschoolers and students in early elementary grades, the Internet has a huge stash of online reading activities and ideas for offline activities such as puppet play and making bookmarks.

**ED.gov: Compact for Reading and School-Home Links**  
**[www2.ed.gov/pubs/CompactforReading/index.html](http://www2.ed.gov/pubs/CompactforReading/index.html)**

The Compact for Reading outlines a partnership between families and schools to improve reading skills, but it’s the School-Home Links Reading Kits I want you to look at. They are available in easy-to-print PDF format for grade levels K through 3. Weighing in at a hefty hundred pages each, they are chock-full of printable reading activities and worksheets. Great stuff, but very elementary. You may find your own student ready to do the grade 3 level work at a much younger age.

**Education.com:**  
**First Grade Reading Activities**  
**[www.education.com/activity/first-grade/reading](http://www.education.com/activity/first-grade/reading)**

Make a lunch box magnet board, tell a story with sock puppets, or go on a treasure hunt for the emperor’s new clothes. Education.com has collected 80 illustrated reading activities and projects for first graders. As with most grade-level activities, your child may be ready for these in preschool or may still find them useful in second grade. You can find additional grade levels in the right-hand menu.

**Reading Rockets:**  
**All Activities Articles**  
**[www.readingrockets.org/article/c71](http://www.readingrockets.org/article/c71)**

With sections for parents, teachers, principals, and librarians, Reading Rockets is on a mission to launch young readers. This article archive contains more than 40 reading activities for home and classroom, including dozens of literacy bags. What’s a literacy bag? It’s a Ziploc bag with a printable activity, bookmark, and parent info sheet designed to be sent home by a teacher with a book. But the idea is also great for parents looking for portable reading activities.

**Reading Planet: RIF Kids**  
**[www.rif.org/kids](http://www.rif.org/kids)**

Reading Is Fundamental’s online activity center is divided into two age groups: Reading Planet for ages 6 to 15, and Leading to Reading for children 5 and younger. With great graphics and fun game play, these colorful online reading activities and interactive books are sure to please. In the Activity Lab for early elementary students, projects include Illustrate a Story, Printable Bookplates, and an interactive coloring book.

Carver Elementary School  
LUNCH Menu

~ Welcome back to our students and staff ~

Tuesday 8/31/10	Hotdog on a bun <i>Cape Cod</i> red. fat chips Carrot sticks w/ dip Fruit Cup	Tuna salad roll <i>Cape Cod</i> red. fat chips Carrot sticks w/ dip Fruit Cup
Wednesday 9/1/10	Baked chicken nuggets w/ dipping sauces Oven baked “fries” Mixed vegetables Cinnamon & sugar apple slices	Sliced turkey sub Lettuce & tomato <i>Tiny Twist</i> pretzels Cinnamon & sugar apple slices
Thursday 9/2/10	Whole grain stuffed crust – cheese or pepperoni Garden salad Pears	
Tuesday 9/7/10	Chicken Patty on a roll <i>Smart Food</i> popcorn Veggie sticks with dip Apricots	Spicy chicken patty on a roll <i>Smart Food</i> popcorn Veggie sticks with dip Apricots
Wednesday 9/8/10	Cheeseburger on a bun Lettuce, tomato and pickles <i>Smiley</i> “fries” Fruit cup	Hamburger on a bun Lettuce, tomato & pickles <i>Smiley</i> “fries” Fruit cup
Thursday 9/9/10	Beef soft tacos With shredded lettuce & cheese Corn Peaches	Chicken teriyaki salad Pita bread
Friday 9/10/10	Sal’s Pizza – cheese or pepperoni Pasta Salad Jell-O with topping	

Available Daily Alternative Lunches

Grades 1 & 2  
Peanut butter and jelly sandwich (*Smucker’s Uncrustable*)  
Bagel Lunch  
2.3 oz bagel w/ choice of cream cheese, margarine, or jelly  
Assorted cereals  
Included with all the above are: milk, juice, fruit, and vegetable of the day  
All menus are subject to change upon availability of products.  
Bottled Water or 100% Juice  
LUNCH \$2.00 MILK \$.50 SNACKS & ICE CREAM \$.75

# Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

Carver Elementary School  
Ms. Candace Weiler, Principal

## Book Picks

Read-aloud favorites

### ■ *The Magic School Bus Lost in the Solar System*

Ms. Frizzle blasts her class into the solar system for some out-of-this-world science lessons. One of the Magic School Bus series by Joanna Cole. (Also available in Spanish.)



### ■ *Doctor De Soto Goes to Africa*

In this tale by William Steig, the famous mouse dentist travels to Africa. But before he can repair the tooth of Mudambo the elephant, an unhappy monkey kidnaps him!



### ■ *The Whingdingdilly*

Scamp is bored with his life as a dog. Then Zildy the witch changes him into a Whingdingdilly. Life is anything but boring now—but is Scamp happy? Read this story by Bill Peet to find out.

### ■ *Babushka's Doll*

"It wasn't that Natasha was a truly naughty child." So begins the story of a little girl who needs some practice learning patience. The lesson begins when Natasha picks up her grandmother's doll. A magical story by Patricia Polacco.



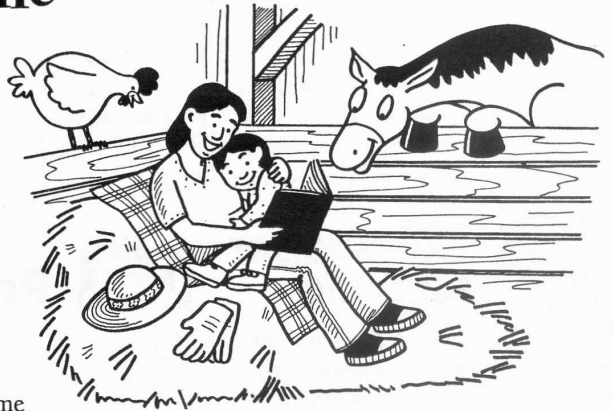
## Story time

Want to spend time with your youngster, build her reading skills, and help her learn to love books? You can do all three when you read aloud to her. Here are some suggestions.

**Read regularly.** Try to read to your child every day. You might aim for 10–15 minutes of bedtime reading for a peaceful end to the day. Tuck read-alouds into the time when dinner is in the oven. Or curl up together with a book when you get home from work.

**Take turns choosing books.** Your youngster may want to hear old favorites again and again. Use your turn for new titles and variety (nonfiction, poetry).

**Let her participate.** Ask your child to turn the pages while you read. Also, she can finish sentences that rhyme or fill in words she knows. Go slowly so she has



time to understand the story and look at the illustrations. She'll enjoy read-aloud time more if she plays an active role.

**Be playful.** You can use different voices for different characters (a high, squeaky voice for a chicken or a deep, booming voice for a horse). Substitute your youngster's name for the main character's name, and use family members' names for other characters. *Note:* You don't have to be an expert reader—your child will love it when you read aloud because it's you. ♥

## A language-rich home

Good news: Strong language skills can make your youngster a better reader, writer, and all-around student. Great news: You can build those skills just by talking to your child. Try these ideas:

- Narrate everyday activities like driving or cooking. Hearing unfamiliar words in conversation will help your youngster understand words in books ("Please hand me the *colander* so I can drain the spaghetti"). *Tip:* If he doesn't know the word, explain: "This is a colander. Water drains through the holes."
- Encourage your child to join family conversations. Ask him questions to help him expand on his answers. ("Why do you think so?" "What else happened?") He will learn to talk about events and give his opinions. ♥





# Use what you know

## Reading new words

Your child probably can't read a word like "supercalifragilisticexpialidocious." But he can use words he already knows to read new words. Here's how:

■ Start with your youngster's name. Troy, for example, might have an easier time learning "tr" words such as "train." You can use the "tr" consonant blend at the beginning of his name to teach



him other blends as well, such as "cr," "pl," and "st."

■ Point out patterns in sight words your child recognizes. Example: If your youngster knows "they," he can learn "then," "this," and "that." "Could," "would," and "should" are three common sight words that also share a pattern.

■ Break down syllables in a longer word, such as "yesterday." Cover the entire word with a small slip of paper. Then, slowly slide the paper to the right to show each syllable one at a time (yes-ter-day). This works especially well for words with several syllables, such as "supercalifragilisticexpialidocious"! ♥

## Fun with Words

### Newspaper learning

With thousands of words in every issue, newspapers are a great way to build your youngster's skills. Grab a paper, and try these activities.

#### Matching game

Have your child cut out several photographs and their captions separately. Mix them up. Matching the captions and the photos will improve her reading comprehension.



#### Scavenger hunt

List items in the newspaper (car ad, crossword puzzle, weather forecast), and ask your youngster to find and circle each one. She'll build research skills as she looks through the pages.

#### ABC order

Together, find the names of 5–10 countries, states, and cities in headlines or stories. Let your child copy each one onto an index card and arrange the cards in alphabetical order. This will help her practice spelling and learn about geography. ♥

### OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ways to promote their children's reading, writing, and language skills.

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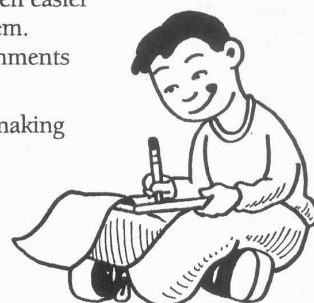
## Q&A

### Real writing

Q My son doesn't enjoy writing. He will write a few words, such as his spelling lists. But when it's time to write a paragraph or a story, he complains. Any ideas?

A Have your son try a few "real" writing tasks. It's often easier for kids to write about things that have meaning for them. Encourage your child to give those longer writing assignments a try with ideas like these:

- ✎ Have him write what he remembers about the day (making a new friend, playing kickball, having pizza for lunch).
- ✎ Let him choose a cherished toy or animal and write a few sentences describing it. Example: "The bunny is soft. He hops fast."
- ✎ Ask him to write lists of favorite songs, favorite characters in a movie, or ideas for his birthday. ♥



## Parent to Parent

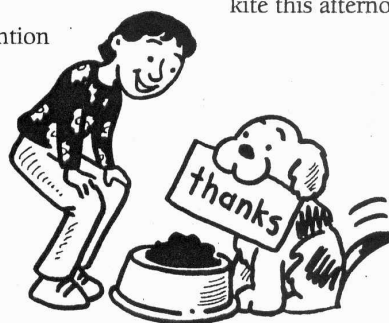
### Simple reading practice

I've found a way to give my children reading practice—and improve their behavior at the same time. I write short notes to my kids and leave them around the house.

Sometimes I'll mention my youngsters' good behavior ("Thanks for helping with the dishes!") or write reminders ("Please hang me up. Signed, Your towel"). Sometimes the notes are about

not-so-good behavior. ("I was disappointed when you yelled at me. Can we talk about it?") I make sure to leave notes for treats, too ("Let's go fly your kite this afternoon!").

I look for unique places to put the notes, such as on their pillows, in front of the dog's water bowl, or pinned to the shower curtain. The kids enjoy discovering the notes and reading them aloud. ♥



# Home & School

Working Together for School Success

## CONNECTION®

Carver Elementary School  
Ms. Candace Weiler, Principal

### SHORT NOTES



#### Picture this

Good readers form mental pictures as they read. To improve your child's comprehension, read a book without letting him see it. Then, ask him to guess what the illustrations look like. *Examples:* How are the characters dressed? Is the setting bright or gloomy?

#### Raising good sports

You can teach your youngster to be a good sport by being one yourself. When you attend a game, clap and cheer for players who try hard, even if they're on the other team. You'll help your youngster learn to be gracious to everyone in the game.

#### Line them up

Sometimes kids get math problems wrong simply because they haven't lined up the numbers correctly. Try this. Have your child work problems on graph paper, using one box per number. Once she gets used to this system, she'll be able to transfer her lining-up skills to regular paper.

#### Worth quoting

"Life doesn't require that we be the best, only that we try our best."  
H. Jackson Brown Jr.

### JUST FOR FUN

**Teacher:** Name one important thing we have today that we didn't have 10 years ago.

**Brian:** Me!



## Study smarts

Sarah, a fourth-grader, takes a history test at the end of each month. Evan, a first-grader, has a spelling quiz every Friday. Studying is a skill these youngsters will need throughout their years of school. Help your child study effectively with these tips.

**Start a habit.** Encourage your youngster to treat studying as a daily assignment, not just something she does the evening before a test. For example, she might study 15 minutes every night for a spelling test on Friday. After she finishes her regular homework, she can spend a little time reviewing her notes and handouts.

**Tackle textbooks.** When your child has a chapter to study, have her "preview" it to increase her understanding. She should glance over headings, graphics, and photos and go to the glossary to look up boldfaced words. *Tip:* If she finds a section hard to grasp, she could read a picture book on the



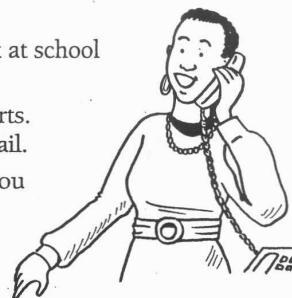
topic. For a science unit on matter, for instance, she could try *What Is the World Made Of?* by Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld.

**Mix it up.** If your youngster reviews information in several ways, she'll be more likely to remember it. She might use colored pencils to copy each spelling word or math fact onto a separate index card. Then, she can shuffle the cards and study them in a different order each time. For extra reinforcement, suggest that she spell each word or recite each fact aloud. ♥

### Parent power

There are many ways you can support your child's learning and school. Here are a few ideas:

- Spend a few minutes every evening looking over handouts your youngster brings home. Fill out forms to return the next day.
- Tell your child's teachers if you can help them out at school or home.
- Make sure teachers know you appreciate their efforts. From time to time, send a thank-you note or an e-mail.
- Contact your youngster's teacher immediately if you see a problem. Working together will help your child succeed.
- Attend conferences, parent meetings, and school events regularly. ♥



## Let's behave!

Did you know that getting your youngsters to behave can be fun? Try these ideas to encourage better behavior—and cut down on everyone's frustration.

**Distract.** Being playful can stop misbehavior, especially if it's caused by boredom. *Example:* You're stuck inside on a rainy day, and your kids begin to get cranky. Say, "Freeze! Splash time!" Fill the bathtub, cover the floor with towels, and let them play in the water with cups and boats. (*Note:* Never leave children unsupervised near water.) Or call out, "Pillow time,"



and have everyone gather in the family room for a gentle pillow fight.

**Celebrate.** With your children, pick a few behavior goals (get ready for bed without complaining; say "excuse me" when someone is talking). Then, get out a small jar and some marbles. Tell your youngsters they will earn a marble each time you catch them working toward a goal. When the jar is full, celebrate with an extra story every night for a week.

*Note:* Children often act out to get your attention. Try to spend a few minutes a day playing a game or talking with each child, and you're likely to see better behavior. ♥

## ACTIVITY CORNER

### Paper bag city

Let your child create her own 3-D community. She'll practice map skills and learn about urban planning as she decides where to put the buildings in her town.

**Materials:** paper lunch bags, newspapers, crayons or markers, black construction paper, scissors, tape

Have your youngster think of buildings to include, such as a bank, grocery store, school, library, and houses. She can make them by drawing doors, windows, and signs on flat bags (on the side without the flap). For every bag she decorates, have her stuff a second one with newspaper. Then, she should open each decorated bag and slide it over a stuffed bag so her "buildings" will stand up. For the roads, she can cut black construction paper into strips and tape them together.

Finally, have your child lay out her roads and arrange her buildings alongside them to make her very own town. ♥



## Q & A

### Bullying: The bystander's role

**Q:** My child came home from school upset because kids were picking on a classmate and wouldn't let her play with them. What advice should I give my daughter?

**A:** Tell your youngster that her classmate was being bullied—and that she has the power to help stop it!

There are several things she can do. She could start by standing up to the bully and saying something like, "That's not nice." Then, she might ask the child who is being bullied to join her in a game or school project.

Also, remind your youngster to report bullying to a teacher or other adult when she sees it. Let her know this is not tattling, but a way to help someone who is being hurt. You can explain: "Asking an adult to help a child who is being bullied is like asking the nurse to help a child with a scraped knee." ♥



## PARENT TO PARENT

### Thinking games

Between school, errands, and activities, my family spends lots of time on the go. I decided to use some of it for "thinking games."

I taught my kids a game my parents used to play with me, called "Would You Rather?" I offer two options and ask which they prefer and why. For example, I might say, "Would you rather live near the beach or the mountains?"

My son came up with a game he named "Three Favorites." Someone picks

a category (outfits, movies), and we all tell our top three choices. My daughter thought of "What Doesn't Belong?" We take turns naming items and asking the others to explain which is the odd one out and why. The kids especially like this game because there can be more than

one "right" answer. For example, when I named "owl," "ostrich," and "eagle," my daughter said, "Ostrich, because it can't fly."

My son's answer was, "Owl, because it hunts at night."

Now they want to play all the time. I'm glad because we're having fun—and they've gotten better at thinking through their ideas. ♥



## OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

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