

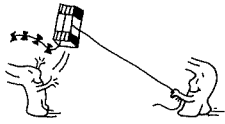
Math+Science Connection

Beginning Edition

Building Excitement and Success for Young Children

March 2017

Bloom-Carroll Primary School
Vicky Pease, Principal Melissa Ray, Title I



TOOLS & TIDBITS

Picture the data

Introduce your child to pictographs by having him take a survey and show his data with pictures. He could ask family members which fruit they like better, bananas or apples. To graph his results, he can draw the two fruits and put a smiley face next to each one to represent a vote. Which fruit has more smiley faces? How many more does it have?

I spy the wind



Your little one may not be able to see the wind, but you can ask her to *show* it to you anyway. Outside on a windy day, have her toss blades of grass into the air and watch them being carried away. Or she might hold up a flag or ribbon to flutter in the breeze.

Book picks

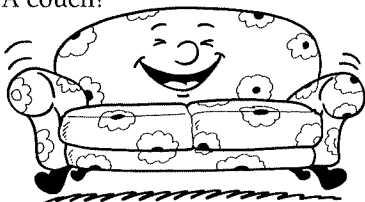
At Miss Bloom's boardinghouse, guests enjoy her yummy cake with a side of fractions in the rhyming story *Full House: An Invitation to Fractions* (Dayle Ann Dodds).

A little girl who loves the stars grows up to be America's first professional woman astronomer. Read the inspiring true story of Maria Mitchell in *Maria's Comet* (Deborah Hopkinson).

Just for fun

Q: What has arms but no hands?

A: A couch!



Ones, tens, and hundreds

What makes 21 different from 12? Swapping the placement of the 2 and the 1 turns them into totally different numbers! These suggestions let your youngster work on this concept of *place value*.

Hunt for numbers

Ask your child to point out two-digit numbers in your home (March 31 on the calendar, page 19 in her storybook). Can she tell you which number is in the tens place and which is in the ones? (For 31, the 3 is in the tens place, and the 1 is in the ones place.)



worth 6. She will see that tens are worth more than ones.

Collect tens and ones

Together, find household items to represent tens and ones (*examples:* pretzel sticks for tens, sunflower seeds for ones). Put a sticker on each side of a quarter — one labeled “tens,” the other “ones.” Take turns rolling a die and flipping the coin. If your youngster rolls a 5 and flips “tens,” she gets 5 pretzels, equaling 50. If you roll a 6 and flip “ones,” you get 6 seeds,

Stand in place

Let your child write “hundreds,” “tens,” and “ones” on separate paper plates and place them on the floor. Give her a three-digit number, say 231. Then ask, “Where would you stand for the 2?” (She would step on the hundreds plate, because the 2 is in the hundreds place in 231.) Next, have her give you a number. Challenge her by standing on the wrong plate to see if she corrects you! 🦋

Where did they go?

One way animals protect themselves from predators is by blending into their environment using *camouflage*. This simple activity will teach your child what camouflage is all about.

1. Have your youngster cut out squares of different-colored paper.

2. Hide the squares for him to find. Pick places where they will — and won't — be camouflaged.

A red square might go on a red bedspread or a white pillow, and a brown square could be on a wood dresser or a yellow cushion.

3. As your child finds each one, encourage him to notice the squares that blend in with the color it's sitting on, just like a polar bear blends into snow or a deer hides in the woods. The squares — and animals — that don't blend in are exposed for anyone to see. 🦋

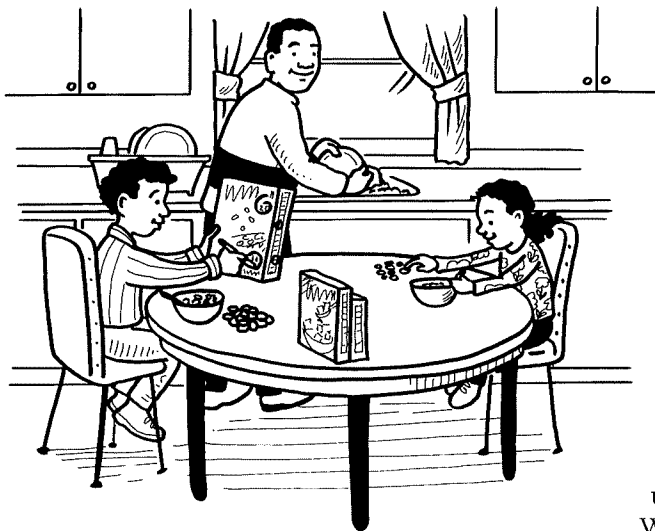


Breakfast of mathematicians


The kitchen table is a great place for morning math fun. Put out boxes of cereal, and try these ideas.


Counting. Ask your youngster to grab a handful of cereal and count the number of pieces. Perhaps he counted 14. How many pieces would he have if he adds 1 more (15) or takes 1 away (13)?

Number sense. Give your child a marker, and challenge him to find and circle all the



numbers he sees on the cereal box. He might find “Net weight 10 oz.” and “Sugar, 2 grams.” What’s the highest number he can locate?

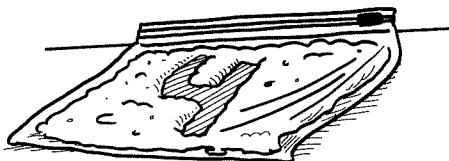
Geometry. Have him count the number of corners (8), edges (12), and faces (6) on the cereal box. Then, empty the cereal into another container, and help him unfold the box so it’s flat. What 2-D shapes can he identify? Maybe he’ll see rectangles or squares. Finally, he’ll enjoy folding and gluing the cardboard back into a box! 

identify? Maybe he’ll see rectangles or squares. Finally, he’ll enjoy folding and gluing the cardboard back into a box! 


Q & A Writing my numbers

Q: My daughter is learning to write her numbers. Are there fun ways she can practice at home?

A: Definitely! Here’s a hands-on idea she is sure to love. Let your child mix food coloring into 2 cups shaving cream. Put the colorful shaving cream into a gallon-sized zipper bag, squeeze out the extra air, and seal it closed. Now say a



number—with her finger, she writes it on the squishy bag. The number will show up as the shaving cream is pushed aside. She can easily “erase” it to write the next number you give her.

Or try this: Write numbers on paper in yellow highlighter. Then, have your youngster trace over them in pencil or crayon. The more she practices forming numbers, the more comfortable she will get with writing them. 




MATH CORNER

Fishy math

With your child, create a “tackle box” of math problems so she can fish for answers anywhere!

First, make a fishing rod. Cut a 12-inch piece of yarn, tie a pencil to one end, and tape a refrigerator magnet to the other end. Then, have her write 0–9 on separate index cards. On four more cards, she should write + or –. Now slide a paper clip on each card.

Let her keep the fishing rod and index cards in a shoebox. To play, your youngster fishes in the box until she “catches” two number cards and one operation card. Then, she gets to solve the problem. *Examples:* $3 + 6 = 9$, $5 - 2 = 3$. Older kids can fish for four number cards to create two-digit numbers and solve harder problems, such as $13 + 27 = 40$. 



SCIENCE LAB

Bobbing raisins

Your youngster may not know that he could use science to make raisins dance. Here’s how.


You’ll need: tall clear glass, seltzer, raisins

Here’s how: Have your child pour seltzer into the glass and drop in 6 raisins.

What happens? Tiny bubbles begin to form on the raisins. When they’re completely covered in bubbles, the raisins will float to the surface. Then the

bubbles will pop, and the raisins will float back down.

Why? The bubbles are carbon dioxide—the gas that makes soda fizzy. This gas makes the raisins bob up and down.

Variation: Instead of using seltzer, your youngster can create his own carbon dioxide reaction. Have him fill the glass halfway with water, stir in 1 tsp. of baking soda, and drop in the raisins. Then, he should slowly pour in vinegar until the glass is $\frac{3}{4}$ full—the baking soda and vinegar combine to make carbon dioxide. Once again, the raisins will start bobbing! 



OUR PURPOSE
 To provide busy parents with practical ways to promote their children’s math and science skills.
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Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

March 2017

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Book Picks

Read-aloud favorites

■ *Drum Dream Girl* (Margarita Engle)

A little girl dreams of playing the drums, but on her island, only boys are drummers. She plays in her imagination and practices on furniture. Finally her dad gets her drumming lessons. Based on the life of Millo Castro Zaldarriaga, who broke Cuba's male-only drumming barrier.

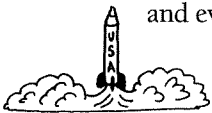


■ *Born to Read* (Judy Sierra)

The moment baby Sam opens his eyes, he knows how to read his name. From that point on, he never stops reading. As Sam grows up, reading helps him win a bike race and even saves his town from a baby giant named Grundaloon. A fun book about the love of reading.

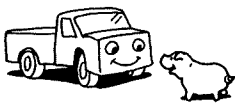
■ *The Best Book of Spaceships* (Ian Graham)

Space is the place in this nonfiction book! Your aspiring astronaut will learn about planets, rocket power, and even what it's like to work in space. Each page contains detailed photographs, so your child can see spacesuits and space stations. Includes a glossary of space words.



■ *Little Blue Truck* (Alice Shertle)

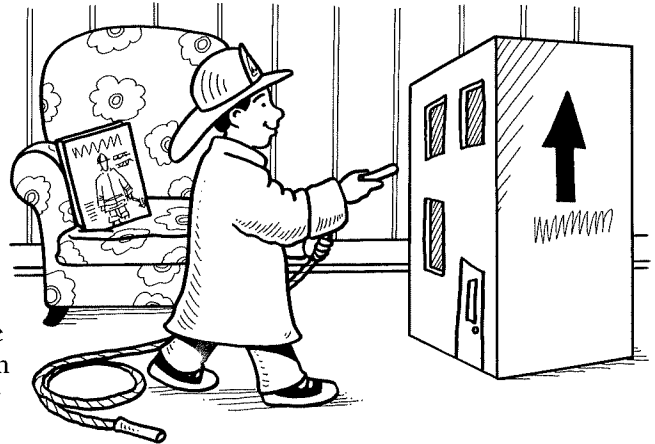
"Beep!" says the little blue truck as he greets all the farm animals. The animals respond with their own sounds like "Baa" and "Oink." When an unfriendly dump truck gets stuck in the mud, it's up to the blue truck and his animal friends to help. (Also available in Spanish.)



Book-inspired play

After reading a book on firefighters, Jonathan puts on his red hat and pretends to spray water from a jump rope. Lucy reads a story about trains, then lines up a row of kitchen chairs and climbs aboard.

Children's play is often inspired by books. Combine playtime and story time with these ideas that stretch your youngster's thinking.



Dress-up time

Veterinarian, chef, banker... it's fun for kids to try out grown-up roles. When you read to your child, point out jobs people do. Afterward, help him gather costumes and props (apron, cooking utensils). As he plays, encourage him to use vocabulary from the story. ("I'm kneading the dough like Baker Joe did.")

Building blocks

Place books near your youngster's blocks, and he can create buildings from the stories' settings like an igloo or airport. Ask him about his building's design.

("Why is there a tunnel in front of your igloo's door?") If he's not sure, he could look in the book (the tunnel blocks wind and cold when the door is open).

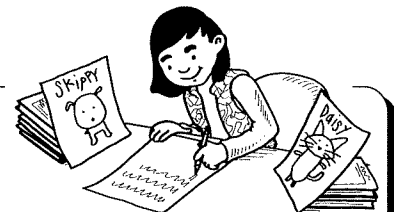
Treasure bin

Fill a plastic container with sand or dry rice or beans. Suggest that your child put in items related to a story he enjoyed and act it out. Maybe he'll get seashells and a mini beach bucket for a book about the ocean. Or he might bury coins when he reads a nonfiction book about money—he can dig them up, estimate the amount, then count to check.♥

Collect lessons from authors

Professional authors make great "mentors" for little ones who are just starting to write. Here are writing techniques your child can discover:

- Help your youngster read a book with a pattern and then write a repeating story. For example, on each page of *It Looked Like Spilt Milk*, Charles G. Shaw writes: "Sometimes it looked like (_____), but it wasn't (_____). It was (_____)!" Have your child make up the pattern she will build her tale around.
- Let your youngster read multiple stories by the same author and try the plot structure in a story of her own. In both *Stellaluna* and *Verdi*, Janell Cannon tells of a little animal who overcomes a problem and makes new friends. What problem will the characters face in your child's story, and how will they solve it?♥



Read the signs

Your town is full of signs for your child to read. Help her practice using strategies to sound out words by looking for these three things.

1. Letter combinations. Your youngster is probably learning to recognize letter combinations like *th*, *str*, *ph*, and *qu*. Pick one to look for while you stroll—maybe you’ll spot a “No hand-held phones” or “Quarry entrance ahead” sign. If she struggles, remind her of the sounds the combinations make (“*Ph* sounds like *f*”).



2. Words within words. Bigger words are easier for your child to read if she finds smaller words inside them. Call out compound words you see, like *railroad* or *westbound*. Can your youngster read the words that make it up (*rail* and *road*, *west* and *bound*)?

3. Beginnings and endings. Knowing prefixes (*re-*, *un-*, *dis-*) and suffixes (*-ed*, *-er*, *-ing*) helps your child read words. Luckily, road signs contain a lot of these (“Dismount bicycle on bridge,” “Pedestrian crossing”). How many will you and your youngster spot and read during your walk?♥



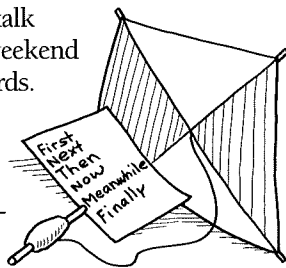
First, next, and last

Some words act like glue—they make sentences in a paragraph or story “stick” together. Let your youngster learn to use these types of words so his writing flows logically.

Down the left side of a sheet of paper, help him list words that show when events took place. He might think of *first*, *next*, and *last*. You could suggest others like *then*, *now*, *later*, *meanwhile*, and *finally*.

Together, talk about your weekend using the words. Take turns picking a word and starting a sentence with it. Maybe you’ll say, “First, you ran across the field with your kite.” Your child may add, “Then, it rose into the air.” Continue until someone chooses *finally* to end the paragraph. (“Finally, the kite dove to the ground.”)

Idea: Have your youngster keep the list so he can use it when he writes.♥



Q&A

Understanding written directions

Q When my second-grader takes a test or does a worksheet, he sometimes gets answers wrong because he didn’t read the directions correctly. How can I help him?

A Suggest that your child read directions with a pencil in his hand. He could number the steps and underline important words or copy them onto scratch paper. Reading *actively* like this will help him pay attention to the instructions and understand them.

Practice at home when you play a board game or do a project. Help your son read the directions aloud and then go back and mark important parts with sticky notes (examples: “Play continues clockwise,” “Win by exact count only”). You can also ask him to explain the instructions to you in his own words to be sure he’s ready to follow them.

Note: If he tries these strategies and still doesn’t understand a set of directions, encourage him to ask his teacher for help.♥



Guess the book by its cover

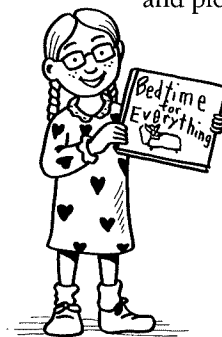
Book covers get a makeover with this activity, which strengthens your youngster’s reading comprehension and creativity.

First, let each person secretly choose and read a picture book from the library or your family’s bookcase. Then, wrap your book in brown paper, and decorate the new cover with a different title and illustration. The catch? You can’t use any words or images from the original!

Your child will need to think carefully about the story to come up with a title and picture. For example, she might rename *Goodnight Moon*

(Margaret Wise Brown) *Bedtime for Everything*.

Now, take turns reading your books aloud. Begin by presenting the cover and reading the title. Can anyone guess the real book before you open and read it?♥



OUR PURPOSE

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

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