



Grade 1 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

With the month of December upon us your thoughts may turn toward how to keep your child's academic interest strong over the winter break.

This month you will find great tips to help maintain your child's reading progress, book selections for you and your child, suggestions to nurture writing and some fun math games to play together!

Look for the list of important dates to add to your home calendar and enjoy your family time!

Tips on Reading:

Through reading aloud, providing print materials, and promoting positive attitudes about reading and writing, you can have a powerful impact on your child's literacy and learning:

- Invite your child to read with you every day.



- When reading a book, point word by word as you read. This will help your child learn that reading goes from left to right and understand that the word said is the word seen.
- Read your child's favorite book over and over.
- Read many stories with rhyming words and repeated lines. Invite your child to join in on these parts. Point, word by word, as your child reads along with you.
- Discuss new words. For example, "This big house is called a palace. Who do you think lives in a palace?"
- Stop and ask about the pictures and about what is happening in the story.
- Read from a variety of children's books, including fairy tales, song books, poems, and information books.

*From the Reading is Fundamental website:

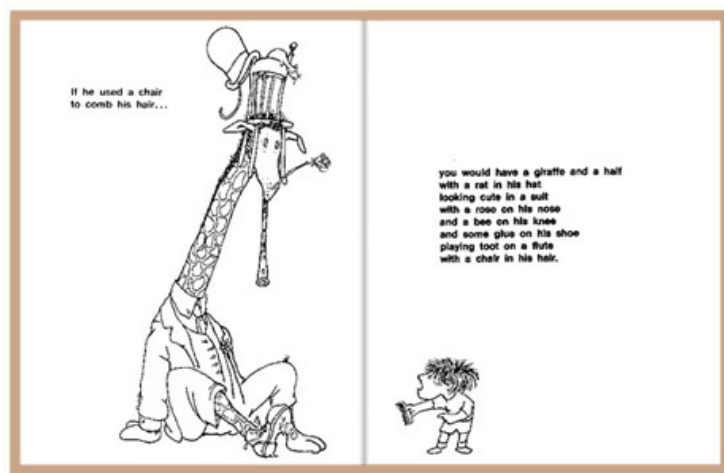
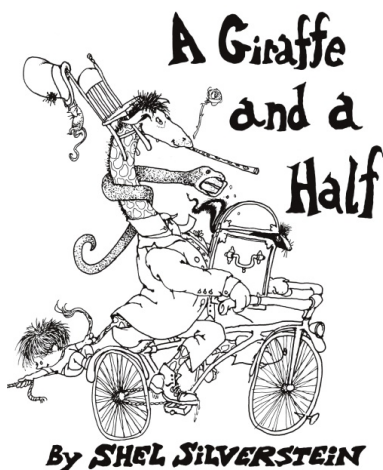
<http://www.rif.org/>

Rhyming Books:

Wondering what to read with your child? Rhyming books offer your child familiar end sounds with new beginning sounds to words. They are usually humorous and entertaining for young and old alike

Goodreads has compiled an excellent rhyming booklist; use it as a reference when you head off to the library. Click the link and choose a few from the local library this month:

<http://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/childrens-rhyming>



Sight Words

Believe it or not, 50% of all reading texts are made up of the same 100 words!

These words are known as sight words. Sight words are critical to reading not only because they are used so frequently, but also because many of them cannot easily be sounded out or illustrated. When a young reader masters sight words, he's able to understand at least half of the words in a given text, which means that mastering sight words is an extremely important part of comprehension, too.

Ideas for Introducing Sight Words:

1. Word Cards

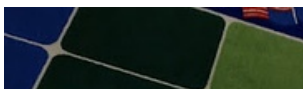
- Write the words on index cards
- Hold up each sight word on a card. Have your child read it aloud. Observe how long it takes to read each word correctly.
- Set aside words that your child cannot read.
- Mix up the remaining cards and again display them one at a time, increasing the pace slightly as you hold them up for your child.
- Repeat until your child is able to read the words automatically.
- Remember to go back and review words.

*Once they can read the words the lists are great to work on for spelling.

2. Word Sorting

- Have your child study the appearance of sight words by sorting the cards.
- Allow them to discover similarities between groups of words, whether they share the same beginning or ending sound, ascending or descending letters, word length, etc.
- Check and discuss the completed sorts.

3. Concentration

- Select at least eight sight words and write each on two different index cards.
 - Mix up the cards and place them face down in rows.
 - With your child, take turns flipping over two cards at a time, trying to find a match.
 - When your child gets a matched pair, he or she gets to keep the pair. If not, the cards go back to their original positions, and the turn is over.
 - The game is over when all the cards have been matched.
 - The winner is the player with the most pairs.
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4. Word Hunt

- Have your child hunt for sight words and phrases in the context of reading materials at home or adapt this large sheet search into a desktop version.



5. Working with dough for letter reinforcement

- Using index cards, print a set of upper case letters, lower case letters and numerals to 20
- Now allow your child to form the dough into the shape of the letters/numerals on the cards!
- To expand on that idea try:

Simply Sculpture:

- Manipulating and sculpting dough helps with fine-motor skills, which are essential to handwriting development.

For this game:

- Set out a letter from the Letter Cards.
- Have your child sculpt a small object that begins with that letter of the alphabet. (Hint: For your younger siblings, provide a list of words and pictures as suggestions for each letter.)

Play Dough Recipe

½ cup salt
1 cup Flour
2 tsp. cream of tartar
1 cup water
1 tbsp. oil
Food coloring



Mix together in frying pan.

On low heat cook until you have a soft dough consistency.

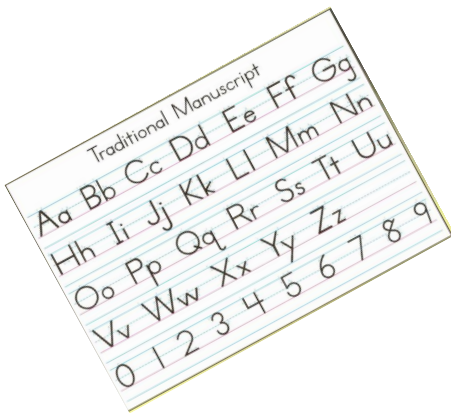
Remove from heat and knead.

Keep stored in airtight container.

Writing

Meaningful writing activities help to engage writers and show that writing has a purpose. Keep the tasks simple and fun. Some suggestions are:

- Make a list of family activities that can be done together
- Send a letter to Santa
- Design a menu for special meals
- Make cards for family and friends
- Make messages for homemade Christmas crackers
- Send thank you notes to relatives for gifts



Children also enjoy practicing printing. Below are links where you can choose a variety of practice printing pages:

<http://www.tlsbooks.com/handwritingpractice.pdf>

<http://www.tlsbooks.com/lowercaseprintingpractice.pdf>

<http://www.tlsbooks.com/letterpracticecoloredlines.pdf>

<http://www.tlsbooks.com/dinosaurprintingpracticeuppercase.pdf>

<http://www.tlsbooks.com/dinosaurprintingpracticelowercase.pdf>

Math

Ordering Numbers using Play Dough

- Have your child practice forming and ordering numbers as a math activity. Place the Numeral Cards (in random order) along with the dough on the table.
- Tell your child to place the numbers in order from 1 to 20 and fill in the outlines with dough.
- Once they have finished, instruct them to remove the dough, flip the cards, and make their own numbers from 1 to 20 on the opposite sides.



Number Sentences in Play Dough

- Have your child practice dough number formation and learn simple number sentences at the same time:
- Create cards with outlines of these signs: +, -, and =.
- Combine Numeral Cards with your cards to create simple number sentences for your child to copy in dough. For example, place the cards for $1 + 2 = 3$ and instruct your child to fill in the outlines with dough.
- Encourage your child to use bits of dough to create a picture for the number sentence.

Say It and Make It for Two

- Once your child has practiced creating letters and numbers in dough, work as partners with a stack of Letter and Numeral Cards and some dough, to play this game:
- One of you draws a card and reads the letter or number on it, and the other makes the letter or number in dough.
- Check the dough letter or number together to make sure it was formed correctly.
- Then switch roles and repeat the process.

This website has a variety of early and advanced math games your child may enjoy with your supervision.



<http://www.funbrain.com/>

We recommend the "Guess the Number" game to help your child practice numbers between 1 and 100.

<http://www.funbrain.com/guess/index.html>



Another fun way to work on number recognition is the memory game. <http://www.funbrain.com/match/index.html>

To start with this web site, sit down with your child and read the instructions to a few of the games. Choose one and play it together to make sure your child understands how the game plays. Enjoy your time together!

Classroom Apps



Friends of Ten is an app that can be used in the early years of schooling to introduce an early understanding of numbers to ten, counting objects to ten, subitizing (recognizing a collection of objects without counting them), counting on from a higher number, partitioning of objects and the combinations that make ten $8+2$, $2+8$, $1+9$, $3+7$ etc. These skills underpin mental addition and subtraction

The importance of recalling number combinations that make ten is one strategy use for addition, that is, knowing that $7+3$ is the same as $8+2$. This introduces the idea of patterns and compensation (one up, one down). These activities develop the concept that addition and subtraction are linked.



The 100's Board app is exactly that! A digital 100's board that can show and hide all of the numbers to 100. Numbers can be pressed to change from black to red. All numbers can be hidden or shown at the same time, or in rows / columns of ten. Ten draggable counters are also included for even more fun and games!

This is a great educational K-12 app for helping children with their mathematics, making sense of numbers to 100. 100's Board can be used for counting in 1's, 2's, 5's and 10's or can be used for any number of math games such as 'squeeze' or 'guess my number'.



Leader in Me

Habit 3:

Put First Things First

Put First Things First means **Work First, Then Play.**

I spend my time on things that are most important. This means I say no to things I know I should not do. I set priorities, make a schedule, and follow my plan. I am disciplined and organized.

Name _____

Habit 3: Put First Things First - Work Then Play

Cut out the activity pictures below. Sort and glue the pictures.

Work	Play



21st Century Learners:

Communicator: Communicators are people who understand, interpret, and express thoughts, ideas, and emotions to connect with others.

the 21st C Learner is . . .
a communicator



Communicators understand, interpret and express thoughts, ideas, and emotions to connect with others.



“Crazy Carols” The Grade 1 Christmas Concert will echo in the École Edwards Gym on **Tuesday, December 13th, 2-16.**

There are two performances: the afternoon showing at **1:30 pm** and an evening presentation at **6:30 pm.**

If your child is unable to attend the evening performance, please let me know ASAP.

Costumes:

We are asking that our Grade One students dress in their holiday best for our Christmas concert this year. We can't wait to see their beautiful dresses and adorable Christmas dress shirts and sweaters.

*To add a thematic touch to our Christmas outfits, we are asking that each child also wear a winter scarf.

Important Dates:

			Thursday December 1 st Adopt A Family Drive Starts	Friday December 2 nd Friendship Friday Happiness Messages
Monday December 5 th	Tuesday December 6 th	Wednesday December 7 th	Thursday December 8 th Student Lighthouse Committee: Special Hot Chocolate Treat Junior Choir – To Bethany Care Center	Friday December 9 th
Monday December 12 th Fun Lunch: www.healthyhunger.com  Run Through for Grade 1 Christmas Concert	Tuesday December 13 th Adopt A Family Drive Ends Grade 1 Christmas Concert @ 1:30 & 6:30 	Wednesday December 14 th	Thursday December 15 th	Friday December 16 th
Monday December 19 th Christmas Caroling  School Spirit Day: Winter Hat Day	Tuesday December 20 th Christmas Caroling  School Spirit Day: Crazy Christmas Sweater Day	Wednesday December 21 st Christmas Caroling  School Spirit Day: Christmas Color Day – Wear Red or Green	Thursday December 22 nd Christmas Caroling  School Spirit Day: Pajama Day! (Can bring a stuffy) Grade 1s – Polar Express Movie (Don't forget a Blanket!) Last day of classes before Christmas Holidays!	Friday December 23 rd No School  
Monday January 9 th Classes Resume	<p>Please remember to return your child's library books every Tuesday for learning commons.</p> <p>Please remember to return your child's Reading Treasure Binder at the START of EVERY week.</p>			



**I welcome your feedback, and questions about the newsletter
and best teaching practices.**

E-mail, voice-mail, agenda notes, and visits are all time well spent.



Email – Ms. Wigmore swigmore@rockyview.ab.ca



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