

THE RECEPTIVE PARENT

As a parent you may get tired of repeating things to your child over and over again. How can you help your child become a better listener? Improving your child's listening skills will not only make your job as a parent easier, but it will also help your child succeed in school and beyond.

You can connect with your child in a variety of activities to improve listening skills.

- A simple drawing game is a great place to start. Tap into your child's creative side through a drawing activity. You and your child take turns with one person describing something while the other person attempts to draw it.
- A listening walk through your neighborhood is a fun way to engage in active listening while getting some exercise. While you walk listen for all of the sounds you can hear and take turns identifying what is heard.
- Finally, you can model effective listening skills by giving your child your undivided attention, making eye contact, and asking questions. Over time your child will learn to be a more attentive listener and you will likely spend less time repeating yourself.

READING CORNER

Apps

Sight Words by Innovative Mobile Apps is an essential app for children who are learning to read. Your child will listen to a word being read and will then be instructed to touch the word that matches. You can even customize the app by adding your own words. This game increases sight word knowledge while honing listening skills.

Websites

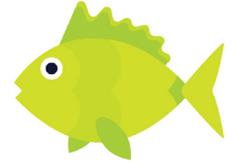
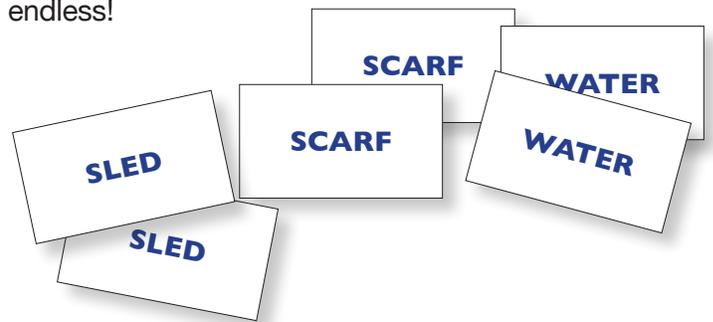
<http://www.highlightskids.com/>

Go to the "Read it" tab to see animated stories, articles from the magazine, and more on this fun-filled website.

FUN WITH READING

Sight Word Go Fish!

This is a fun take on the **Go Fish** game. Use 3 X 5 index cards to make sight word cards. Create two cards for each word you chose. You can make as many pairs as you'd like. Mix up the cards and deal 7 cards to each player, leaving the rest of the cards in a pile between the players. Take turns asking your opponent for a word that matches one in your hand. If your opponent doesn't have the match for your card you must "go fish" by choosing a card from the pile. The winner is the player who matches all of his cards first. Change it up by making rhyming words or words that start with the same sound. The possibilities are endless!



MATH CORNER

Apps

Motion Math: Pizza!

Pizza and math, what a great combination! Your child will learn about economics and practice mental math when they buy ingredients and become a pizza chef. They will set prices and serve customers in this simulation game. We know your child will enjoy this mouth watering app!

Websites

<http://www.mathblaster.com/> is a fun interactive site. Do you have what it takes to save the galaxy? Log on to see if you do!



SPOTLIGHT ON PROBLEM SOLVING

Our problem solving focus this month is on the working backwards strategy in mathematics. Sometimes the problem solver must make a series of computations, starting with the information presented at the end of the problem and ending with the information presented at the beginning of the problem. Can you solve these questions using the “work backwards” strategy?

1. Sam likes to go to the zoo. He likes to visit his favorite animals: raccoons, snakes, leopards, walruses, and armadillos. Although he likes all of the animals, he has a favorite. It has four legs. It has spots. It has a long tail. Which animal does Sam like best?
2. Julie just returned from the grocery store. She gave her mother \$1.25 in change. While Julie was at the store she bought a loaf of bread for \$1.25, 2 cans of soup that cost \$1.75 each, a jar of peanut butter for \$2.50, a jar of jelly for \$2.25 and a candy bar for \$0.50. How much did Julie’s mother give her when she went to the store?

BOOK CLUB

The Snowman by Raymond Briggs is a wonderful wordless book to share with your kindergarten to first grade child. A young boy and his winter friend share a magical night. See if you can make up a different story every time you and your child “read” this book together.

Stranger in the Woods: A Photographic Fantasy by Carl R. Sams and Jean Stoick is a photographic vision about a stranger that arrives after a winter storm. This book will delight children in grades K-3 with the breathtaking pictures taken by these two noted wildlife photographers.

Nooks and Crannies by Jessica Lawson is a fun read for middle school aged children (grades 4-7). A mysterious Countess sends six children puzzling invitations to her mansion. Read to find out if one of the invitees is a long lost relative of the Countess.



RECIPE

Have some fun with food and make a bagel snowman!

Ask an adult to slice a bagel in half and toast it for you. Spread cream cheese on your bagel and lay the halves next to each other to form a snowman. Use different food items from your kitchen to decorate your snowman. You could use raisins for the eyes and pretzel sticks for the arms. Get creative and see who can make the best tasting snowman!



PUZZLE

Can you complete the following questions and then unscramble the circled letters to answer the riddle below?

Name of the month we are in.

— — ○ — — — —

Sometimes we get this form of precipitation at this time of year.

○ — — — —

You wear these to keep your feet warm.

— ○ — — — —

You should wear this on your head when it is cold outside.

— ○ —

This season is

○ — ○ — — — —

You wear these to keep your hands warm.

○ — — — — — — — —

RIDDLE

He has a scarf and sticky arms; an orange nose and dark black eyes; The amount of stuff on the ground will help to determine his size.

— — — — — — — —



Riddle: Snowman

winter: mittens

January; snow; boots; hat;

Puzzle:

2. Julie’s mother gave her \$1.25 to go to the store.

1. Sam likes the leopards best.

Problem Solving:

ANSWERS