FUN FAMILY ACTIVITIES THAT REINFORCE YOUR CHILD’S READING SKILLS
We all like to do things that are fun. So have a ball while reinforcing your child’s reading!
Descriptive Word Hide and Seek

Need index cards, pencil, paper

1. If you are outside, write descriptive phrases for trees, a shed, bushes, path, rocks; and if you’re inside, write descriptive phrases for tables, chairs, closets, beds, cabinets on each card.

2. Descriptions phrases are like “chartreuse fuzzy comforter,” “short toad-like bush,” and “forest green closet with double doors.”

3. Place the cards on all the objects that you described that might be a potential hiding place before you start the game.

4. If your child is just learning to read, go over each card and show them the location. If your child has been reading awhile, they should be able to read your descriptions.

5. Make a list on the paper with all the descriptive phrases you put on the cards and give it to the seeker.

6. Then hide.

7. The seeker runs around looking for the hider. The clues where you may be are on the paper.

8. Every time the seeker doesn’t find the hider, he or she makes an x next to the phrase on the paper.

9. Change the descriptions of the hiding places after about the third or fourth time you play, so that they can learn new words. Examples are phrases like “old oak tree with crooked arm,” “ancient oak tree that looks like a monster,” and “outer space alien oak tree.”
Sight Word Memory Game

Need index cards (or paper cut into squares) and a pencil

1) Write words that you want your child to learn on the cards or paper squares.
2) You will need two identical stacks of cards/squares so that you have two cards with the same words.
3) Place all the cards on the table facing down so that your child can’t see the words.
4) Your child then turns over two cards.
5) If the cards match, they get to keep them.
6) If they don’t match, they must turn them back over and try two more cards.
7) They win the game if they successfully match all the words.
Emotion Word Fun

Need paper

1) Take turns acting out emotions with these two games

**Mood Charades**

**Emotions Charades**

- Hitting a baseball through a neighbor’s window
- Fighting over a toy with your brother
- Saying goodbye to someone you will miss
- Going on a rollercoaster
- Hitting a home run
- Flying on an airplane
- Breaking your favorite toy
- Learning to drive
- Missing the winning soccer goal
- Riding a bike for the first time
- Falling off your bike
- Holding a baby
- Taking out the stinky garbage
- Getting dropped off for the first day of school
- Not getting invited to a friend’s party
- Performing in a talent show

TheJoysofBoys.com
Fishing for Headlines

Need newspaper, paperclips, round disk magnets, pencils, string, scissors

1) Tie one end of string to the magnet and one end to a pencil
2) Cut out large headlines from a newspaper
3) Put a paperclip on each cut headline and put them on a table or in a bowl
4) Ask your child to find a headline with certain words like “life,” “puppy,” “bacon,” and then have them “fish” the headline out of the bowl or off the table with the pencil and magnet fishing pole.
Create Mad Libs

Need paper and pencil

1) Write stories like the pictures below
2) Leave spaces for words
3) Write under the space what kind of word should go there (noun, name, animal, place, verb, verb ending in –ing, adjective, adverb, color, etc.)
4) Then have fun filling in the blanks

Pretty Princess
A new and ___________ fairy princess movie is coming out soon! It will be about Snow ___________ and the ___________ dwarfs. Snow ___________ is a princess whose beauty threatens her ___________, the queen. Snow ___________ is forced to flee from ___________ and hides in nearby ___________. There, she discovers the dwarfs ___________ in their ___________. But the queen finds her and casts a ___________ spell on her. The dwarfs take care of her until the ___________ comes to rescue her, and they all live ___________ ever after!

Autumn Fun
Mad Libs for Kids

______ name______ the squirrel had just climbed up the ___________ adjective tree. It was the first day of autumn and time to gather as many ___________ thing (plural) and ___________ thing (plural) for winter feasting.
Chester the ___________ asked his squirrel friend to take a ___________ animal break and join him for a little ___________ and ___________ verb ending in –ing verb ending in –ing.
The two buddies had so much fun but squirrel really needed to finish his gathering. He returned to his ___________ home to find that ___________ number >1 adjective ___________ as animal (plural) were waiting for him to go to the fall festival party at ___________’s ___________ house. Squirrel realized that there wasn’t going to be any more work that day. Today had been fun but tomorrow he’d need to collect more ___________ thing (plural) for the winter.
Play Word Bingo

1) The below link will let you make free bingo cards and call out cards
2) You can choose how many rows you want and how large you want it to be
3) Enter words that you want your child to learn or use their pre-made cards for grades Kindergarten through 4th
4) Have them mark the word you call out with crayon marks, coins, buttons, or a stamp
5) The winner is the person who gets 5 in a row

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Digraph Bingo
Letter-sound correspondence

1) Go to the below site for bingo cards or make your own
   http://www.fcrr.org/studentactivities/P_004b.pdf

2) Write sound blends in each square

3) Call out a word what ends in the following sounds

4) Have your child mark the sound when he or she hears it

5) The winner is the one who covers 4 in a row vertically, horizontally, or diagonally

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Create Comic Strips

Comic strips encourage your child’s imagination while practicing art and storytelling.

It also helps them understand the logic of a story, thus helping them with reading comprehension.
Create a story from another perspective

Imagine the view from an ant or a giraffe.... or a boat, a piece of broccoli
Rhyme Time

Need: Objects around your house, paper or index cards, and pencil

1) On index cards or slips of paper, write down words that rhyme with things you have in your house such as “lock” for clock, “hair” for chair, “devote” for remote, “pouch” for couch, “presser” for dresser, and “loan” for. This can be done outside also with objects such as “tense” for fence, “sings” for swings, “bees” for trees, etc.

2) Put the cards or pieces of paper in a hat, box, or basket.

3) Have your child pick the card or paper and then try to find the object that rhymes with their word.
Make a city guide

Need: Either a camera or phone to take pictures, paper, pencil, and glue

1) Go around your town taking pictures
2) Look up information about what you see in the pictures
3) Look up history, maps, and other information
4) Drive or bike around your neighborhood and draw a map of it
5) Glue all your information on paper and either staple them together or make holes and use string to keep the pages together
6) Make sure you label pictures, maps, and whatever objects you put in your book
Radio or TV Show

Need: Camera or phone that has audio and/or video capability

1. Create a news radio or TV show with your kids
2. Write down the script to follow but ad-libbing is fine
3. Let them see and/or listen to their show
I Spy Syllable Game

Need: Paper and pencil

• Write numbers 1-5 on slips of paper

1 2 3 4 5

• Put the papers in a hat or bowl
• Pick a number out of the hat
• Look around for an object that has that many syllables like “sofa” (2), “ottoman” (3), “refrigerator” (5)
• Then say, “I spy something with 5 syllables. If your child is young, you can add more hints like “I spy something in the kitchen that has 5 syllables.”
Alphabet Hunt

Need: paper and pencil

• Write the letters of the alphabet on paper and then find things around your house that start with the letter
Content Clues

Need: Newspaper or magazines, scissors, glue, paper, and pencil

1) Cut out pictures from a newspaper or magazine
2) Have your child glue the pictures on the paper
3) Then have him or her tell you a story about the picture and then write it under the picture
4) This teaches your child to take clues from pictures when he or she is reading

The little boy is waiting for the train. He is going to his grandma’s house. He is going to eat cookies at her house.
Compound Word Art

Need: Paper and pencil

• Come up with compound words
• Fold paper into three parts
• Draw the first picture, then draw the third picture, and then draw the combined word
• A fun version is drawing a silly combination of both pictures
Word Island Hopping

Need: Sidewalk chalk, slips of paper

1) Find out what spelling words your children are presently learning
2) Write the words on slips of paper
3) Draw an island on the sidewalk with chalk and let your children decorate it
4) Then draw stepping stones to the island (draw a path for each child – see illustration to the left)
5) Write the same words that you put on slips of paper onto the chalk stepping stones
6) Everyone starts at their start position
7) Put the slips of paper in a hat or bag
8) Pull out one slip at a time and call out the word
9) If the word is on their path, they get to move to that word
10) Once they get to the closest word, they can move to Shelter Island and win
Beanbag Letter Blend Toss

Need: Index cards and beanbags

1) Write blending sounds on the cards and then place them side by side (see illustration to the right)

2) Say a word that has a blended sound and have them try to land the beanbag on the word’s sound

3) Some common blends are: bl, br, ch, ck, cl, cr, dr, fl, fr, gh, gl, gr, ng, ph, pl, pr, qu, sc, sh, sk, sl, sm, sn, sp, st, sw, th, tr, tw, wh, wr.
Refrigerator Magnet Sentences

Need a roll of magnet tape, scissors, either washable markers or permanent markers and rubbing alcohol

1) Cut magnet strip into pieces long enough to write words
2) Make sure to include words like “a,” “the,” “an,” and “and.” Use nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and suffixes like “-ing,” “-es,” and “-ed.”
3) Leave them on your refrigerator so you child can make sentences while you’re all in the kitchen cooking
4) If you used permanent marker, you can remove the words with alcohol to make new words
5) If you use washable markers, you can just use water to change the words
Social Media Book Review

• Either create a site with your child or use an existing book seller. Google offers free blogs Blogger, but there are lots of free sites. Or you can go to a book seller like Amazon, Barnes and Noble or Goodreads.

• Decide with your child what you want to write in regards to the book he or she read and work together to leave a book review.
Social Media Interest Sites

- Does your child like sports? Or ballet?
- If so, help your child create a fun blog about his or her interests.
- Let them write weekly updates about their favorite team.
Anagram Scavenger Hunt

- Decide what question you want answered such as “Which stuffed animal in our house took all the cookies from the cookie jar?”
- Create clues or riddles about objects in your house or yard.
- Next to the object to be found, write one letter on a piece of paper and tape it to the object. The letters must be in the words used to answer the cookie thief’s name. Ex. If the cookie thief was Winnie the Pooh, then there will need to be a slip of paper for each letter – w, i, n, n, i, e, t, h, e, p, o, o, h.
- Then let your children read the clues or riddles and try to find the object.
- When they find the object, they will see the letter. Have them write it down.
- When they find all the objects, they will need to put together the letters (anagram them) to find the answer to the question.
Story Ball

Need: a beach ball and a marker

1) Inflate beach ball and write these words on it: "Where?" "Who?" "Beginning?" "Middle?" "End?" and “Favorite part?“

2) After your child reads a story, go outside and toss the ball to him or her.

3) Each time you toss your child the ball, he or she must answer the question written on the color which lands under his right hand. Where did the story take place? Who were the main characters? What happened in the beginning, in the middle, in the end? What was his favorite part? Toss the ball back and forth—the quicker, the better, since that makes answering in time more fun and silly. If your child can’t recall an event from the story give him some clues.

4) The game continues until all of the sections have been answered.
Guessing Game

• How many cracks does this sidewalk have?
• How many cookies are in the bag?
• How many wheels are on the truck next to us?
• How many steps will we walk up?
• How many apples are in this “I Spy” book?
Sight Word Jenga

• If you have a Jenga game, try writing words on them.
• Make sure to include words like “a,” “the,” “an,” and “and.” Use nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and suffixes like “-ing,” “es,” and “ed.”
• When the Jenga pieces are stacked, see if any sentences were made.
• Or you can make it difficult and try writing a sentence as you stack up the pieces.
1. Make a pet sitter’s manual for the sitter.
2. Help your child take pictures of your pets filled food bowl, filled water bowl, where you keep the food, the pet’s favorite bed, the pet’s toys, and a picture of your pet sleeping happily. Also take pictures of your pet playing.
3. Now assist your child in creating special pages for the manual with step-by-step directions that explain how to take care of the pet. Use the pictures as a guide; encourage your child to write about what each picture shows.
4. Finally, compile the pages, with the cover page on top, and staple into a booklet.

https://www.education.com/activity/article/write_a_pet_care_manual_second/
Play with words

- Play “What’s another word for”? – come up with a word for an object like hair and see how many other words can be used for hair. Ex. mane, locks, braid, do, pony tail, wig, mop.
- Ask them to describe an object and then compare what family members said. Ex. That’s a red flower with green petals. It’s a scarlet iris with forest green, fuzzy leaves.
- Boggl®, Scrabble®, and Bananagram®, which requires your child to make words
Have a family message board

Share fun writing

• Put a write-off board in your kitchen and ask silly questions each day
• This encourages your child to practice spelling and writing

• Also, get in the habit of writing greeting cards, letters, emails, and thank you cards together to family and friends
• Even writing a shopping list together is great practice and lots of fun
Shared Jar

- Make jars out of plastic milk cartons or use large glass jars. Be creative with your container.
- Label and decorate them with a theme such as:
  - Our Thankfulness Jar – what I’m thankful for.
  - Or a Worry Jar – what I’m worried about.
  - Or an Idea Jar – where we should go on vacation this summer.

Have your children write answers and put them in the jar.
Picture Talks

• Look at pictures while in waiting rooms or in your house. Discuss the way the artist painted it, the colors, what you think it means or represents
• Visit an art museum or park and talk about the paintings and sculptures
• Pull out old photos of your family and talk about your own childhood memories
Sound Walks

• Bring paper and pencil with you on your next walk
• Listen to the sounds as you walk and write down what you hear
• Read a book about trees and try to identify them
Draw and label maps

Make a treasure map around your house or in your yard

Or go to the park and draw one. Remember to write down specific objects while drawing it, such as rocks, trees, and benches
Fun Interactive Shared Reading

Fun types of books to read together

- Joke books
- I spy books
- Riddle books
- Comic Books
- Cookbooks
- Kid magazines
- Audiobooks in the car
- Ebooks
- Have them tell you a story
- Let them read to you stories or non-fiction on subjects the love
Fun Shared Time

Things to do together

• Listen to music and have a sing-a-long
• Watch your child’s favorite TV show with them and talk about it
• Play listening games like Simon Says
• Play dress up with them
• Look for specific numbers on license plates on cars on a trip
• Tell your kids stories about when you were young
• Play “Telephone” where one player says something and then another passes it on. See if the sentence or story has changed after everyone heard and retold it
• Make up silly rhymes like, “The fat cat sat on the rat’s hat.”
The Little Things

- Let your child find the store you need on a mall map
- Let your child read food item labels for ingredients, calories, carbs, fat, etc amount and let them cross out the item on your shopping list when you find it
Find the time to talk with your child. You might be surprised what they have to say!
And don’t forget to come to the library!

For free books, movies, programs, computer use and lots of fun!

• Discuss with each other what you want to check out
• Browse together
• Use the computers to find information together
• Share fun at a program
• Find some fun non-fiction books on a shared subject
Family Fun Ideas from these websites. Check them out!

http://www.pbs.org/parents/education/reading-language/reading-activities/

https://www.education.com/activity/ela/reading

http://childrensupportsolutions.com/improving-your-childs-reading-skills/