



READING *Tips*

Welcome to the eighth addition of the Reading and Behavior Tips Newsletter created for families and caregivers of elementary students. Each month you will find activities, tools, and strategies gathered from educators and leaders in their fields that you can do at home with your child. Enjoy and have fun!

Reading:

Let's end the year with some fun reading games you can play with your child this summer.



Prediction Pause

How to Play: Stop at an exciting moment and ask your child to predict what happens next.



Character Detective

How to Play: Choose a character and collect "clues" about their feelings or actions.



Picture It!

How to Play: Pause and have your child draw or describe what they imagine.



Word Treasure Hunt

How to Play: Pick 3–5 "treasure words" before reading. Kids shout "Treasure!" when they hear one.



Retell Relay

How to Play: Take turns retelling one page at a time. Each retell must add a new detail.



Question Master

How to Play: Your child asks you questions about the story.



Change the Ending

How to Play: After finishing the book, invent a new ending together.



Five Finger Summary

How to Play: Use each finger to recall: Characters, Setting, Problem, Events, Solution.



Fact or Fiction?

Great for nonfiction!

How to Play: Mix true facts from the text with silly made up ones. Kids identify the fiction.



Reading Bingo

How to Play: Create a simple bingo board with tasks like "Find a new word" or "Predict what happens next."

Behavior:

Here's one last behavior management tip for you. Set aside special time every day to spend with your child, even if it is only 10-15 minutes. Make sure your child knows they can rely on this time with you. If it cannot be at the same time each day, that's fine. Just make sure your child understands it will happen and when it will happen. You can include it on your routine schedule or calendar you've established.

- During your special time together, let your child choose the activity. Maybe they have a special game they like to play or maybe they've made one up. Do they like to do a puzzle together? Draw pictures? How about making cookies together? They'll know what they like and will be excited to lead the fun. And equally important in this equation, put your phone away or leave it in a different room.
- Find physical activities you can enjoy as a family. Go for bike rides, hikes, walks around the block, races outside around the house, workout videos, jump rope contests (in our house, it would be a short contest, and I wouldn't be the one who wins!). What activities does your family like?

Making the Ordinary Extraordinary

Be fully present. Put down your phone during dinner conversations about their day. Really listen when they tell you about the caterpillar they found at recess.

Get down to their level. Sit on the floor during playtime. Look into their eyes when they're telling you something important (even if it's about Pokemon for the hundredth time).

Say yes more often. To the impromptu dance party in the kitchen. To building a fort on a school night. To letting them help with dinner even though it takes twice as long.

Feel it all deeply. The sticky hugs. The off-key singing in the car. The way they still reach for your hand when crossing the street.

The Gift of Now

Be where your feet are. In the mess and the magic. In the mundane and the beautiful. Because childhood doesn't last forever, but the love you pour into these everyday moments will echo in their hearts long after they've outgrown your lap.

The dishes can wait. The emails can wait. But this moment - this ordinary, extraordinary moment - is happening right now, and it won't come again.

Enjoy your summer!

We appreciate your feedback

Please fill out this quick survey to help us meet your needs.

