

# Eagle's Eye

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Attendance: (610) 240-1550 x1560  
New Eagle PTO website: [www.neweaglepto.org](http://www.neweaglepto.org)  
District Website: [www.tesd.net](http://www.tesd.net)  
Eagle's Eye Editor: [nees\\_newsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:nees_newsletter@yahoo.com)



## PTO President's Letter

Dear Parents,

I am excited to announce that the 2011-2012 PTO Board has been nominated and will be installed at the General PTO Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation breakfast on Wednesday, May 18th @ 9:30 a.m. You are invited to join us! Breakfast will be at my home at 804 Caldwell Road, Wayne. Please RSVP to [wessels@comcast.net](mailto:wessels@comcast.net). This brief meeting and breakfast will give us the opportunity to meet the new board and thank all of you for your volunteer contributions during the school year.

Please congratulate the following in-coming board members:

President: Stephanie Smith  
VP Fundraising: Lauren Lee  
VP Programming: Renae Roy  
VP Volunteers: Tina Webb  
VP Communication: Missy Freiling  
Treasurer: Devin Murphy  
Asst. Treasurer: Chris Morris  
Secretary: Kari Godorecci.

Wondering how you can get involved with the PTO next year? You will soon receive information about each of the PTO committees and how you can sign up to be a part of making great things happen at New Eagle!

There's a place for everyone in the PTO. Just by being a New Eagle parent you are already a member. Whether you are a working parent or a stay-at-home parent, a mom, dad, or grandparent, there are volunteer opportunities that are right for you. Please

## May 2011

May 7	Spring Fair 4:30-7:30pm
May 10	Spring Concert 2pm and 7pm
May 18	PTO Meeting and Volunteer Breakfast 9:30am at Jenny Wessels home
May 19	Valley Forge Middle School Orientation at NEES 8am
May 27	Field Day
May 30	Memorial Day No School
June 1	Kindergarten Orientation

## REMINDER – Check the Online Calendar Often!

To access the District calendar, visit [www.tesd.net](http://www.tesd.net) and click on "Calendar" at the top of the page. To access your school's calendar, visit [www.tesd.net](http://www.tesd.net), click on "Schools" and select the name of your school. From your school's home page, click on "Calendar" at the top of the page.

Keep a look out for the sign up information and get involved!

As always, if you have any questions, feel free to contact me at [wessels@comcast.net](mailto:wessels@comcast.net) or 610-293-0243. I hope to see you at the Spring Fling on May 7th!

.Jenny Wessels, PTO President 2010-2011  
[wessels@comcast.net](mailto:wessels@comcast.net)

### Friends of the New Eagle PTO

Thanks the following individuals for their generous contributions to the New Eagle PTO

Anonymous (2)	Marian Nalitt & Devin
The Delaney Family	Murphy
The Ebenshade Family	The Niemeyer Family
The Elken Family	The Sellig Family
The Evitts Family	Walt & Stephanie Smith
The Hottenstein Family	The Webb family
The Ippoliti Family	Jenny and David Wessels
The Lebeau Family	Nina D'Iorio & Kip Wolin
The Lee Family	Gail and Nick Wright
Mark & Maria Micolucci	

To become a Friend of the PTO, go to our website [www.neweaglepto.org](http://www.neweaglepto.org) and click on the 'Giving' link.

### T/e-Bulletin Board

For a complete listing of community activities fliers, visit the [T/e-Bulletin Board](#).

(Bookmark this new address as your old bookmarks will not work with the District's new website.)

Fliers are posted about the 10th and 25th of each month. The T/e-Bulletin Board is a service to the community. While the T/E School District reviews fliers for content, the District is not responsible for the actual activities or events.

### School Board Committee Meetings, Minutes, and Reports

School Board meetings, workshops, and special meetings are scheduled on Mondays throughout the school year and begin at 7:30 p.m. in meeting room 200 of the Tredyffrin/Easttown Administration Offices (West Valley Business Center, 940 West Valley Rd., Suite 1700, Wayne), unless otherwise announced. All community members are welcome to attend.

Dates, topics, and times are subject to change so check the District website for the School Board, its various committees and their [meeting dates, agendas & minutes](#). Meeting minutes are also available on the T/E School District web site by clicking on "School Board" then "Meeting Dates, Agendas and Minutes." Click on the name of the meeting on the corresponding meeting date.

Here is the URL for the [School Board Committee Meeting Summaries](#). You will need to click on "Monthly Summaries" on the left side of the page and then you will see the available months for download.

### Eagle's Eye Newsletter

The purpose of the **Eagle's Eye** is to inform parents of New Eagle, district or PTO functions and information. Information that does not fall into these categories will not be published. Submissions for the **Eagle's Eye** newsletter should be submitted electronically, whenever possible, and no later than the deadline below to [nees\\_newsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:nees_newsletter@yahoo.com) Word docs or pdf files preferred (no PowerPoint). Next deadline: May 24 for the June issue.

Julia Bartosh  
([juliabartosh@me.com](mailto:juliabartosh@me.com))  
and Valerie Castleman  
([vcastleman@aol.com](mailto:vcastleman@aol.com))  
Co-Editors

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## **Elementary Schools to Start Five Minutes Earlier in 2011-2012**

Beginning in the 2011-2012 school year, T/E elementary schools will begin 5 minutes earlier to provide additional instructional time in the school day. School will start for elementary students at 8:45 am instead of 8:50 am and the new start time will be reflected on student bus schedules. School dismissal time will remain at 3:20 pm and morning kindergarten sessions will conclude at 11:40 am. Afternoon kindergarten sessions will begin at 12:25 pm, with the school day ending at 3:20 pm. Parents of students who walk or who are driven to school are asked to make note of the earlier start time for next year.

## **Change in Kindergarten 2-Hour Delay Schedule for 2011-2012**

Beginning in the 2011-2012 school year, AM and PM kindergarten sessions will follow a modified schedule on days when inclement weather results in a 2-hour delayed opening. Each kindergarten session will be reduced by 1 hour when there is a delayed opening to provide equal instructional time for both sessions. AM kindergarten classes will begin at 10:45 am and will conclude at the modified pick-up time of 12:40 pm. Parents of PM kindergarten students should drop their children off at the modified start time of 1:25 pm. School dismissal time for PM kindergarten students remains at 3:20 pm. As a result, AM kindergarten students who use bus transportation to school will be picked up at their bus stops 2 hours later than usual and PM kindergarten students will ride the bus home at their regularly scheduled time. Parents are asked to make note of the change in the mid-day pick-up and drop-off times on days when there is a 2-hour delayed opening.

## **Modified Kindergarten Schedule**

AM Kindergarten: 10:45 am – 12:40 pm

PM Kindergarten: 1:25 pm – 3:20 pm

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## **From The Cultural Arts Committee**

### **Kits Interactive is coming again to New Eagle!**

2nd and 4th grade will have this inspiring one woman show. The play will combine history or literature, improvisation, period dance, costumes and music where audience members are cast right into the show!

### **Residency program for 4th grade students. May 9th to May 13th**

The Cultural Arts committee at New Eagle Elementary is pleased to announce our Artist in Residency program this year with The Walnut Street Theater! Artists from our nation's first, and oldest, theater will spend a week with your children, introducing them to the performing arts, and providing a unique opportunity for self-expression!

During the week-long program, all 4th grade students will participate in actor warm-ups, engaging the voice, body and mind. Students will also participate in group exercises that emphasize improvisation, creativity, thinking on your feet, creative problem solving, teamwork and fun.

Each 4th grader will participate in a Final Performance on May 13th!

### **Walnut Street Theatre. All school assembly. May 9th**

On Monday, May 9th New Eagle students will have the opportunity to see the play "The Boy Who Cried Bully" performed by the Walnut Street Theatre in an all school assembly. The play main subject is bullying, how it starts, why it happens and what to do to stop it in a fun and theatrical way.

## InterSchool Council (ISC) Meeting Minutes - 4/13/11

The InterSchool Council meets monthly to discuss current topics in T/E schools. Council Chair Holly Amsterdam leads the forum with district and School Board members contributing information. Also in attendance are parent representatives from each T/E elementary and middle schools and each grade in the high school. All ISC meetings are open to the public. The following topics were covered at the April meeting.

**Blue Ribbon Awarded** - Sue Tiede, Director of Personnel, announced that Devon Elementary was recognized as a 2010 National Blue Ribbon School. This award is given by the Dept of Education to schools that have high academic goals or improved student achievement. There were 14 Pennsylvania schools and 300 schools in the Nation presented with this award in 2010. Ms. Tiede spoke of the hard work that Devon applied to receiving this honor. A big congratulations to Devon Elementary!

**Student Enrollment** - Ms. Tiede presented information for 2011-12 student enrollment in T/E. The district constantly collects and monitors student numbers to determine the quantity of classrooms and teachers needed for each school. Devon is the fastest growing elementary school in T/E. After looking at the numbers of children registered for next year, there will NOT be redistricting at Devon Elementary for 2011-12, as previously considered. The middle schools also appear to have sufficient space. The class sizes guidelines remain the same as last year. All classes in a grade within a school need to have the maximum number of students in order for an additional class/teacher to be added. The guidelines are: K-1 is 22 students; grade 2 is 23 students; grade 3/4 is 25 students; grade 5/8 is 27 students.

**Reduction of Counselors in Middle Schools** - Delvin Dinkins, Director of Assessment, reviewed an approval by the Education Committee to go forward with the reduction of the number of counselors at TEMS and VFMS. There are currently 4 counselors in each middle school which will be reduced to 3 counselors per middle school. There are Mental Health Specialists in each school that assist the counselors with specialized cases. The Mental Health Specialists will remain in the schools. One model under review is 1 counselor assigned per grade 6, 7 and 8 and then grade 5 would be divided among the 3 counselors. The exact model has

not been finalized. Mr. Dinkins also reviewed the history of the number of counselors and the population changes.

### **High School Counselor Assignment Change** -

Counselors at the high school will be assigned to students differently in 2011-12. This was not a budget related decision and was requested by the high school counseling department. Currently, counselors are divided into grade 9/11 teams and grade 10/12 teams. The department would like to switch to an alphabetical realignment, assigning a counselor to students by last name. A counselor would stay with the student for four years. To ensure a smooth transition would begin with communication to parents this spring, implement 2011 summer student service hours, and special attention given to seniors, e.g. college recommendation letters and transcripts. There are 9 counselors currently at the high school. The Education Committee approved this assignment change for 2011-12 school year.

**Grade 7/8 Modifications Report** - Richard Gusick, Director of Curriculum, Instruction Staff Development and Planning, provided an update on the changes that were implemented for grades 7/8 this past year. Students were no longer placed into teams and two new Advisory periods were added to the schedule. Advisory Initiative provided approximately 15 instructional modules to the students, with topics ranging from Internet Safety to Environmental Issues. Advisory Support was added for work completion, extra help, and test makeups and has generated positive comments from students, parents and teachers.

These modifications have also allowed for grade 7/8 weekly team meetings of counselors, teacher and administrators. "Referral Forms" are used to guide team agenda. Referral forms may be noted for Academic,

Social/Emotional, Parent/Peer Relations, Attendance, Behavior, New Students and allows for recommendations and followup of each referral. Other outcomes as a result of the 7/8 change is balanced size of classes and greater flexibility in staffing.

**Leveling Report for Grades 7/8** - The district committed last year to research the effects of leveling for grade 7/8 students. Currently, math is leveled for grades 7/8 in T/E. The T/E Middle School Advisory Council focused it's research this year on leveling in other subjects. The Council determined that the studies were inconclusive on who would benefit from leveling. Studies did show that it was beneficial to level in Math but for other subjects, the benefits varied. Middle school is an age of development and with the impact of external factors in the district, e.g. Keystone exams, PSSAs, budgetary, the district will not implement additional leveling in grades 7/8 next year.

**Changes for Grades 5/6** - Mr. Gusick reported on proposed schedule modifications for grades 5/6 for 2011-12. The current scheduling model has been in place since 1993. Acting on the successful implementation of adding Advisory modules in 7/8 this past year, the district is looking to add 2 Advisory periods to grade 5/6 for 2 times/6 day cycle. Teams would be maintained for grades 5/6 but possibly reduced to two teams. Art, Music, Health, Physical Education, Flex would stay on the same at 2x/cycle/year. Applied Tech would be integrated into Core classes. Tech Ed and Family Consumer Science would begin in grade 7, and no longer offered in grades 5/6. The State requires only "one unit" of Tech Ed/Family Sciences and this requirement will be met starting in grade 7. This change will be voted by the Board in May.

This was the last ISC meeting for the 2010-11 school year. Meetings will resume in September.



# School Board Update



Summaries of School Board Committee Meetings for April 2011

Visit [www.tesd.net](http://www.tesd.net) and click on 'School Board' for meeting dates, agendas and minutes.  
The public is warmly invited to all Committee meetings.

## **Education Committee, Chair: Betsy Fadem**

Prepared by: Committee Chair

At the April meeting, the Education Committee began with a discussion of a budget strategy that would reduce one counselor in each middle school. The Committee recommended the approval of this strategy to the Finance Committee and requested that the administration provide the implementation plan at the May Education meeting.

As requested by the Education Committee last year, the administration presented a follow-up report on changes made to the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade program during the current school year. From the report it appears that the introduction of the advisory period and the restructuring of the team meeting times have been positive additions for students and staff. Next, the Committee received a recommendation from the Middle School Advisory Council on course leveling practices in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. The Education Committee supported the Advisory Council's recommendation of no change to the current practice.

Next, the Committee discussed a recommendation from the administration to modify the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade program. Specifically, the recommendation includes the addition of an advisory period to the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade specials rotation. The advisory period will provide opportunities for student support in core subjects and will replace the current 12-week Applied Technology, Family Consumer Sciences (FCS) and Technology Education (Tech Ed) courses. The Committee recommended this curriculum change for the Finance Committee's consideration. FCS and Tech Ed will continue in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade and Applied Technology concepts will be integrated into core course work. As a result, a reduction of 3.2 full time equivalent teachers may be achieved through attrition, demotion, or furlough.

The Conestoga Student Services staff presented a recommendation to realign the high school counselor assignments to alphabetical bands in all grades 9-12. This new assignment system would replace the current model where each counselor only services students in two grades, either 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> or 10 and 12<sup>th</sup>. The Education Committee supported this recommendation.

## **Facilities Committee, Chair: Pete Motel**

Prepared by: Administrative Liaison

The Facilities Committee met on Friday April 15, 2011. The Committee heard a report from the District's Architect on the status of the current construction projects and the public bidding work completed for this summer's projects. The Committee approved two bids, one for an asphalt paving project and the other for the refurbishment of the cinder track at Valley Forge Middle School.

Next the Committee heard a proposal from the Valley Forge Trout Unlimited organization to install a bio-retention pond next to the Conestoga High School athletic fields on Irish Road at no cost to the District. The Committee asked several clarifying questions then gave the group the approval for the project.

Finally, the Committee continued their conversation concerning the current use of the old transportation building as the maintenance shop and offices. The Committee reviewed several options presented by the District's Architect at the last meeting and asked that a presentation with these options be made at the next Board meeting.

## **Finance Committee, Chair: Kevin Mahoney**

Prepared by: Administrative Liaison

The Finance Committee met on Monday April 11<sup>th</sup> in the Conestoga High School Auditorium. The Committee heard a report from the Treasurer indicating that revenues collected year to date combined with projected revenue for the remainder of the year may be \$1.05 million short of the revenue budget. The Treasurer also noted that expenditures are also under budget thus the expected use of fund balance to balance the year is approximately \$40,000.

The administration reviewed with the Committee the work that the Committee had completed to date on the proposed budget. The Committee reviewed all of the budget strategies that they had approved and discussed several strategies that are still being analyzed. The Committee approved a short list of strategies from the last meeting and noted that they would continue to discuss budget reduction strategies at future meetings. The budget strategies and other

budget planning resources are available in the budget section of the TESD web site.

Several community members in attendance spoke concerning budget strategies, possible increases to the tax rate, cuts to the educational program and the implementation of an earned income tax.

**Policy Committee,  
Chair: Kevin Buraks**

Prepared by: Administrative Liaison

The Policy Committee began the April 6 meeting by continuing its review of **Policy 3185: Fund Balances Management**. The Committee received comments from the Business Office staff about Policy 3185. After brief discussion, the Committee recommended the policy for a first reading at the April 25, 2011 School Board meeting.

The Policy Committee continued its discussion of a possible **new advertising policy** since the sell of advertising for extra curricular activities and events is listed as a strategy for the 2011-2012 budget. The Committee heard an update from the administration about the feasibility of working with a consulting company that would facilitate advertising contracts on behalf of the District. The Committee charged the administration with arranging a presentation from one such company at an upcoming School Board meeting. The Committee will continue its discussion of a new advertising policy at its May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The next item of business was a review of **Policy 3100: Budget Development Process**. The Policy Committee reviewed the revisions made to Policy 3100 since its March 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting and made modifications to language for clarity. The District Solicitor will make necessary revisions to Policy 3100 and provide a clean copy for Committee review at its next meeting on May 5<sup>th</sup>.

The Committee turned its attention to **Policy 6111: School Calendar**. Following a period of discussion, the Committee asked the District Solicitor to revise Policy 6111: School Calendar. The policy will return to the Committee on May 5<sup>th</sup> for additional review.

The Committee read **Policy 6112: School Day** and made no changes to the policy. In addition, the Committee reviewed **Policy 2230: Instructional Leadership** and will continue its discussion of it at its May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

In the 2600 policy series, the Committee recommended the repeal of **Policy 2621: First-Level Supervisors**, **Policy 2631: Right to Appeal**, and **Policy 2632: Salaries of Administrative Staff** for a first reading before the Board at their meeting on April 25, 2011. Likewise, the repeal of

**Policy 2231: Director of Athletics** was recommended for a second reading before the April 25, 2011 Board meeting.

The Committee then turned its attention to **Policy 9332: Exceptions to Board Policies**, which had been previously revised for greater clarity. The Committee recommended the policy for a second reading at the April Board meeting.

Finally, the Committee held a brief discussion of **Regulation 5116: Nonresident Students**, which was updated by the administration to reflect changes to its corresponding policy.

**Public Information Committee,  
Chair: Debbie Bookstaber**

Prepared by: Administrative Liaison

The Committee reviewed a list of open records requests from District residents. The Committee also requested that the administration post Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) Form 2028, which outlines the 2011-2012 preliminary budget, on the TESD web site.

The Committee discussed the District's role in legislative advocacy and the timing of future Board resolutions. The Committee members will review the District's legislative action plan and continue the discussion of best practices at a future meeting.

The Committee reviewed a list of budget communication that has taken place during the 2010-2011 school year. The Committee discussed the possibility of mailing a paper communication pieces to all residents should the need arise. Finally, the Committee discussed the format of the Finance Committee meeting agendas.

Lastly, the Committee recommended that the next TE Board Talk program include a video of the Business Manager's presentation of the budget from the March 28, 2011 Budget Workshop.





# The PTO needs YOU!

*It's time to start thinking about next year already!*

*The PTO relies on the dedication and support of our parent volunteers – just like you! Please consider volunteering to chair or assist with one of our many PTO committees.*

*To see a complete list of committee descriptions, log onto [www.neweaglepto.org](http://www.neweaglepto.org).*

*Click on the “2011-2012 Volunteer Sign-up” tab to sign-up.*

*There are opportunities for EVERYONE, whether you have lots of time or just a little!*

*Questions? Please contact Stephanie Smith at [stephsmith1@comcast.net](mailto:stephsmith1@comcast.net) or 610-254-9555.*

### Programming Committees

Art Goes To School  
Character Building  
Clubs Program  
Community Outreach  
Cultural Arts  
Family Ice Cream Social  
Fourth Grade Committee  
Green Committee  
Health and Safety  
Kindergarten Teas  
Learning Fair  
Pizza Bingo  
Skating Party  
School Spirit

### Communications Committees

ARCH Representative  
BUILD Representative  
Bulletin Board  
Directory Ad Sales  
Directory Compilation  
Diversity Committee  
ISC Representative  
New Family Orientation  
Newsletter  
Public Relations  
Webmaster

### Fundraising Committees

Book Fair  
Directory Distribution and Sales  
New Eagle Cookbook  
Outright Appeal Letter  
Parent Social  
Pay to Play Event  
School Store  
School Supplies  
Spirit Wear  
Spring Fair

### Volunteer Committees

Beautification  
First Grade Lunch Orientation  
First Grade Publishing Center  
Grade Coordinators \*  
Homeroom Coordinators \*  
Special Areas Coordinator \*  
Field Day  
Library Volunteers  
Teacher/Staff Recognition  
Volunteers at Large

*\*Grade/Homeroom/Special Areas Coordinators are being organized by Tina Webb. Please contact Tina directly at [dtwebb@comcast.net](mailto:dtwebb@comcast.net) or 484-580-8188 if interested in one of these positions.*

# Reading Connection

## Tips for Reading Success

## Beginning Edition

May 2011

New Eagle Elementary School  
Melissa Radico, Reading Specialist

### Book Picks



Read-aloud favorites

#### ■ Flat Stanley

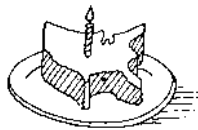
In Jeff Brown's classic tale, a little boy is flattened by a bulletin board. At first, Stanley's unusual problem leads to adventure—he travels through the mail in an envelope and can even fly. But what happens when Stanley gets tired of being flat? (Also available in Spanish.)



#### ■ All the World

A family enjoys a busy summer day together in this rhyming story by Liz Garton Scanlon. As you read, your child will recognize familiar experiences like a playful morning at the beach, a shopping trip to a farmers' market, and a summer rainstorm.

#### ■ The Story of America's Birthday



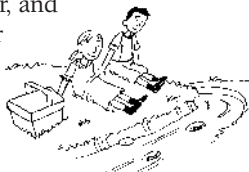
Why do we celebrate Independence Day?

Patricia Pingry's nonfiction book

explains how the United States became a country. Your youngster will get an introduction to the American Revolution and the Declaration of Independence, and he'll read about traditions like fireworks and parades.

#### ■ Summertime in the Big Woods

This story for little readers is part of a series adapted from Laura Ingalls Wilder's original Little House books. Young Laura is growing up in a 19th-century pioneer family. School's out for the summer, and she spends her days playing outside and helping with chores.



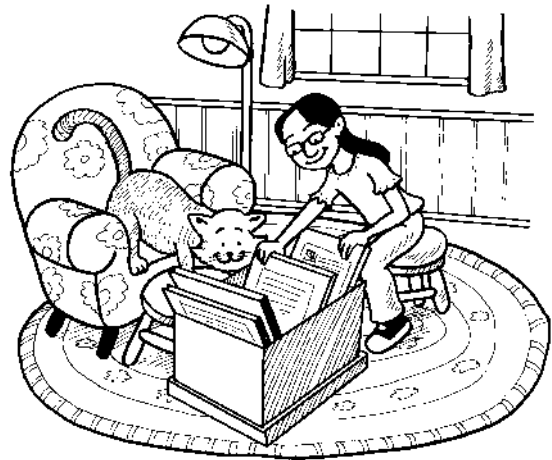
## What should I read?

Sofia loves stories about princesses and dogs. Aaron wants to read more books by David Shannon and Mercer Mayer. These children have discovered strategies for picking out books—an important step toward becoming a lifelong reader. Try these hints to help your youngster find stories she'll enjoy, too.

#### Choose a book by its cover.

Your child may be drawn to a book because of its title and the picture on the front. Encourage her to go with her instinct and pick it up. She can look at the first few pages of a story to get a better idea of whether she might enjoy it.

**Ask an expert.** Encourage your youngster to talk to a librarian, a bookseller, or her teacher. Your child might ask which books they liked when they were little, or what books are popular with kids her age now. She'll see that talking with other book lovers is a wonderful way to get suggestions.



**Use an online bookstore.** Help your youngster search for favorite books at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) or [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com). When she clicks on a title, the site will show similar books that customers purchased—and she might find titles she would like to try. Your child can also click on an author's name to find more books by that person.

*Tip:* Let your youngster keep a box or basket with several books in the order she plans to read them. As she finishes a story, she can add another to the back of the stack.♥

### Reading buddies

The next time your child invites a friend over, encourage him to make it a "reading playdate" with these ideas:

- Have him ask his friend to bring over a few books. Then, your youngster can pick out several of his own to share.
- As they read, suggest that they try using a different voice for each character. For instance, a frog might speak in a croaking voice, or a snake could exaggerate the "s" sound. This will help your youngster learn to read with expression.
- Let the children try different ways of reading together. First, they might take turns reading aloud to each other. For the next book, they could alternate pages or read in unison. That way, they'll both get a chance to participate.♥



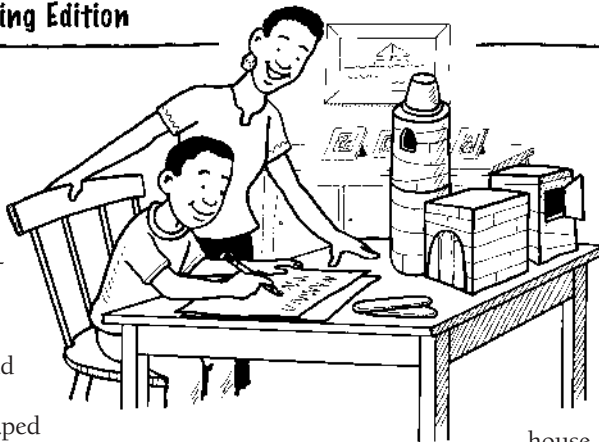
## Reading Connection Beginning Edition

May 2011 • Page 2

# Fairy tale fun

Once upon a time, there was a child who loved to read, write, and play. He discovered that fairy tales gave him fun opportunities to do all three. Your youngster can be this child... here's how!

- Make a game using words from fairy tales. First, let your child write "Start" and "Finish" in opposite corners of a poster board. Then, draw a two-inch-wide S-shaped path connecting the corners, and mark off spaces along the path. Help your youngster write a "fairy tale word"



(*beanstalk, magic, wolf*) in each space. To play, roll a die and move a marker the number of spaces shown. As you land on each space, read the word and tell how it's used in a fairy tale. Continue until all players reach "Finish."

- Design a fairy tale house. Read several stories to your child, and have him choose a building (Rapunzel's tower, a house from "The Three Little Pigs"). Ask him to find details in the story that tell what the house looks like, and help him list "construction supplies" he'll need (oatmeal canister, craft sticks, tape). After he builds, have him write or dictate his own version of the fairy tale. He can tape his story to the house.♥

**Fun  
with  
Words**

## Compound words

If your child learns the words *pan* and *cake*, she'll be able to read *pancake*—a compound word. This game will encourage her to read short words and combine them to read longer ones.

1. Introduce your youngster to compound words. Ask, "If you put together *sun* and *flower*, what do you have?" (*sunflower*) Then, help her brainstorm a list of 10 compound words. If she's stuck, say a word (*book*), and ask her to think of compound words that include that word (*bookcase, bookmark*).



2. Have her write the two words in each compound word on separate index cards. Lay them facedown in four rows of five cards.
3. Take turns flipping over two cards and saying the words. Ask your child if the two words together sound like a real word. ("Is there such a thing as a *bookflower*?") If they make a compound word, keep the cards and take another turn. If not, turn the cards back over, and your turn ends. Keep playing until all the matches are made.♥

### OUR PURPOSE

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

Resources for Educators,  
a division of CCH Incorporated  
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www.rfeonline.com  
ISSN 1540-5648

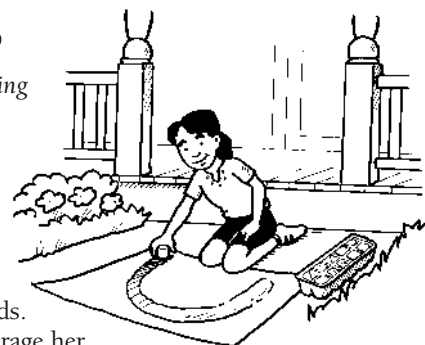
## Q&A Stronger hands

**Q** My daughter doesn't like writing or using scissors—she says her hands get tired. How can I help her?

**A** Try some outdoor activities that will let your daughter enjoy summer weather while she strengthens her hand muscles.

For instance, playing in a sandbox or digging in the dirt is good exercise for little hands. Give your child a pail and shovel, and encourage her to dig and scoop.

Or let her make ice-cube watercolors! Have her add a few drops of food coloring to a cup of water and pour the water into an ice-cube tray. When it freezes, she can use the cubes to paint on paper. Another idea is to let her "paint" the sidewalk with just a bucket of water and paintbrushes. She may also like to use sidewalk chalk to draw pictures, write words, or make a hopscotch board.♥



## Parent to Parent

### Learning to spell

I was concerned because my son Quinn spells words like they sound instead of the correct way. When I asked his teacher about this, her answer surprised me. She said "invented spelling" is normal for his age! As Quinn gets older, she said, he'll spell more and more words correctly. In the meantime, she gave me some ideas for ways to help him become a better speller.

First, she suggested that I have Quinn post a list of words he's learning how to spell on his bedroom wall. He can use it for reference when he's writing.

Then, she recommended that I get him a children's dictionary. That way, if he asks me how to spell a word, I can help him look it up. She explained that once he's comfortable using the dictionary, he'll be able to find words on his own.♥

