

2020 Summer



BIRTH TO 3-YEAR-OLDS

TALKING CHALLENGE

Research has found that providing children starting at birth with consistent, language-rich experiences - such as talking, reading, and singing - can have important benefits on their brain development and future school success. A gap in the quantity and quality of words that children learn can directly impact their opportunities to succeed in school and later in life. For more information on how to **RISE** to the challenge visit: www.talkwithmebaby.org.

WHY TALKING MATTERS INFORMATION



A baby's brain grows super fast. Research shows that the number of loving words a baby hears in the first three years of life makes a **BIG** difference.



The **BEST** conversations happen in the language the child first hears and the language the parent or caregiver is most comfortable speaking.



By the time a child enters kindergarten, those who heard lots of loving words have **DOUBLE** the vocabulary of those that did not.



A **CRITICAL** milestone for a child's success in school and life is the ability to read by the end of third grade.

BATHTIME & BEDTIME TALKING TIPS



[GETTING CLEAN]

Bathtime is a great time to talk with your baby about washing rituals, name body parts, and sing songs.

www.talkwithmebaby.org/bathtime

You will often have to wash your baby's hands, so talk with your baby about how to get their hands clean.

www.talkwithmebaby.org/washing_up



[TIME FOR BED]

Help your baby learn about rest times by providing lots of loving words about jammies, lights off, and being sleepy.

www.talkwithmebaby.org/bedtime

PLAYTIME & READING TALKING TIPS



[HAVING FUN]

Playtime is fundamental to a child's early development. Describe your baby's toys, ask questions, and respond with lots of loving words to your baby's choices while playing.

www.talkwithmebaby.org/play_time



[STORY TIME]

Encourage a love of literacy by reading with your baby as much as possible and talking about books, stories, and reading. Cuddle while sharing a book with your child.

www.talkwithmebaby.org/reading

CHANGING & DRESSING TALKING TIPS



[NEED A CHANGE]

Talk or sing with your baby during the daily activity of changing, pointing out body parts and explaining your actions.

www.talkwithmebaby.org/changing



[GETTING DRESSED]

You dress and undress your baby many times a day, so take the opportunity to talk or sing with your baby. Describe how clothes change with the weather or turn the chore of laundry into a chance to talk with your child.

www.talkwithmebaby.org/dressing



[MEAL PREP]

Talk with your baby about food, meals, utensils, recipes, and eating rituals while your prepare and cook. When you talk with your child about foods, you're building both their vocabulary and healthy eating habits.

www.talkwithmebaby.org/cooking



[TIME TO EAT]

Mealtime is an excellent time to talk with your baby and describe foods and sensations they experience.

www.talkwithmebaby.org/meal_time

2020 Summer

LEARNING CHALLENGE



PREK TO FIRST GRADE

Years of research has shown how important continuing learning during the summer is to students. This is especially true this summer. The Mississippi Department of Education challenges districts and parents/guardians to continue the learning so that **ALL** students are prepared for the 2020-2021 school year. Make summer learning fun and engaging by checking out the resources below or visiting mdek12.org/LearningAtHome to help **ALL** our students **RISE** to the challenge.

SUMMER LEARNING AT HOME INFORMATION



Continuing the learning over the summer can show **POSITIVE** impact on a student's academic growth starting as early as grade 1.



Create **LIFELONG** readers this summer by adding 20 minutes per day of family or individual reading.



Learning can be fun and exciting for the whole **FAMILY** by incorporating screen-free math and science activities.



Students with learning barriers **BENEFIT** from learning activities that are part of their summer experience.



The good news: it only takes 2 - 3 hours per week to see **GROWTH** in your student's learning and knowledge.

READING COMPREHENSION TOOLS & TIPS



[LIFELONG READER]

Build your child's reading comprehension with Read Theory. The website provides exercises that are aligned to grade-level standards and a reading level is provided for each one. To learn more about Read Theory visit: readtheory.org.



[STORYTIME]

Grow your student's love of books and reading with listening to stories together. Storyline Online features children's books read online with added animation and sound effects. Many books feature activity guides for parents. To start listening visit: www.storylineonline.net.

LETTERS AND SOUNDS TOOLS & TIPS



[WORD GAMES]

ABCya provides fun and educational games starting at PreK. Games include Alphabats Rhyming Words, Monster Mansion Match, and Submarine Spelling Practice. To learn more about ABCya visit: www.abcya.com.



[PHONICS HELPER]

Starfall provides various language arts games for PreK and Kindergarten students. Games ABCs, ABC Rhymes, and Learn to Read. Starfall is great for students with learning barriers. To learn more about Starfall visit: www.starfall.com.



[PAINT BY LETTER]

Help Alpha Pigin this art game by using your keyboard and crayons. Test your child's letter and color knowledge as well as art skills. To start coloring visit: tinyurl.com/ydxwq1n.



[HANDWRITING APP]

iWriteWords is a handwriting app where users trace words, letters, and numbers at their own pace in order to become more familiar with the alphabet and numeral system. To download the app visit: tinyurl.com/ybvhzbe.

MATHEMATICS TOOLS & TIPS



[MATH CHALLENGE]

MetaMetrics offers a six-week online free math skills program for students in 1-8 grades. Students can access math learning activities that are aligned with state math standards. To start the challenge visit: hub.lexile.com/summer-math-challenge.



[MATH GAMES]

Continue your student's learning with Prodigy math games. The site includes games that adapt to your child's learning level. To create an account visit: www.prodigygame.com/pages/parents.

READING PASSAGES & BOOK RESOURCES



[LOW PRICE BOOKS]

First Book Marketplace's Book Bank offers books for only the cost of shipping and handling - the books are FREE. To learn more about First Book visit: www.fbmarketplace.org/book-bank.



[LEVELED PASSAGES]

BeeLine Reader displays text using subtle color gradient, which assists the visual tracking aspect of reading. BeeLine Reader is great for students with learning barriers. To start using BeeLine Reader: tinyurl.com/y82oj8jd.



[LEXILE LEVELS]

Find a Book is a book search that connects students with books based on their reading levels and interests. To learn more about Find a Book visit: hub.lexile.com/find-a-book/search.

VOCABULARY TOOLS & TIPS



[VOCAB GAMES]

Build your child's vocabulary with online games from PBS Kids. Games include Socks in Space, Dinosaur Field Guide, Word Race, and many more. To learn more about PBS Kids visit: pbskids.org/games/vocabulary.



[ESL- EFL]

Practice vocabulary with crossword, writing, matching, grammar, and spelling worksheets for English Learners. These activities are great for students from PreK to third grade. To get started visit: tinyurl.com/y767ccmr.



[WORD LISTS]

Flocabulary provides grade-level lists starting in Kindergarten. To learn more about the vocabulary lists visit: www.flocabulary.com/wordlists.

2020 Summer

LEARNING CHALLENGE



SECOND - FIFTH GRADE

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MATHEMATICS & SCIENCE TOOLS & TIPS



[MATH CHALLENGE]

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[SCIENCE]

Mystery Science offers Kindergarten through Fifth Grade mini science lessons including activities designed to use household items. To learn more about Mystery Science visit: mysteryscience.com/school-closure-planning.

READING AND LITERACY TOOLS & TIPS



[READING]

Children won't gain as much from summer reading if they aren't truly enjoying it. Let them pick what they want to read. To start the challenge visit: www.scholastic.com/site/summer/home.html.



[WORD GAMES]

ABCya provides fun and educational games for second through fifth grade. Games include Alphabats Rhyming Words, Monster Mansion Match, and Submarine Spelling Practice. To learn more about ABCya visit: www.abcya.com.



[ESL- EFL]

Practice vocabulary with crossword, writing, matching, grammar, and spelling worksheets for English Learners. These activities are great for students from PreK to third grade. To get started visit: tinyurl.com/y767ccmr.



[CHALLENGES]

Beanbright helps facilitate reading challenges and allows schools to gain more data on students' free-choice reading. Motivate your students to read more with this FREE online reading challenge. To learn more about Beanbright visit: www.beanbright.com.

SOCIAL STUDIES TOOLS & TIPS



[CIVICS]

Students can go on an adventure with Benjamin "Ben" Franklin as he explores the U.S. Government. To learn more about Ben's Guide visit: bensguide.gpo.gov.



[GEOGRAPHY]

Children can learn all about different animals, places, and people through National Geographic Kids. They can find amazing facts along with games and so much more. To take a trip around the world visit: kids.nationalgeographic.com.

READING PASSAGES & BOOK RESOURCES



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[LEVELED PASSAGES]

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[LEXILE LEVELS]

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OTHER GREAT TOOLS & TIPS



[BE CREATIVE]

All students know who Mo Willems is or they at least know his drawings. To get creative with Mo visit: www.kennedy-center.org/mowillems.



[INTERACTION]

Even though students may not be able to visit the MS Children's Museum, there is so much they can experience from home. To check out these visit: mschildrensmuseum.org/activities-you-can-do-at-home/.



[SPEECH APP]

Speech with Milo apps were created by a licensed Speech-Language Pathologist. The app comes with instructions for parents. To learn more about Speech with Milo visit: www.speechwithmilo.com.

2020 Summer

LEARNING CHALLENGE



SIXTH - EIGHTH GRADE

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MATHEMATICS & SCIENCE TOOLS & TIPS



[MATH CHALLENGE]

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[CODING]

Get students interested in coding which, reinforces several skills such as reading and math. CODE.org offers lessons that start at the beginner stage and quickly moves students to more rigorous levels. To learn more about CODE.org visit: studio.code.org/courses.

READING AND LITERACY TOOLS & TIPS



[READING]

Build lifelong readers by starting students on Reading is Fundamental's 40 Book Reading Challenge. To download challenge card visit: tinyurl.com/y9y28zvo.



[LIFELONG READER]

Improve your student's reading comprehension with Read Theory. The website provides exercises that are aligned to grade-level standards. To learn more about Read Theory visit: readtheory.org.



[VOCABULARY]

Readworks provides a large library of curated non-fiction and literary articles along with reading comprehension and vocabulary lessons, formative assessments, and teacher guidance. To get started visit: www.readworks.org.



[LITERATURE]

CommonLit's digital platform allows teachers to stay in touch with students through customized directions, instant feedback, and easy grading. To learn more about CommonLit visit: www.commonlit.org.

SOCIAL STUDIES TOOLS & TIPS



[CIVICS]

iCivics provides engaging civics education through online games, which transform abstract concepts like voting into real-life problems. To learn more about iCivics visit: www.icivics.org.



[US HISTORY]

Students can learn about American history through interactive missions. Each mission consists of a game, curriculum materials, and document-based activities. To take a trip back in time visit: www.mission-us.org.

READING PASSAGES & BOOK RESOURCES



[LOW PRICE BOOKS]

First Book Marketplace's Book Bank offers books for only the cost of shipping and handling - the books are FREE. To learn more about First Book visit: www.fbmarketplace.org/book-bank.



[FREE EBOOK ACCESS]

Encourage students to read this summer with current fiction and non-fiction ebooks from MackinVIA. Students can choose from more than 5,000 ebooks. Access is free through September 30, 2020. To start using MackinVIA visit: tinyurl.com/vparl84.



[LEXILE LEVELS]

Find a Book is a book search that connects students with books based on their reading levels and interests. To learn more about Find a Book visit: hub.lexile.com/find-a-book/search.

OTHER GREAT TOOLS & TIPS



[BE CREATIVE]

The website randomly generates more than 300 million story starters. Have students create their story during the break. To start writing visit: thestorystarter.com.



[NEW LINGO]

Lingo Hut offers beginning readers an opportunity to learn social English. Students will need to be able to read in their first language in order to complete lessons. To get started visit: www.lingohut.com.



[INTERACTION]

Continue the learning with PBS Learning Media. The specially curated collection contains videos and interactive lessons. The lessons cover the four core content areas. To create an account visit: tinyurl.com/rgrfrefx.

2020 Summer

 MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
Ensuring a bright future for every child

NINTH-TWELFTH GRADE

LEARNING CHALLENGE

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MATHEMATICS & SCIENCE TOOLS & TIPS



[ALGEBRA NATION]

Free, digital access to 5,000+ engaging videos as well as digital practice problems available to all students in middle and high school. Contact your school to get your child's login information. To get started visit: www.algebranation.com/ms.



[JOURNALING]

A good way to sharpen your student's science skills is to have them make observations and ask questions about nature. Turn any device into a portable science lab with Science Journal. To start exploring visit: sciencejournal.withgoogle.com.

READING AND LITERACY TOOLS & TIPS



[CURRENT EVENTS]

Youngzine is a one-of-a-kind Web site where students can learn about current news and events shaping their world -- in a simple, engaging and interactive manner. To read the latest news visit: www.youngzine.org.



[LIFELONG READER]

Improve your student's reading comprehension with Read Theory. The website provides exercises that are aligned to grade-level standards. To learn more about Read Theory visit: readtheory.org.



[ACTIVITIES]

Read Write Think provides activities, tips, games, projects, podcasts, and printables to assist ALL students with reading and writing. Parents can find resources based on grade level or learning objective. To get started visit: www.readwritethink.org/parent-afterschool-resources.



[LITERATURE]

CommonLit's digital platform allows teachers to stay in touch with students through customized directions, instant feedback, and easy grading. To learn more about CommonLit visit: www.commonlit.org.

SOCIAL STUDIES TOOLS & TIPS



[CIVICS]

iCivics provides engaging civics education through online games, which transform abstract concepts like voting into real-life problems. To learn more about iCivics visit: www.icivics.org.



[US HISTORY]

In each hour-long episode of History Detectives Special Investigations, historians ask probing questions behind a single iconic mystery from America's past. To take solve a mystery visit: www.pbs.org/show/history-detectives.

OTHER GREAT TOOLS & TIPS



[BE CREATIVE]

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[ESL VOCAB]

Free printable English grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation worksheets, exercises, games, quizzes, and videos for teachers and students. To get started visit: www.esltower.com/vocabularyteachers.html.



[TEST PREP]

LearningExpress School Center offers 9th-12th grade English, math, and social studies practice as well as ACT, ASVAB, and SAT test prep. To register for a free account visit: tinyurl.com/yce4nb5o.

READING PASSAGES & BOOK RESOURCES



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