Interactive Internet

Visit www.speakaboos.com and visit the different activities around the site to find exactly what you are looking for. There are storybook experiences where the books are read loud and the text is provided along the bottom of the page. There are also many games to play and printables to engage your children in the act of reading.

Visit www.pbskids.org/lions/ to find many different games that help engage and perfect student’s sense of phonics. Three great games include Hopposits, Sky Riding, and The Blending Bowl.
**TIPS**

**Terrific Information for Parents and Students**

1. **Read to Them** – Special things happen when you begin to read out loud. Reading skills are fostered along with a sense of security, warmth, excitement, and fun. So cuddle up with your child and share books with them. This creates a great bonding experience and allows you to open up the world of books to your child.

2. **Make a Literary Nook** – Together you and your child can create a cozy, relaxing corner in your home to read! Bring their favorite blanket, bean bag chairs, and a huge, comfy pillow next to a bookcase filled with books to designate a place in your house for reading.

3. **Scatter Books Around the House** – Have books all around the house! Place books in your child's bedroom, on their night stand, in the kitchen, and in the living room. Scatter reading materials everywhere and it will capture their attention and they will want to pick up the book out of curiosity.

4. **Get A Library Card** – Get a personal library card for your child. Children love having their own card and checking out the books they choose.

5. **Trips to the Library** – Have a regular schedule to visit the library. For example, Sundays could be library days with your children and let them sit and read in the library for as long as you can. Take advantage of your local library's programs, including story times and reading groups, to help develop a child's interest in books.

6. **Closed Captioning** - We all know children love watching television and movies with friends and family. If your children beg and plead to watch their favorite movie after dinnertime, make it as educational as you can! Put on the closed captioning because it will get your child reading along as they listen and benefit their literacy skills; plus it's FREE!

7. **Be patient** – When your child is trying to sound out an unfamiliar word, give him or her time to do so. Remind your child to look closely at the first letter or letters of the word.

8. **Add Fun Activities** – Extend the books your children read by creating fun activities relating to the books.

9. **Let Kids Make Books** – Plain sheets of paper fastened together become a timeless treasure when children write their own stories on the bound pages. Entice your first grader to tell you their stories.

10. **Set an Example** – Read yourself! Children imitate what parents do. If they see you frequently enjoying a good book, chances are they will too.
Author Spotlight!

Theodore Seuss Geisel

Books by Dr. Seuss, like The Cat in the Hat, will have a lasting impression on your reader because he makes reading fun, surprising, and exciting. Other great stories for your 1st grader by Dr. Seuss are Green Eggs in Ham and I'll Teach My Dog 100 Words. Many of Dr. Seuss’ books promote rhyming and alliteration. They are exciting for the children to read as well as educationally appropriate.

Laura Numeroff

A New York Author of many children’s books. Most of Laura Numeroff’s books are books of a series; there are many different characters but there are many themes in which she writes about. Numeroff has the “If you give…” series which include If you give a mouse a cookie, If you give a moose a muffin, If you give a pig a pancake and many others just like that. Look for more of Numeroff’s amazing children’s books in your local library.

Mo Willems

Join the peppy pigeon on his adventurous journeys and new experiences each day. Whether he’s trying to get a puppy, (The Pigeon Wants A Puppy) pleading to drive a bus (Don’t Let The Pigeon Drive The Bus), or wanting to take a huge bite out of a delicious hot dog (The Pigeon Finds A Hot Dog), he’s always on the go! Your child will love these humorous and interactive books that will give you a laugh.

Leo Lionni

These educational books will have you coming back for more. Your child will love to learn about colors, creativity, numbers and letters with these books. Take a dive with your child into the illustrations and awesome colors that these books provide such as Colors, Numbers, Letters, Let’s Make Rabbits, Little Blue and Little Yellow, A Color Of His Own. They won’t want to put them down!

Eric Carle

The illustrator famous for his story The Very Hungry Caterpillar has a number of classic books. As one of the most well known children’s illustrator, Carle has been drawing since 1967. His first book, Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See came out in 1967, and his most recent, Baby Bear, Baby Bear, What Do You See was published in 2007. Many of Carle’s books are about animals, and forms of the illustrations are the most interesting portions of his books. Look for more of Carle’s classics at a bookstore near you.
We're going on a picnic:
You can use this game so they can show you their knowledge of the alphabet and the sounds of the letters. You can use "We're going on a picnic and I am bringing Apples." Or you can say "we're going to..." and fill in wherever the destination you are actually going to in the car. This will help make it more engaging for your child as they get excited by thinking of the different things they can bring.

Alliteration:
Have fun with your child by making silly sentences using alliteration (repetition of the same consonant). "Silly Sarah Skis on the Slippery Slopes". Go back and forth with your child and see all the funny sayings that come about.

DVDs in the car:
With our technology these days, DVD players are seen more and more in cars. When putting on your child's favorite movie during long car rides, put the sub-titles on so they can see the words as they are being said in the movie. This will help your child relate the sound to the appearance of the words throughout the film.

Rhyming:
You can start by saying any word. Have your child rhyme the word with any other word. Nonsense words are okay! Another idea is to say something you see during the drive and have your child rhyme that with something they see during the car ride. Keep this going and see how many words your child can come up with!

On Vacation:
Have your children write a postcard to a family member or a friend at home telling about their vacation. Bring your child's favorite book to have them read to you while waiting at the airport. Keep a journal, with both text and pictures, for each day of your child's vacation.
The MLK Library is conveniently located in Chinatown, Washington DC and is metro accessible. There are a variety of different books for all different ages to make it appropriate for your child. There is a separate children's section that makes for a great home-like environment for you and your child. Whether you would like to go pick out books or stay awhile is your choice!

Couches and comfortable sections are available for your convenience as well. Computers are also available for your child to explore educational sites. The MLK website also offers suggested books and animated video story books to make learning and reading a fun experience for you and your child. Visit MLK with your child and they'll never want to leave!