

Family support boosts learning, and Lexia is here to help. Try these fun games and activities to reinforce and build your growing reader's literacy skills from home.



Act It Out

Help your growing reader develop compare and contrast strategies by playing charades. Talk about categories, like animals or sports. Work together to brainstorm what's the same and different from category to category, as well as what belongs and doesn't belong. Then, act out objects or items from each category.

Like this activity? Make the game even more challenging by narrowing the categories: ocean animals, insects, or pets.



Art Studio

Goldfish. Pancake. Football. What do these words have in common? They're all compound words made up of two smaller words.

To boost vocabulary, talk about the meaning of each small word and then the meaning of the compound word. Have your growing reader use the words in different sentences.

Then, try this fun activity. Have them draw the two smaller words (gold, fish) before drawing a picture of the compound word (goldfish).

butterfly	flagpole	rainbow
cartwheel	hotdog	starfish
earring	milkshake	sunflower
firefly	pigpen	timeline



Word Play

Paper chains for word learning? Yes! A word chain is a set of words that change by one sound at a time. Word necklaces go one step further. They start and end with the same word. Here's an example:

cat → cast → cost → lost → last → fast → fat → cat

Have your growing reader write word chains on interlocking loops of paper to create a necklace of words. Here are some other word chains to keep the fun going:

spot → pot → plot → lot → lost → list → last → past → post → pot → spot

bake → cake → take → lake → lane → line → like → bike → bake

Next, challenge kids to think of their own word necklaces or to make the longest chain they can, adding new words every day!



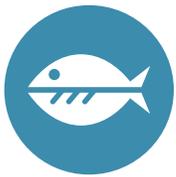
Scavenger Hunt

Sturdy. Rough. Curved. Encourage your growing reader to use describing words like these – called adjectives – to help them focus on details and develop a rich vocabulary. Here’s a fun activity to get started.

Talk about what each word means, have your reader use it in a sentence, and brainstorm related words together. Then, send them on a scavenger hunt for items that fit each description!

Next time you read together, point out these and other describing words. Write them down, use them daily, and try more scavenger hunts!

unusual	straight	short
lumpy	clear	fresh
wooden	striped	colorful
fancy	silky	rubbery



Go Fish

Some letter pairs – *sh, ch, th,* and *ck* – make one sound when they team up. These are called digraphs. Boost your reader’s success with digraphs by making pairs of word cards together. Start with one syllable words, like *rush, chop, thin,* and *back.*

Then, shuffle the cards, and play Go Fish! Urge players to use the word in a sentence after collecting a matching pair. Keep the game interesting by adding new words each time you play.



Photo Booth

Build your growing reader’s understanding of story structure with this photo-taking project. Talk about a familiar story, pointing out that it has a beginning, middle, and end.

Then, have kids use toys or objects in nature to tell a story of their own. They should take three photos to show the beginning, the middle, and the end.

As you look at the pictures together, ask about each part of the story. Reinforce this learning by talking about beginning, middle, and end the next time you read together.



Get Moving

Exercise for mind and body! Write simple sight words – *some, any, know, give,* and *every* – on the ground with chalk. Have your growing reader jump to each word and read it aloud. Bonus points for using the word in a sentence!

If this activity is a hit, try it with these sight words next time:

could	have	your
once	again	been
of	does	walk
from	friend	why
were	why	which
live	says	many
put	very	would



Student Choice Board

Your growing reader can boost their literacy skills all year long with these fun activities. Have them go for five in a row, or try to fill the whole board!

<p>Pretend to be a character from your favorite book. Dress up to look like that character, and talk in a voice you think they would use.</p>	<p><i>Firefly. Starfish. Pigpen. Hotdog.</i> These compound words are made up of two smaller words. Draw the two smaller words, and then draw each compound word.</p>	<p>Share your favorite book with a friend or family member. Show the front cover, the title, the author, and the illustrator. Then, show and describe your favorite page.</p>	<p><i>Wave, yard, and ring</i> are multiple meaning words. Draw a picture that shows two different meanings of each word.</p>	<p><i>once • were • of • why • live • from • very • put</i> Write each sight word on a note card. See how quickly you can read them all. Then, try to beat your record!</p>
<p>Set up a reading nook. Make it comfortable with pillows, blankets, and stuffed animals. Be sure to leave room for lots of books!</p>	<p>Play Go Fish with a set of contraction word cards! Write each contraction on one card and the two words that form it on another.</p>	<p>Tell a friend or family member about your favorite informational book. Explain the main idea, and tell about three important details.</p>	<p>Plan a birthday party for your favorite book character. Make an invitation and "send" it to other characters. Be sure to fill the party with things the character would like.</p>	<p>Use the letters in your first and last name to make as many smaller words as you can.</p>
<p><i>clear • striped • short • silky • fresh • rubbery</i> These are all describing words. Go on a scavenger hunt for items that fit each description!</p>	<p>Draw a picture with interesting details. Tell a story about your picture. What's going on? What happened before? What will happen next?</p>	<p>FREE  SPACE</p>	<p>Some letter pairs – <i>sh, ch, th, and ck</i> – make one sound when they team up. Use words like <i>rush, chop, thin, and back</i> to make pairs of word cards and play Go Fish!</p>	<p>Think about your favorite story. Where do the characters live? Where does the action happen? Draw a map that includes details from the story.</p>
<p>Go on an indoor camping trip. Drape a sheet over two chairs to make a tent, stock it with books, grab a flashlight, and go camping!</p>	<p><i>could • have • many • again • from • says</i> Write each sight word on a note card. See how quickly you can read them all. Then, try to beat your record!</p>	<p>Tell a story with toys or objects in nature. Take three photos to show the beginning, the middle, and the end. Share the photos and your story with a friend.</p>	<p>Pick a category, like sports, and name as many things as you can in one minute. Play again with another category, and try to beat your record!</p>	<p>Reread a favorite story aloud. As you read, use a different voice for each character and the narrator (the voice telling the story).</p>
<p><i>Bang</i> and <i>fang</i> are in the same word family – they have the same ending letter pattern. Add more words to that family, and then make word families for <i>sing, kick, and junk</i>.</p>	<p>Go on an alphabet scavenger hunt. For every letter, look for and write down the name of an object that begins with that sound.</p>	<p>Draw a picture of yourself standing next to a book character. Explain to a friend or family member how you and the character are the same and how you are different.</p>	<p>Tell a friend or family member about your favorite story. Describe it in three parts: the beginning, the middle, and the end.</p>	<p><i>Bike, cake, rope, and tube</i> have a long vowel sound and end with a silent e. Reread a story and look for silent-e words.</p>