

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.



Art Studio

Figurative language can be tricky for some kids. Take similes and metaphors. Authors make these comparisons between two things to help readers form pictures in their minds.

My room is a pigsty. **He's as sly as a fox.**
You are my sunshine. **It's as light as air.**
My brain is a sponge. **She slept like a log.**

Have your reader illustrate these examples, and talk about why an author might use them. Look for more examples of figurative language the next time you read together.



Photo Booth

Support your reader's growing understanding of story structure with this fun photo-taking activity. Talk about a familiar story, taking time to discuss these key elements:

setting - where/when the story happens
characters - people or animals in the story
problem - what motivates the characters
major events - what happens in the story
solution - how the problem is fixed

Have kids create their own story by taking photos to show the setting, characters, and major events. Then, look at the pictures together, and listen as they tell the story.

For an extra challenge, urge them to write it down to make a mini book!



Go Fish

Work with your reader to learn the irregular plural forms of nouns like *person/people*, *foot/feet*, *tooth/teeth*, *child/children*, *mouse/mice*, and *wolf/wolves*. Support this skill by making pairs of word cards together.

Then, shuffle the cards, and play Go Fish! Urge kids to use each word in a sentence after collecting a related pair. If this game is a hit, try it with more plural nouns or with these irregular past tense verbs:

eat/ate	find/found	feel/felt	go/went	stand/stood
choose/chose	drive/drove	fly/flew	leave/left	throw/threw



Word Play

Play a word game with your reader to boost their vocabulary skills with synonyms (words that mean the same thing) and antonyms (words that have opposite meanings).

Start with familiar words, like *night*, *pull*, *small*, *leap*, and *fast*, and write each one on a note card. Talk about the meaning of each word and brainstorm related words.

Then, put the cards in a pile, and choose one at a time. Give clues in the form of synonyms or antonyms, and see if other players can guess the word.

Try these words along with their synonyms and antonyms the next time you play:

sweet	friend	sob
shout	happy	wrong
giggle	find	strange
easy	quiet	damp

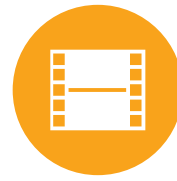


Get Moving

Exercise for mind and body! Write sight words – *light*, *people*, *today*, *through*, and *only* – on the ground with chalk. Have your reader jump to each word and read it aloud. Bonus points for using the word in a sentence!

Next time, try these sight words:

full	grow	own	water
light	watch	done	laugh
want	about	eight	try



Act It Out

Authors use words like *first*, *next*, *after*, *while*, *now*, *then*, *before*, and *finally* when they're describing a sequence of events. Boost your reader's comprehension skills with this fun project. Have them narrate a video while they follow a simple recipe, using sequence signal words to describe what they're doing.

Like this activity? Encourage kids to narrate more how-to videos – making a craft, learning a skill, or playing a game.



Scavenger Hunt

Solid. *Pale*. *Useful*. Encourage your 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 the meaning of each adjective, have your reader use it in a sentence, and brainstorm related words together. Then, send kids 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!

sparkling	enormous	stiff
delicate	valuable	nutritious
moist	hollow	plain
important	flexible	triangular



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>Make word cards with pairs of irregular past tense verbs— <i>go/went, feel/felt, stand/stood, leave/left, eat/ate, and draw/drew</i>. Shuffle the cards, and match them as quickly as you can!</p>	<p>Read a new book, and write a review. Describe what you liked and what you didn't like. Share your review with a friend or family member.</p>	<p>Draw a picture of yourself standing next to a book character. Label details in the picture to show how you and the character are the same and how you are different.</p>	<p><i>small • happy • run • yell • easy • strange</i> For each word, write a synonym and an antonym. Then, think of your own set of related words.</p>	<p>Record a video to show how to make a craft, learn a skill, or play a game. Use words like <i>first, next, while, then, before, now, and finally</i> as you explain what to do.</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><i>Bark, pen, and trunk</i> are multiple meaning words. For each word, draw a picture that shows two different meanings, and write a sentence to describe it.</p>	<p>Find a poem you like. Practice reading it aloud, and give a performance for a friend or family member.</p>	<p>Go on a prefix scavenger hunt. Take a book, and try to find at least one word that begins with each of these prefixes: <i>re-, ex-, de-, dis-, and un-</i>.</p>	<p><i>light • watch • people • own • try • about • only</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><i>delicate • hollow • stiff • sticky • useful • plain</i> These are all describing words. Go on a scavenger hunt for items that fit each description!</p>	<p>In a book you're reading, find five words you don't know. Try to figure out the meaning by looking for clues in the words around it. Then, use a dictionary to check your guesses.</p>	<p>FREE</p>  <p>SPACE</p>	<p>Record yourself reading a short book. Practice first to make your voice sound natural as you read. Share your recording with a younger friend or family member.</p>	<p>Imagine a favorite character is coming to visit for a day. Think of what the character would enjoy, and make a schedule that includes meals and activities.</p>
<p>Go on a suffix scavenger hunt. Take a book, and try to find at least one word that ends with each of these suffixes: <i>-ish, -ly, -ment, -est, and -ful</i>.</p>	<p><i>grow • water • want • full • laugh • done</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>Interview friends and family members about their favorite books. Ask them to tell you what the book is about and what they like about it.</p>	<p>Tell a story by taking photos to show the setting, the characters, and the major events. Share the photos and your story with a friend or family member.</p>	<p>The letter <i>g</i> can make a hard sound (<i>goat</i>) and a soft sound (<i>giant</i>). Take a book, and look for both sounds of <i>g</i>. Make two lists of words.</p>
<p>Research your favorite animal. Draw a picture of the animal and where it lives. Then, list five new facts you learned.</p>	<p>Use the letters in your first and last name to make as many smaller words as you can.</p>	<p>Read an informational book. Tell a friend or family member about it. Explain the main idea, and tell about three important details.</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>Write to your favorite author. Share what you like about their books. Ask a question or suggest an idea for a new book.</p>