

## ***Expanding Reading Fun for you and your child***

"The more you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." - Dr. Seuss, "I Can Read With My Eyes Shut!"

Here are some ideas for expanding your child's enjoyment of books and reading. By interacting with books in different ways-- retelling the story, imagining different outcomes, using art and song-- your child uses multiple intelligences to expand their learning experience. Some suggested activities are best for younger, some for older children-- and some can be used many times, expanding the ideas as your child grows. Have fun, try our suggestions or your own ideas and enjoy the time with your child!

### **Fourth Grade**

Your 4th grader is learning more about the different traditions and cultures that make up the world we live in. Reading is a way for your child to experience a connection with people, places, and lives that are different from their own. Help your child grow in understanding with some of these ideas:

**Building Bridges:** Ask your child to draw a bridge connecting two areas. Label one area "me" and label the other area the title of one of the books they've read. Ask them to think about the parts of the story they feel a connection with. Example; the characters are also children, they all go to a school, they have parents., etc.). Label the parts of the bridge the connections.

**Adjective-itis:** Ask your child to choose one of the books on this list that they have read. Pick five adjectives (a word or phrase naming an attribute, added to or grammatically related to a noun to modify or describe it.) for the book or character(s) in the book, and explain to you how they apply.

**What Does This Mean to Me:** Help your child think about the connections (sometimes called "text-to-self-connections") to themselves in a book they've read. Is the book about a family? How is the family similar to families they are familiar with? How is it different? What would it be like to live in a family like the one in the book? What would you like? What might you not like?

**So, What's New:** Ask your child to choose one of the books that they've read. Ask them to pretend to be a character in the story. Have them write a letter to you, to explain their life as it is depicted in the story and a particular event. Take turns reading their letter out loud.

**What's Cooking:** Ask your child to choose a book where a particular kind of food is featured. Work with your child to acquire, prepare, and serve that food to your family (be sure to choose a food safe for everyone to eat). Did you enjoy the new food? Why or why not?

**New Words:** Ask your child to choose a book they've recently read. Can they find 5-10 new words in that book? Talk about the new words and their meaning, use, etc. Some books have a glossary in the back of the book. See if this book has one and look up the words. If not, use a dictionary. When you know the new words, try them in different sentences.

**Dear Diary:** Ask your child to keep a diary as if they were a character in the story. Ask them to write down events that happen during the story and reflect on how they affected the character and why. Have them read their diary to you. Discuss what they thought and felt.

**Sing Me a Song:** Ask your child to think about one of the books in this category that they've recently read. Can they write a song/ballad about the story, a character, or an event in the book? Or, have they heard a popular song that could be about the book?

**Write Your Own:** Using the themes in one of the stories, ask your child to write their own story, creating their own characters and situation. It does not have to relate to the story at all aside from its theme. Have your child read their story aloud to you. Applaud their efforts.