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 like a pigsty.
- You are my sunshine.
- My brain is a sponge.
- He’s as sly as a fox.
- It’s as light as air.
- 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

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.

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

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, flexible
- important, plain, triangular

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