



Corbitt Connection

October 27, 2009



Book Character Parade

This Friday, October 30th is the Book Character Parade. If your child is participating he/she MUST have the book that accompanies his/her costume. Thanks!

Writer's Workshop Update

This week the focus in writing will be on how authors develop their characters and have interesting story endings so that stories engage a reader from beginning to end.

Carnival is Coming!

Mark your calendars our 2nd annual Fall Carnival will be Friday, November 6, from 5-9 p.m. There will be games, food, and lots of fun. Our class's booth is the Bean Bag Toss.

Again this year the carnival will also include a silent auction and our basket is a "Children's Books" basket. If you would be willing to donate any new children's books to fill our basket it would be very much appreciated!

All of the proceeds from the carnival will stay here to benefit the students. I hope to see you at the carnival.

Reader's Workshop Update

Last week the students took their first, of many, Reading Benchmark tests. This week we will continue reviewing the comprehension strategies of prediction and inferring. Readers make inferences when they use what they already know based on the pictures and text to decide what happens beyond what is explicitly stated. This is a higher level skill but with a little help the students usually do very well.

Food Drive

Going on NOW . . . our school is participating in a food drive of non-perishable items. All of the food items will be given to the Salvation Army and benefit families in need here in Jacksonville. We have a classroom "turkey" that with each food item that is donated a feather will be added to the turkey. Thank you in advance to everyone that is able to donate.

Skills Block

This week we will be reviewing the short "i" sound in spelling and introducing inflected endings, such as "s," "-ed," and "-ing" to verbs.

***Spelling tests begin next week!!! If you are available to help with Spelling Investigations PLEASE let me know I have not heard a "yes" from anyone yet.

"What Can I Do at Home?"

This week I am continuing to share ideas with you from, *The 10 Best Ways to Help Your 1st-Grader Succeed in School, A parent's to-do list*, by Ann E. La Forge. This week's tip is make math part of everyday life; it's on the back. Let me also encourage you to play math games whenever possible. If you search the internet you can sometimes find great games that will allow you to differentiate according to what your child needs. There are a few cool games (math baseball) at: <http://www.funbrain.com/> Have fun playing!

Math Workshop Update

This week the students will be working with addition and subtraction in both games and story problems. We will be talking about the vocabulary in the story problems that help us know whether to add or take away.

Important Dates to Remember

Now	Canned Food Drive
October 28	Library-Books are due ☺
October 30	Book Character Parade
November 4	Early Dismissal @ 1:45 p.m.
November 6	3 rd Annual Fall Carnival

Make math part of his/her everyday life

Leave the flashcards, workbooks, and other skill-and-drill stuff to the teacher. At home, the best way to help your child learn to love math is to play with numbers, and to frequently point out the various ways in which math makes our lives easier. By working with tangible objects, and counting, sorting, estimating, measuring, looking for patterns, and solving real-life problems, children learn to think in mathematical terms, without worrying whether or not they're "smart enough" to do math.

Almost anything you do that involves numbers and/or problem solving will build your child's math skills. Here are just a few ideas to get you started:

- Have your child set the table (counting and sorting the sets of plates, napkins, cups, and silverware).
- Post a running countdown of the days until her birthday. Let her change the number each day.
- Challenge him to guess at things, and then find the answers. For example: How many bowls of cereal do you think we can get out of this box? How many M&Ms do you think are in your (snack size) bag? How many minutes do you think it will take to clear off the table? Which of these cups do you think will hold more juice?
- Play a copycat game, where one person creates a pattern (pat your head, touch your knee, clap three times) and the other person has to repeat the pattern three times in a row.
- Ask your child to help you create a pattern for a quilt square or an abstract picture using markers and paper; construction paper in different colors, cut into square, triangle, and other shapes; or shapes cut out of different fabrics.
- Ask your child to measure things in non-traditional units. For example: Let's see how many footsteps it takes to get from here to the door. Why do you think it's more for you and fewer for me? How many action figures (or Barbie dolls) long is this table?
- Have your child compare things: Which do you think is heavier — a cookie or ten chocolate chips? Who do you think is taller, mom or dad? Which carrot is longer? Fatter? Crunchier?
- Give your child problems to solve — and let her work them out by touching and counting actual objects. For example: I have four cookies here, but two people want to eat them. How many should each person get? If we invite six kids to your birthday party, and put two candy bars in each kid's treat bag, how many of these candy bars will we need?