



Grant Elementary School  
425 West Upham Street  
Marshfield, WI 54449

# Grant Gazette

*At Grant Elementary **WE** Learn the Way, To Know the Way, To Show the Way!*

**December 2018**

## Grant Elementary Receives an "EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS" Rating on Wisconsin State Report Card!

On November 12, 2018, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction released 2017 – 2018 report cards for all public schools, and school districts in our state. I am pleased to announce that Grant Elementary School received a rating of "Exceeds Expectations" for the 2017 – 2018 school year, with an overall score of 81.5! Schools receive a "grade" or rating based primarily on student performance in four priority areas:

- **Student Achievement** measures the level of knowledge and skills among students in the school, compared to state and national standards. It includes a composite of English language arts (ELA) and mathematics performance by the "all students" group in the Wisconsin Student Assessment System (WSAS) for all tested grades in the school.
- **Student Growth** describes how much student knowledge of ELA and mathematics in the school changes from year to year. It uses a value-added score that compares the change in a student's scores to those of observationally similar students.
- **Closing Gaps** provides a measure that reflects the statewide goal of having all students improve, while narrowing the achievement and graduation gaps between groups of students. This measure acknowledges schools that raise the performance of traditionally lagging student groups, contributing to the closure of statewide gaps.
- **On-Track and Postsecondary Readiness** indicates the success of students in the school in achieving educational milestones that predict postsecondary success. It includes the graduation rate and the attendance rate as applicable to the school. It also includes measures of third-grade ELA and eighth-grade mathematics achievement as applicable to the school.

The high level of achievement that Grant Elementary students exhibited on this most recent state report card does not happen by chance, it is accomplished through the hard work and dedication by ALL who are a part of our school family. To our wonderful parents and family members, THANK YOU for the importance you place on your children to do their absolute best in school! Having a strong home to school partnership is key to children being successful in their academic and social development. To our terrific teachers and support staff members of Grant Elementary, THANK YOU for your efforts in providing the best possible learning experiences to our students each and every day, and for instilling a love for learning through your caring and nurturing ways!

Overall, the School District of Marshfield received a grade of "EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS" with a score of 75.0! As a comparison, here are report card grades/scores from other large schools in our area/conference: D.C. Everest School District – 73.6, Merrill Area Public Schools – 67.2, Stevens Point School District – 72.1, Wausau School District – 75.3, Wisconsin Rapids School District – 70.8. This is one more example of just how high performing, high achieving the students of our school district are! A fact that we all can be very proud of!



For more information regarding Wisconsin school report cards, click on the following link: <https://dpi.wi.gov/accountability/report-cards>

Sincerely,

Jeff Damrau, Principal  
Grant Elementary School

### In this Edition:

Dates to Remember, Assistant Principal letter	P. 2
Music Notes	P. 3
Great Students	P.4
Nurse Notes	P. 5
Menus	P. 6-7
Reminders	P. 8-9
Literacy Keys	P. 10-11

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- December 4** - Cribbage Club (3:00-4:00pm), 6th Grade Leadership—Winter Wonderland at the Zoo (4:45-7:15pm ), PTO Culvers Dinner Night (5:00-8:00pm)
- December 5** - Grade 2 FT to Stoney River
- December 7** - PTO Dinner & a Movie (5:00-8:00pm)
- December 10** - Gr 1 Winter Concert (1:30pm - doors open at 1:00), Gr 2 Winter Concert (6:30pm - doors open at 6:00)
- December 11** - Gr K Winter Concert (1:30pm - doors open at 1:00), Gr 3 Winter Concert (6:30pm - doors open at 6:00), Cribbage Club 6th graders and younger siblings (3:00-4:00pm)
- December 12** - PTO Meeting (4:30pm)
- December 13** - Battle of the Books (3:00-4:00pm)
- December 14** - Spirit of Giving (8:00am)
- December 16** - PTO Craft Event (10:00am-2:00pm)
- December 18** - Cribbage Club (3:00-4:00pm)
- December 21** - Gr K, Gr 1, and Gr 2 Field Trip to Rogers Cinema (9:15-11:15am)
- December 24-Jan 1** - Winter Break

## Greetings Grant School Community,

Below are a few reminders for December.

**Attendance:** Every students' attendance is important! Students need to be in school as much as possible to ensure maximum learning opportunities. When students are gone more than 10 days they are considered habitually truant. Of course we do recognize that we are in the midst of cold and flu season (children vomiting or with fever of 100 degrees plus must remain home for 24 hours after symptoms have resolved without the use of fever reducing medication). We simply ask that families be mindful of both health and attendance.

**Golden Tickets:** Your Grant School Student(s) may have mentioned that their class has been working to earn Golden Tickets. Golden Tickets are given to classes that are being safe, responsible, and respectful. Practice Tickets are given to classes that need to practice being safe, responsible, and respectful. When classes receive a Golden Ticket they are displaying them outside their classroom door. This is in conjunction with our PBIS implementation. (Positive Behavior Intervention Supports)

**Winter Concert Attendance:** Due to high attendance at previous winter concerts we are having performing students' siblings stay in class. This will allow more room for other family members attending the concert. Siblings will be able to watch the concert recording a few days after the concert. The link to the concert will be posted on the Grant Elementary Music website.

Happy Holidays,  
Mrs. Banser



# Music Notes



## Grant School Concert Dates

Grant School Winter Concerts will be on Monday, December 10 and Tuesday, December 11. Once again, Mrs. Carroll will put videos of the concerts on YouTube so you can share your child's performance with friends and relatives! Watch for a note with the link to your child's concert video in the days following the concerts.

### **Monday, December 10th – Grant Gym**

1:30-2:30 1st Grade Concert

6:30-7:30 2nd Grade Concert

### **Tuesday, December 11th-Grant Gym**

1:30-2:30 Kindergarten

6:30-7:30 3rd Grade Concert

**\*\*School doors will open ½ hour prior to the start of the concert.\*\***

***Please visit our page at <https://www.marshfieldschools.org/domain/61> to find more Grant School news, view upcoming events, and to access the Grant School calendar link for up-to-date information!***

# GRRReat Students!

The following students have been leaders in LEARNING the way, to KNOW the way, to SHOW the way!

## 11.5.18

Addason Hollatz  
Adelaide Ellsworth  
Alyssa Foemmel  
Anna Becker  
Athena Denman  
Aurora Tews  
Austin Oldham  
Ava Hofman  
Campbell Cutlan  
Carson Vandanelzen  
Carter Williquette  
Chase Koran  
Ellie Sedivy  
Elliot Young  
Emma Hofmann  
Emma Lyons  
Gunnar Derks  
Jayden Graham  
Kamryn Pearce  
Kassidy Bartlett  
Katie Winder  
Layla Knapp  
Lizzie Damrau  
Madden Anderson  
Madden Prybylski  
Maya Groth  
Prisha Varre  
Rayn Langreck  
Rebecca Klotz  
Traestin Mee

## 11.12.18

Alayna Kober  
Amelia Hoezlhammer  
Annabelle Whittlesey  
Atley Ellsworth  
Ava Forst  
Christian Berg  
Claire Hass  
Emmalynn Clements  
Emmett Luther  
Ethan Brock  
Ethan Foemmel  
Ethan Knecht  
Faris Haleem  
Isabel Martinez  
Ivory Therkelsen  
Ivy Schiller  
Jenna Drexler  
Jonathan Beighley  
Kaden Lewis  
Kendra Charron  
Kielynn Clark  
Lila Marie Nelson  
Lily Perkins  
Madden Anderson  
Mason Polga  
Otis Koenig  
Rosalind Beathard  
Saish Kanchireddy  
Shyann Lankford Smith  
Sophia Kayhart  
Trevor Forst

## 11.26.18

Adalyn Pyatt  
Addyson Denk  
Alana Schoen  
Allie Larson  
Benjamin Krause  
Braxton Tritz  
Brayden Brademuehl  
Brayden Widmann  
Brody Karl  
Brynley Kropidlowski  
Caiden Snyder  
Cashton Anderson  
Christian Berg  
Claire Malone  
Cooper Karl  
Devyn Lemoine  
Dirk Vanderwyst  
Drew Stroetz  
Emmalyn Springer  
Hollie Kropidlowski  
Kylie Pyatt  
Leticia Boakye  
Lylyyan Hocking  
Maximos Allen-Petrone  
Robbie Bushman  
Sage Pederson  
Trinity Zeman  
Vivian Barnes  
Walter Edwards  
William Krause  
Zach Burg

# FROM THE DESK OF THE DISTRICT NURSES

## Smart Snacking Tips for Kids

Snacks can play an important role in meeting kids' nutritional needs. With the upcoming holiday festivities, eating healthy becomes more challenging than usual. It helps to plan and portion out snacks in advance. Choosing foods from all of the food groups will give kids the energy they need between meals. Letting kids help prepare healthy snacks makes them more likely to eat them.

**Here are a few Easy, Tasty, & Healthy Snacks to help get you started:**

- 1. Parfait:** Layer vanilla or plain low-fat yogurt with fruit and dried cereal.
- 2. Toast a whole grain waffle** and top with low-fat yogurt and sliced fruit or smooth nut butter.
- 3. Blend low-fat milk,** frozen strawberries and a banana for a delicious smoothie.
- 4. Sandwich cut-outs:** Make a sandwich on whole grain bread. Cut out your favorite shape using a cookie cutter. Eat the fun shape and the edges, too!
- 5. Mini-pizza:** Toast a whole wheat English muffin, drizzle with pizza sauce and sprinkle with low-fat mozzarella cheese.
- 6. Frozen Treats:** Mix equal amounts of fat-free plain or flavored yogurt with 100% fruit juice, then pour into paper cups and freeze for a tasty treat.
- 7. Quesadilla:** Sprinkle shredded cheese over a corn or whole wheat tortilla; fold in half and microwave for twenty seconds. Top with salsa.
- 8. Spread hummus** on a tortilla. Top with a slice of turkey or ham, low-fat cheese and lettuce. Then roll it up.
- 9. Stuff a whole-grain pita pocket** with ricotta cheese and Granny Smith apple slices. Add a dash of cinnamon.
- 10. Rocky Road:** Smear low-fat chocolate pudding on a whole grain graham cracker and top with a marshmallow.
- 11. Microwave a small baked potato.** Top with reduced-fat cheddar cheese and salsa.
- 12. Spread celery sticks** with smooth nut butter or low-fat cream cheese. Top with raisins. Enjoy your “ants on a log.”
- 13. Dip slices of fruit** or whole-grain graham crackers into low-fat vanilla pudding or yogurt.
- 14. Sprinkle cinnamon** on unsweetened applesauce and enjoy with a whole grain graham cracker for a taste similar to apple pie.
- 15. Whip up Mini-Muffins** using healthy ingredients, like whole grain flours and pureed fruit.

Find more healthy eating tips at: [www.kidseatright.org](http://www.kidseatright.org)

**Have a healthy, safe, and enjoyable holiday season!**  
**Mrs. Voss & Mrs. Akin, District Nurses**





# LUNCH

Elementary

## December 2018

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>3</b> Soft Shell Taco Fiesta Beans Apple Slices Peaches Lettuce, Tomatoes, Cheese	<b>4</b> French Toast Sticks Little Smokies Oranges Applesauce Garden Salad w/ Tomatoes Cucumbers Strawberry Milk	<b>5</b> Chicken Strips Homemade Bread Strawberries Mixed Fruit Fresh Carrots Steamed Broccoli	<b>6</b> Creamed Chicken over Mashed Potatoes w/ T-Bun Fresh Apple Cranberry Sauce Garden Salad w/ Tomatoes Fresh Cauliflower	<b>7</b> Hot Cheesy Sticks w/ Marinara Sauce Fresh Grapes Pineapple Fresh Carrots Steamed Corn
<b>10</b> Chicken Snack Wrap Orange Wedges Applesauce Mixed Vegetables Lettuce, Tomatoes, Cheese	<b>11</b> Popcorn Chicken Homemade Bread Apple Slices Fruit Salad Fresh Carrots Baked Beans	<b>12</b> Spaghetti w/ Meat Sauce Garlic Toast Orange Wedges Peaches Garden Salad w/ Tomatoes Radishes	<b>13</b> Chicken Patty on a Bun Fresh Apple Dried Cranberries Fresh Carrots Green Beans Homemade Sunshine Bar	<b>14</b> Cheeseburger Strawberries Mandarin Oranges Steamed Peas Garden Salad w/ Tomatoes
<b>17</b> Pepperoni Pizza Apple Slices Peaches Garden Salad w/ Tomatoes Steamed Corn	<b>18</b> Taco Salad w/ Bread Fiesta Beans Applesauce Strawberries Lettuce, Tomatoes, Cheese	<b>19</b> Mini Corn Dogs Fresh Apple Pineapple Fresh Carrots Brussel Sprouts V-Blend Juice	<b>20</b> Meatloaf w/ Mashed Potatoes & T-Bun Cranberry Relish Pears Garden Salad w/ Tomatoes Fresh Broccoli	<b>21</b> Christmas Tree Shaped Chicken Nuggets Homemade Bread Fresh Grapes Mixed Fruit Mixed Vegetables Fresh Carrots

### NO SCHOOL THIS WEEK / WINTER BREAK



Farm to School



Meatless Entree



Featured Recipe

See website for food allergens, carbohydrate counts, pork product list and all featured recipes. [www.marshfieldschools.org](http://www.marshfieldschools.org)

Menus are subject to change.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

#### MEAL PRICES

Breakfast Prices:  
Paid (Elementary): \$1.35  
Paid (MS/HS): \$1.45  
Reduced: \$0.25  
Adult/Seconds: \$2.00

#### Lunch Prices:

Paid (Elementary): \$2.60  
Paid (Middle School): \$2.75  
Paid (High School): \$2.90  
Reduced: \$0.40  
Adult/Seconds: \$3.55  
Second Entrée: \$2.25  
Milk: \$0.40

#### Online Meal Payments

Online meal payments are now available. Payments can be made through your Family Skyward Access. If you do not have your username/password, please stop into your school office.



All of our homemade breads and buns are 100% whole grain and baked fresh daily.



Ice cold milk options available daily: fat free white, low fat white, and fat free chocolate.



# BREAKFAST

## Elementary

DECEMBER 2018

### MEAL PRICES

**Breakfast Prices:**  
Paid (Elementary): \$1.35  
Paid (MS/HS): \$1.45  
Reduced: \$0.25  
Adult/Seconds: \$2.00

**Lunch Prices:**  
Paid (Elementary): \$2.60  
Paid (Middle School): \$2.75  
Paid (High School): \$2.90

Reduced: \$0.40  
Adult/Seconds: \$3.55  
Second Entrée: \$2.25  
Milk: \$0.40

### ICE COLD MILK

#### OPTIONS:

Fat Free White  
Low Fat White  
Fat Free Chocolate  
\*All Meals Include

All grain and bread products are 100% whole grain



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p>Lunch payments can be made to your account online via your <i>Skyward Family Access</i>. Account transactions and balances can also be tracked using your <i>Skyward Family Access</i>. If you need your username/password, please contact your school office.</p> <p><b>Pay Online</b></p>				
3 Breakfast Kit (includes cereal, crackers and 100% Juice) Fruit Cup Milk	4 Whole Grain Muffin String Cheese Fruit Cup 100% Fruit Juice Milk	5 Yogurt Parfait <b>HOMEMADE GRANOLA</b> Dried Cranberries Strawberries/Blueberries Milk	6 Whole Grain Cereal String Cheese Raisins Fruit Cup & Milk	7 <b>HOT</b> Pancake Bites 100% Fruit Juice Fruit Cup Milk
10 Breakfast Kit (includes cereal, crackers and 100% Juice) Fruit Cup Milk	11 Cinnamon Bread Slice Fruit Cup 100% Fruit Juice Milk	12 <b>HOT</b> Breakfast Pizza Fruit Cup 100% Fruit Juice Milk	13 Nutri-Grain Bar Nasonville Dairy Cheese Fruit Cup Fresh Fruit Milk	14 <b>HOT</b> Mini Waffles Fruit Cup 100% Fruit Juice Milk
17 Breakfast Kit (includes cereal, crackers and 100% Juice) Fruit Cup Milk	18 Mini Cream Cheese Filled Bagels Fruit Cup 100% Fruit Juice Milk	19 <b>HOT</b> Fruit Strudel Fruit Cup 100% Fruit Juice Milk	20 <b>HOMEMADE COFFEECAKE</b> Nasonville Dairy Cheese Fruit Cup Milk	21 <b>HOT</b> Breakfast Burrito Fruit Cup 100% Fruit Juice Milk
<p>24<sup>th</sup> – January 1<sup>st</sup> No School - Winter Break</p>				
<p>See website for a food allergen/ports listing</p>				



Farm to School

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## Dress Code Reminders

Please review with your student the following excerpts from the Student Handbook. **Students who violate the guidelines of school**

**attire will need to call home to have a parent bring in appropriate clothing.**

- clothing should always completely cover the torso from above chest cleavage to **mid-thigh**; no midriffs showing
- clothing items such as backless tops, halter-tops, strapless tops, and tube tops are not allowed
- tank tops with approximately a 2-inch strap will be allowed
- shoes or sturdy sandals must be worn at all times **flip flops not allowed**



## Have you moved? Has your phone number changed? Do you have a new job? Are you not attending public school in Marshfield next year?

If you can answer **YES** to any of the above questions, please be sure that you have provided your new information to the school office.

Nearly every day we have difficulty reaching a parent or guardian regarding a student illness, injury, etc., due to outdated information. It is extremely important that we have accurate parent/guardian information on file, as well as current emergency contact/pick up information in the event that we are unable to reach a parent/guardian.

Thank you for helping us keep your students safe!

## Volunteering

Parents who would like to volunteer at the school in the classroom or for a field trip need to complete the volunteer application. These can be found on the district website in the family section. **Completed applications must be received in the school office at least 2 weeks prior to the scheduled event.**

## Visits During School Hours

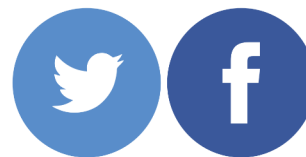
If you need to get a message to your student, or deliver something to your student during school hours, please call or stop in the office. Mrs. Lenz or Mrs. Heiman will make sure your request is processed. In order to preserve valuable instruction time, parents/guardians are not allowed to proceed to classroom areas unless previous arrangements have been made at least 24 hours in advance with the classroom teacher. We appreciate your cooperation and support to ensure each child at Grant is receiving the highest quality education!

A reminder to parents/guardians/adults and community members:

Smoking, use of tobacco products and/or use of products such as e-cigarettes is not allowed on any school property. This includes inside your personal vehicles while on school property, in parking lots, in school driveways, drop-off areas, and so forth. Any adult doing so may be asked to extinguish and discard such products or leave school district property immediately. Please assist us by abiding by this health and safety policy for our children, and thank you in advance for your cooperation.



## Follow Us!



<https://twitter.com/MarshfieldTiger>

<https://www.facebook.com/SchoolDistrictofMarshfield>



## Drug & Weapon Free Zone

Parents, please talk to your children about what is and is not OK to bring to school. It is **not OK** to bring toy guns or knives, live or spent shells, or any other item that may remotely resemble a weapon. If a student realizes he/she has a knife, toy weapon, or anything that might resemble a weapon in their backpack, they **MUST** immediately tell their bus driver or adult ASAP and report to the office to have the item locked in a safe place until it can be retrieved by an adult.

This law also applies to adults carrying a knife or multi-use utility knife in a belt holder, purse, or pocket. Help keep our schools totally safe by leaving any potentially dangerous devices out of our school and off school grounds.

While the State of Wisconsin has passed a Concealed and Carry Law, restrictions to this apply while on school grounds. (It is a **felony** for a person to knowingly **possess** a **firearm** (concealed or otherwise) on the **grounds** of a school. *Wis. Stat. § 948.605(2)(a) unless you meet the criteria for exception under state law.*)

## Directory Data

The School Board has developed a policy regarding the dissemination of Student Directory Data. Student Directory Data refers to the following items: student name, address, phone number and the name of parents and/or guardians. If you wish to keep all or part of this information private, you need to contact the school office within 14 days to inform us of this.

We should point out that in the past we have not had requests for this type of information with the exception of names and addresses for articles or pictures that may have appeared in the News Herald. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this policy, please contact Mr. Damrau.

## Student Nondiscrimination

The School District of Marshfield is an equal opportunity education institution and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, sex (including transgender status, change of sex or gender identity), or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability ("Protected Classes") in any of its student programs, activities, or employment practices.

To reference the full policy, please visit [www.marshfieldschools.org](http://www.marshfieldschools.org). District policies (2260, 3122, 4122) can be found under District/Board of Education/Policies.

For information regarding civil rights or grievance procedures, contact the Director of Student Services, Tracey Kelz at 1010 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Marshfield, WI 54449 (715-387-1101). For information regarding services, activities and facilities that are accessible to and usable by handicapped persons, contact Ron Sturomski, Director of Building and Grounds at 1010 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Marshfield, WI 54449 (715-387-1101).

## Student Religious Accommodations

The School District of Marshfield will provide reasonable accommodation of a student's sincerely held religious beliefs with regard to examinations and other academic requirements.

# Literacy Keys



Ms. Mengel, Title I Teacher  
Unified School District of  
Marshfield  
Grant Elementary School  
425 W. Upham  
Marshfield, WI 54449  
(715) 384-4747 ext. 2124  
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## This Issue

Linking Literacy to Life	1
Lit bits	1
Check It Out	1
Practice Makes Perfect	2
Reading and Writing Connection	2

## Did You Know?

- \* According to brain theorists, the brain is not hardwired for reading. Instead, the human brain prefers spoken language (Sousa, 2007).
- \* Linking literacy to life through environmental print strengthens neural networks in the brain.
- \* Early literacy begins at home.

## Early Stages of Literacy

It seems as if there are stages for everything that children do. Literacy is no different. Experts agree that that literacy development starts at birth with eye contact, listening to others talk, and processing visual information in the environment. By six months old, babies can look at pictures in books. Between 1-2 years old, toddlers can recognize and name objects in pictures, help hold a book, and ask for someone to read to them (Wilson, K. & Katz, M. 2009).

With this rapid development of literacy skills, it is key that you talk and read with your baby or toddler. You can support literacy by choosing simple picture books with familiar characters, talking about what you are reading or doing, and sharing favorite stories. For more information go to <http://firstyears.org>.

## Check It Out

Winter is a great time to visit the public library. Everett Roehl Marshfield Public Library has books that every reader in your family will love. Check out their seasonal decorations, family activities, and special events. For more information visit their website at [www.marshfieldlibrary.org](http://www.marshfieldlibrary.org)

## Lit Bits

The Itsy Bitsy Snowman  
By Jeffrey Burton

*The Itsy Bitsy Snowman* is a reinvented version of the beloved *Itsy Bitsy Spider* poem that most kids love. The bright, colorful illustrations and rhyming words are sure to please young readers. The book is a board book that can stand the stress of being carried around and read over and over again.



The moment you doubt whether you can fly, you cease forever to be able to do it. ~J.M. Barrie (Peter Pan)





## Practice Makes Perfect: Linking Literacy to Life

Learning the alphabet, sight words, and the general rules that govern our language can be difficult for many students. When children struggle in one or more areas, it impacts their overall ability to acquire literacy skills. Helping children make the connection between what they know and the print in their environment may increase learning and provide opportunities for practicing key skills since children typically recognize and read iconic symbols as early as preschool (Clay, 1993). For instance, your child may read the McDonald's™ logo each time you drive past. Likewise, they may be able to select their favorite cereal among the hundreds of cereal choices in the grocery store. Older children may read product labels in the grocery store, road signs, and newspaper ads.

Each time you help your child link literacy to life through environmental print, you are helping to strengthen the neural path-

ways in their brain. Researchers recommend using logos from cereal, toothpaste, toys, favorite movies, and other recognizable household items to use as a bridge between what is known and what is new (Horner, 2005). Using puzzles with words, maps, road signs, favorite toys, food labels, and print in context from familiar products can be used to help children learn.

Here are some activities to try when using environmental print to teach literacy at home:

- Make a puzzle using the logo from your child's favorite cereal box. As your child puts the puzzle together, they will need to look at the print features and graphics.
- Have your child help collect, sort, and match coupons (Giles & Tunks, 2010).

- While driving, have your child write words they find. To add fun to the activity add categories, select words with certain letters, or instead of writing play "I Spy".
- Have children find misspelled words in their environment such as Kwik Trip™.
- Create a family tree. Have your child write the names of your family members under each picture. Provide assistance with spelling if needed.
- For little ones, play ABC I Spy when you go out for a walk or on a road trip.



## Reading and Writing Connection

When it comes to learning to read, writing can be a powerful tool. Research on literacy has shown that many children ranging from preschool through first grade learn to write before they learn to read (Chomsky, 1971; Gentry 2010). Writing requires children to apply knowledge about the alphabet, phonics, and concepts about print as they construct a message.

As children write, they need to connect the sounds they hear in words to the letters they use to write words. Children need to approximate sounds when they aren't sure what letters are needed. They also need to know how print functions when reading and writing (Clay, 1991). This process challenges children and promotes the learning of strategies such as searching for information, self-monitoring, and

solving problems as they write that can be applied to both writing and reading activities.

Children learn to write in stages, and while these stages do not always occur in a specific order, they are recognizable, and key in developing effective literacy tools.

The early stages of literacy may not look like much, but scribbling, writing strings of letters, and writing a "message" that matches a picture using invented spelling is key in the development of early literacy skills. Many children develop their understanding of reading and writing during these key early stages.

If you are looking for ways to encourage writing in your preschooler, there are some things that may help them learn to love writing.

You can encourage a love for writing by:

- \* providing a special area for your child to work on writing.
- \* placing colorful paper and lots of different writing tools such as crayons, markers, and pencils in their work area.
- \* having your child write about their day, pictures, or stories.
- \* modeling writing in daily life.

For more information go to:

<http://www.getreadytoread.org>

Reading is a basic tool  
in the living of a good  
life. ~Joseph Addison

