



HIGHLANDERS



Southwestern Elementary

Site Coordinator: Mr. Chris Burnette

December 2024



4 Active Reading Strategies

Below you will find 4 strategies to increase your child's Reading comprehension.

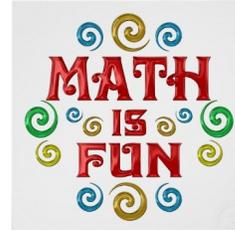
Reading with a Purpose: Set a specific goal before reading such as finding certain information, understanding key concepts, or finding answers to certain questions.

Make Use of Visualization: Use a pencil, highlighter, or make notes or drawings in the margins to mark or note important things you encounter while reading.

Make or Note Important Things: Use a pencil, highlighter, or make notes in the margins to mark or note important things you encounter while reading.

Using the SQ3R Technique: SQ3R stands for Survey, Question, Read, Recite, and Review. These steps include quickly examining the text to get a general idea, setting questions about what you want to learn, reading carefully, reviewing the information you have read, and reviewing to ensure deep understanding.

Using these strategies will strengthen your child's reading comprehension. With practice, these skills will become second while reading with comprehension increasing.



Not only does Math cover a huge range of skills, but it's also one of the few subjects where a strong understanding of the fundamentals is essential for future learning. No matter

what your background history with Math, you can still help your child to improve their skills. So it's time to ditch the Math stress and tackle the Math they need together so your child can succeed. Below are some strategies that you can incorporate at home

Maintain a positive attitude: Be encouraging and build their confidence in Math. Math is a skill that takes practice. If it's confusing, this just means you don't understand it yet. In time, they can grow into Math understanding.

Practice and refine math vocabulary: Include math terms in conversations when Math situations are present. Using vocabulary can help your child to be more comfortable with Math and an insight of understanding some concepts.

Show math in everyday life: Math is everywhere. When these Math moments present themselves in every day life (baking, shopping, playing games, etc) share them with your child. Involve them in these moments.

Try game-based learning: Kids love games, board or video, because they are fun and exciting. Game based learning games can take the stress out of Math instruction and provide practice with the right mix of familiar and challenging skills.

Building a positive attitude, confidence, and practice, students will become successful in their journey through the Math world.

ARCHERY

Eric Clary with the Conservation Club instructs an Archery Activity with the Highlanders. He provides the necessary equipment, instruction, and supervised target practice. The students learn correct posture and stance, how to hold the bow correctly, and the proper release of the arrow. Students learn which eye is dominant to sight with and use this knowledge to set their sights on the target. Students are able to practice shooting at the targets. The culminating activity of Archery, the students participate in a friendly competition. Students love this activity and the challenge of hitting the bullseye.



Healthy Snacks

Tina Elkins, OSU SnapEd program, been leading an activity in the Highlanders Afterschool Program called Healthy Snacks. Students learn how to become more health conscience when choosing snacks, foods from a menu, and cooking. They work on reading labels and deciphering what is healthy and unhealthy, reading recipes, and using some kitchen tools safely. Mrs. Elkins works with the children with different recipes teaching how to substitute healthier ingredients for unhealthy ingredients. Students then follow the directions and prepare the snack. Leaving the best for last, they get to eat the healthy snack. As a culminating event for this activity, students invite their parents to their and share what they have learned. Students prepare snacks and serve them to their parents.



Painting Pumpkins



Starting the afterschool program in October lends to many fun activities around the season. One such activity is pumpkin decoration. Students choose a pumpkin from a local farmers crop to paint and decorate as they please. The children really enjoy this activity and being able to take them home to help decorate their home for the season.



Pottery Place Visit

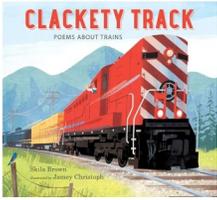
On November 12th, the Pottery Place from Huntington, WV. visited the Highlanders bringing Christmas ornaments for the children to decorate. The children had many variety to choose from and paint to create their own unique ornament for their Christmas tree. After the ornaments were painted, Pottery Place took them to their shop to fire them in the kiln and returned them to the children in time to take home and put on their Christmas tree.



Stroll Under the Lights in the Park

December 17th and 19th, the afterschool programs held a family engagement in the Gallipolis City Park. Families enjoyed the vast amount of Christmas Lights as they strolled through the park using their scavenger hunt to search for answers. The families really enjoy participating in this family engagement each year. We had a family that dressed up as BUDDY to add to the fun. Santa was also present for all the little ones to whisper their Christmas wish list into his ears. As families finished their scavenger hunt, they received prizes and hot chocolate packets.





Gallipolis Railway Freight Station Museum Book Walk

On October 17, 2024, the Afterschool programs partnered with the Gallipolis Railway Freight Station Museum to host a book walk featuring the author Skila Brown and her book *Clackety Track*. As families registered, the children received an engineer's hat, a bag to collect gifts from the agencies, and a station map. The museum opened up their

doors and welcomed the families to tour. In the museum, the families saw various train memorabilia on display, the huge model train set up with all the lights and whistles, and all the rail cars were open to visit.

Skila Brown was present to talk to the children, autograph her book **Clackety Track** that each child received. The agencies that were present and supported the book walk **were the Bossard Memorial Library**, which gave out a craft and library calendars, **Easter Seals & The Imagination Library** to sign several families up to receive books for the younger ones, **Gallia County Schools Literacy Initiative** provided a book that the child picked out, **WOUB Learning Lab** brought books and informational material for each child, and **Railroad Safety** gave out hats and valuable information on train safety. Refreshments and snacks were provided by Vinton Elementary School. **The Old Car Club** was present with a car that caught everyone's eye. When the families finish visiting all the agencies and read the 2 books in the book walk, children became an official engineer and received a train whistle. Everyone enjoy the family event.



Reindeer Games Family Christmas Event

Holzer Leadership & Innovation Institute hosted the Christmas Family engagement on December 10, 2024. The Cincinnati Children's Theater performed 'Reindeer Games', a play that invited the parents and students to the stage to participate in the Christmas play. The audience

had many laughs and enjoyed the lighted hearted performance. When the families registered they visited the Health & Recovery Services table and had an opportunity to take pictures with the man of the hour SANTA CLAUS. After the play was finished the families received a learning packet, Christmas cookies, candy canes, an elf with clothes, and some family activities such as different games to take home and enjoy over the holiday break.



