

# Parent Guide to SeeSaw

Grades K-1 Your resource for advice, ideas, and more for your beginning reader September 2008

Get your  
Parent Guide to SeeSaw  
Every Month  
at [www.scholastic.com/read](http://www.scholastic.com/read).

## Editors' Picks of the Month

Look for these titles in your SeeSaw  
September Book Club flyer.

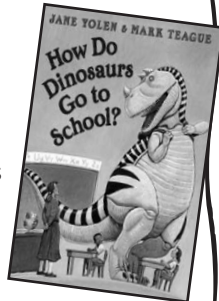
### First Day Jitters by Julie Danneberg

**Who it's for:**  
Anyone who's nervous about  
starting something new  
**Why we chose it:**  
To celebrate the beginning of  
another school year  
**Parents say:**  
"The surprise ending had my  
kids rolling on the floor!"



### How Do Dinosaurs Go to School? by Jane Yolen

**Who it's for:**  
First-time students  
(and dinosaurs)  
**Why we chose it:**  
The clever, easy rhyming and  
the bright, colorful illustrations  
**Parents say:**  
"My son and I both loved  
meeting the cast of dinos."



### Duck for President by Doreen Cronin

**Who it's for:**  
Kids wondering about  
this "election" they keep  
hearing about  
**Why we chose it:**  
The sly satire will please  
readers of all ages.  
**Kids weigh in:**  
"I was really happy when  
Duck won!"



## Reversing the Summer Slide

It's common for young readers' skills to slip slightly over the summer when vacation fun replaces school and books. Help your child regain ground when school starts using these strategies:

1. **Keep reading aloud.** Kids of all ages benefit! Reading to your child builds listening comprehension skills and expands his experience with text, so he'll do better when he reads on his own.
2. **Make studying fun.** Create Spelling Scrambles or Word Searches using our Spelling Wizard at [www.scholastic.com/homework](http://www.scholastic.com/homework).
3. **See what's for homework.** Taking time — even just 20 minutes — to go over your child's assignments tells her you think what she does at school is important.
4. **Limit TV.** Studies show that the more time kids spend watching television, the poorer they do academically. Replace TV time with active recreation like board games, soccer, or craft projects.
5. **Get involved.** It's been proven that when parents are actively involved in their child's education, reading and writing test scores go up. For ideas on how you can participate, visit [www.scholastic.com/schoolinvolvement](http://www.scholastic.com/schoolinvolvement).



### Did you know?

"When my daughters and I read stories out loud, we create silly fake accents for each of the different characters."  
—Leslie, Ohio

## Ask an Expert

### What do kids learn from a class pet?

Caring for a pet is a time-honored tradition in many kindergarten classrooms. Combine children's natural fascination with animals and their beginning reading and writing skills, and you have a recipe for success. Children love to hear stories about animals, look at pictorial science books, and "write" or draw their own stories about their new friend. *A House for Hermit Crab* by Eric Carle is a popular book teachers use to inspire literacy activities.

**Meet Our Expert:** Ellen Booth Church, a former teacher, is a columnist and consultant for Scholastic's *Early Childhood Today* and *Parent & Child* magazines.

Find more expert advice for your reader at [www.scholastic.com/read](http://www.scholastic.com/read).

## 5 Ways to Team Up With Your Child's Teacher

1. Attend open-house events to learn about class goals and policies.
2. Keep in touch through email, notes, phone calls, and conferences.
3. Ask what level books your child should be reading, and know the titles she's reading for class.
4. Read teacher-recommended titles with your child at home to reinforce key skills and words.
5. Get involved by joining a parent association or volunteer in the classroom.

## Build a Reading Station

Create your very own space to explore great books!

- Find a spot where you won't be bothered by the TV or too much noise.
- Collect boxes that are large enough to hold piles of your books. Cover the boxes with paper, and decorate them. Use different artwork to make boxes for different types of books, such as:
  - Stars and spaceships for stories about outer space;
  - Wizard hat and magical creatures for favorite fantasies;
  - Cats, horses, or wild beasts for books about animals.
- Add a comfy seat — old pillows or a folded sleeping bag will make it extra cozy!
- If you have a tape player/recorder, keep it close by. Use it to listen to books on tape or record stories that you read or imagine, and play them back.
- Make a writer's box filled with paper, pencils, and art supplies that you can use to make your own books.
- Invite a parent or friends to your Reading Station, and read together!



## Kids Read for Kids in Need

Scholastic Book Clubs' ClassroomsCare is a philanthropic literacy campaign designed to teach children the joys and importance of reading and giving. Students in classrooms across America are encouraged to read 100 books in order to trigger a 1MILLION BOOK donation by ClassroomsCare! Since 2001, ClassroomsCare has donated 7 MILLION books through Literacy Partners such as Save the Children, Reach Out and Read, and First Book, among others.

This year, for the first time, participating teachers and students will be able to choose where the books they "earn" go. They will have dozens of charities serving many different populations to choose from. This shift in the donation process is aimed at strengthening the connection between the kids who are reading and the kids who are receiving the books.

You can visit [www.scholastic.com/classroomscare](http://www.scholastic.com/classroomscare) to see how a child you know could make a difference by reading. You can also access resources and curriculum aimed at the ClassroomsCare message -- kids have the power to make a difference and there is nothing more worthwhile than helping others, especially when you are offering the gift of reading.

## Beyond Books

Help your child set up a wall calendar for the school year. Teach her how to write homework due dates and other important information on certain days. Don't forget to provide stickers for birthdays and holidays.

## Did You Know?

When you order, your child's class gets FREE books and resources!

Find out more about leveled reading at [www.scholastic.com/yourreader](http://www.scholastic.com/yourreader).

## The Lowdown on Leveled Reading

Leveled reading uses various assessment tools to determine how well your child reads, and then matches her to books that are challenging enough for her to make progress, but not so hard that she will become frustrated. Books are categorized into levels of difficulty, which is how a perfect match, based on ability, can be made. There are a number of leveled reading systems utilized in schools across the country, typically beginning in kindergarten; it is up to school districts or individual schools to determine which, if any, are in place. The primary difference between the systems lies in how children are evaluated, and each program has its own way of labeling books. The three most common are Guided Reading Level (GRL), Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA), and Lexile Level. To see a chart comparing these three systems, visit <http://www.scholastic.com/familymatters/read/pdf/readinglevels2.pdf>.

## Find More Titles in Kids' Favorite Series

Now, you and your child can find more titles in your favorite book series online – at the Scholastic Book Clubs Series Headquarters. From the Magic School Bus to Scooby-Doo and beyond, the Scholastic Book Clubs Series Headquarters puts all kids' best-loved characters all in one place – and all at low Scholastic Book Clubs pricing. And books are delivered right to the classroom, just like always! Visit [www.scholastic.com/serieshq](http://www.scholastic.com/serieshq).

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