



The Night Before First Grade

by Natasha Wing

Reading with your child is an excellent way to expose your child to words, topics, and ideas that are more complex than what they would see in books they can read on their own.

Conversations will help increase your child's oral language skills and build their vocabulary. C.A.R. is a conversation starter that you can use with your child any time.

Below is an example of how to use C.A.R. with the book, *The Night Before First Grade*.



C.A.R.	Example
<p>C Comment and Wait (count to 5) <i>*Make a comment about what you see on the page.</i></p>	<p><i>Adult:</i> Look at all the different activities the children are doing.</p> <p><i>Child:</i> I see children painting, playing bingo, looking at a class pet and talking to each other.</p>
<p>A Ask questions and Wait (count to 5) <i>*Ask questions that do not have a "yes/no" or one-word answer to them.</i></p>	<p><i>Adult:</i> I wonder how Penny is feeling?</p> <p><i>Child:</i> She is sad to go to a classroom without Jenny.</p>
<p>R Respond by adding a little more to the child's response.</p>	<p><i>Adult:</i> I'm sure she is sad. There are a lot of other children so that Penny can make new friends.</p>



Activities	Parent Tips
<p>Compare & Contrast</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Draw a Venn Diagram. Have your child draw a picture of himself/herself on the left side and a picture of Penny on the right side. » Ask your child to name or write some things about him/her and add them in the circle on the left. » Ask your child to name or write some characteristics about Penny and add to the circle on the right. » Think about similarities between your child and Penny for the middle. » Discuss the similarities and differences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Create a Venn Diagram alongside your child to encourage participation. » Incorporate reading into your daily routine. » Create a quiet, special place in your home for your child to read, write, and draw. » Go to a local library and get a library card for your child to be able to select books of interest. » Make a list with your child of things needed to get ready for first grade.
More Activities	Related Books/Resources
<p>Let's Draw!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Use a plain piece of paper and drawing materials of your choice (markers, crayons, colored pencils). » On half of the paper, have your child draw something he/she is looking forward to about first grade and on the other half draw something he/she is worried about. » Discuss the drawing and think about how Penny's first day of first grade went to address any concerns. Think about other situations that may have been scary but turned out okay. 	<p>First Grade, Here I Come! by D.J. Steinberg</p> <p>On the First day of First Grade by Tish Rabe</p> <p>Junie B. Jones First Grader (at last) by Barbara Park</p> <p>A Little Spot of Optimism by Diane Alber</p> <p>First Day Jitters by Julie Danneberg</p>

