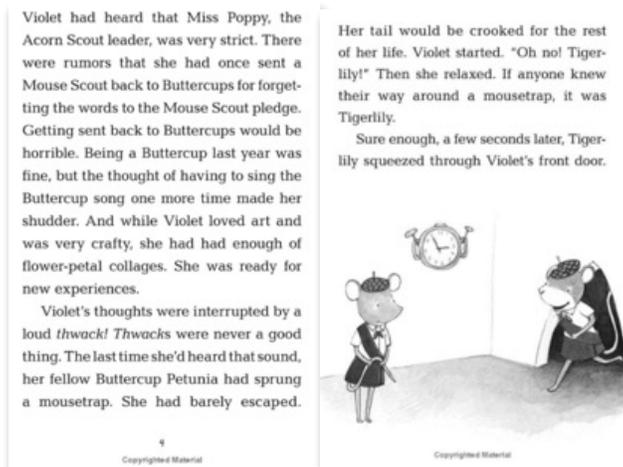


# Mouse Scouts

by Sarah Dillard

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, *Mouse Scouts*.



C.A.R.	Example
<p><b>C</b> <b>Comment and Wait</b> (count to 5)  <i>*Make a comment about what you see on the page.</i></p>	<p><i>Adult:</i> I had a teacher in school who was very strict.</p> <p><i>Child:</i> Me, too!</p>
<p><b>A</b> <b>Ask questions and Wait</b> (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> What did your teacher do that made you strict?</p> <p><i>Child:</i> She didn't like us to talk out of turn and we always had to raise our hand to get out of our seat.</p>
<p><b>R</b> <b>Respond</b> by adding a little more to the child's response.</p>	<p><i>Adult:</i> That does sound strict, but I bet it is difficult to manage a classroom of students so having certain rules probably helps keep things in order.</p>



Activities	Parent Tips
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» The Mouse Scouts use everyday items in different ways. Choose an everyday item from your house and design a way to use it in a different way.</li> <li>» Scout songs are a big part of being a scout. Choose a well-known song and rewrite the words to be something the Mouse Scouts would like.</li> <li>» The Mouse Scouts are named for things in nature. Go on a nature hunt to see what item from nature you think would connect with you. Talk to a family member about what your Mouse Scout name would be and why.</li> <li>» Create a new Mouse Scout. What would her name be? What would she look like? What personality traits would she have? Write a description and draw a picture of the new scout.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» When reading to your child, model reading the story how you would want your child to read it. Speak clearly, well-paced, and with appropriate expression.</li> <li>» It is normal for children to struggle with longer texts. Consider reading each chapter a different way to support your child. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Partner read the story with your child. This means you will take turns reading and help each other if you stumble upon a word you don't know.</i></li> <li>• <i>Choral reading is when you read at the same time. This allows you to model appropriate pace.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>» Encourage your child to make predictions before reading a chapter. Before you begin reading, ask your child, "What do you think is going to happen in this chapter?" and "Why do you think that?"</li> </ul>
More Activities	Related Books/Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Start a Family Garden: Gardens don't have to be large. You can plant a garden in various pots if you don't have a large yard. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Research the types of fruits and vegetables that grow best in your area.</i></li> <li>• <i>Design your garden. Use the garden checklist to guide your plan.</i></li> <li>• <i>As a family, discuss the different jobs needed to grow your garden. Assign jobs by making a duty chart.</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Mouse Scouts series by Sarah Dillard</b></p> <p><i>Mouse Scouts: Make a Difference</i></p> <p><i>Mouse Scouts: Camp Out</i></p> <p><i>Mouse Scouts: Make Friends</i></p> <p><b>Related books</b></p> <p><b><i>The Vegetables We Eat</i></b> by Gail Gibbons</p> <p><b><i>Roots, Shoots, Buckets &amp; Boots: Gardening Together with Children</i></b> by Sharon Lovejoy</p>

