

Sample Pages from

Teacher Created Materials

PUBLISHING

Created *by* Teachers *for* Teachers and Students

Please find enclosed in this sample the following:

Kids Learn! Activity pages:

- Table of Contents
- Intro letter to parents
- Things To Do at Home suggestions
- Writing activity
- Mathematics activity
- Reading activity

Parent Guide for Your Child's Success:

- Table of Contents
- Tips and activities for parents and students

Sample pages from readers:

- *I Can Be Anything*
- *Delicious and Nutritious*

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Kids Learn!

Getting Ready for

Kindergarten

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Welcome to Kids Learn!



Dear Family,

Welcome to *Kids Learn! Getting Ready for Kindergarten*. Kindergarten will be an exciting year for your child. There will be plenty of new learning opportunities, including identifying the letters of the alphabet, writing simple sentences, and counting objects. Interesting new topics in science and social studies will keep students engaged in lessons at school as well.

Kids Learn! was designed to help solidify the concepts your child learned in pre-kindergarten and help your child prepare for the year ahead. The activities provide practice with essential skills for the grade level, and help to prepare your child to meet Common Core State Standards. Keeping the skills your child learned in pre-kindergarten sharp while on break from school will help his or her kindergarten year get off to a great start.

Keep these tips in mind as you work with your child through the *Kids Learn!* book:

- Set aside a **specific time each day** to work on the activities.
- **Complete one activity** each time you work with your child. When you find an activity that your child particularly enjoys, do it again on other days.
- **Keep all practice sessions with your child positive and constructive.** If the mood becomes tense or if either of you gets frustrated, set the book aside and find another time to practice.
- **Help your child understand each activity**, and work together on each task. Look for tips in the *Providing Support* boxes.
- Encourage your child to do his or her best work and **compliment the effort that goes into learning.** Celebrate the completion of each unit by filling in the certificates and displaying them in a special place.

Enjoy the time learning with your child during his or her vacation from school. Kindergarten will be here before you know it!

Things to Do at Home

To Develop Healthy Habits

- Make sure your child gets plenty of sleep. Children this age need 11–13 hours of sleep each night. Take time to establish bedtime routines that involve relaxing activities, such as taking a warm bath or reading together.
- Help your child become organized and responsible. Have places for your child to keep important things, and take time to set up a schedule together.
- Have conversations with your child. Ask your child questions about his or her activities, and tell your child stories about funny or interesting things that happened to you.



To Practice Reading

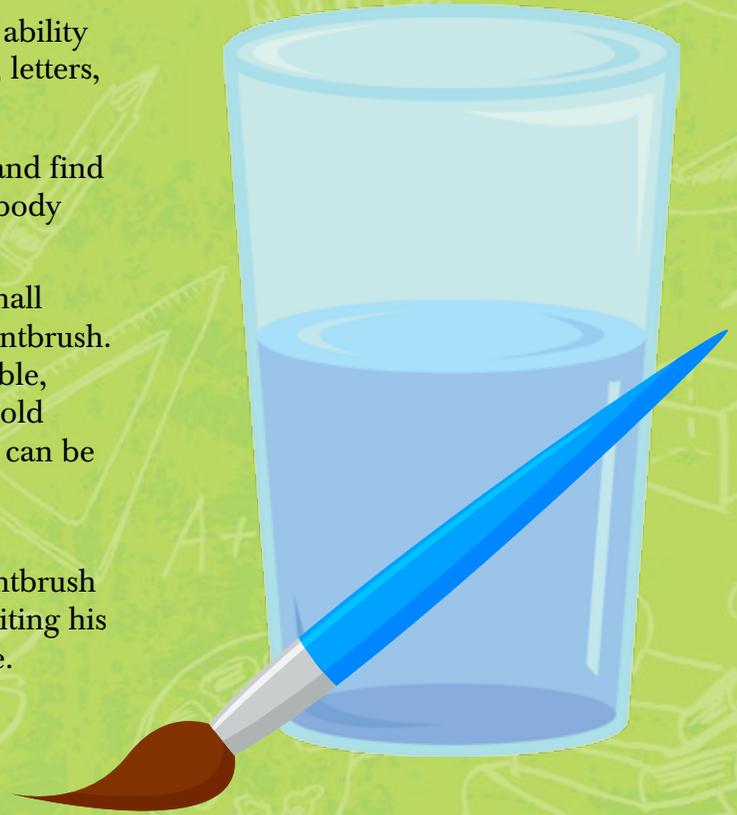
- Establish a regular reading time of 15–20 minutes for reading or looking at picture books. Include the whole family, and make sure to turn off electronic distractions during this time. See *Suggested Vacation Reading* on page 10.
- Encourage your child to look for letters or words on printed materials around the house, such as cereal boxes, take-out menus, and newspapers. For an extra challenge, have your child find each letter of the alphabet in order and practice making the sound of the letter when he or she finds it.
- Label objects and places around the house, using index cards or sticky notes. Practice reading the labels when you are in the room or using the object. For example, read “sink” when your child goes into the bathroom to brush his or her teeth.



Name Painting

Desired Outcome: Emergent Writing—Child shows increasing ability to write, using scribbles, symbols, letters, and words to represent meaning.

1. Go outside with your child and find some concrete on which nobody will walk for a while.
2. Provide your child with a small container of water and a paintbrush. (If a paintbrush is not available, a sponge, a cotton swab, an old toothbrush, or even a finger can be used. You can also use sidewalk chalk.)
3. Have your child dip the paintbrush in the water and practice writing his or her name on the concrete.



Providing Support: If your child is having trouble writing his or her name, you can write it on the concrete with a piece of chalk. Then, have your child trace what you have written with the wet paintbrush.



Measurement Fun

Desired Outcome: Measurement—Child shows increasing understanding of measurable properties such as length, weight, and capacity, and begins to quantify those qualities.

1. Give your child two containers—one large and one small. Plastic cups, bowls, or pitchers work well.
2. Ask your child to make a guess as to how many of the small containers full of water it will take to fill the large one.
3. Have your child count as he or she fills the large container with water, using the small container. (It is fun to do this in the bathtub or at a sink.)



Providing Support: If your child is having trouble keeping track of the number, count out loud as he or she pours water from the small container to the large container.



Funny Bunny

Desired Outcome: Phonological Awareness—Child shows awareness of the sounds that make up language, including the segmentation of sounds into words and recognition of word rhyming and alliteration.

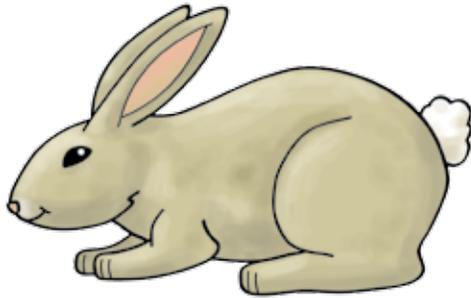
1. Have your child cut out the *Funny Bunny Picture Cards* (pages 21–23). (This is good cutting practice.)
2. Choose a “super sound” for your child to use during the activity. For example, the super sound could be the sound for the letter *f*.
3. Hold up a picture card and have your child say the word that matches the picture, for example *bunny*.

4. Have your child create a word that rhymes with *bunny* by replacing the *b* with the super sound *f* to make the word *funny*.
5. Continue the activity with all the picture cards, using the same super sound (*dog-fog, hen-fen, etc.*). Have your child tell you which of the new words are real words and which are made-up words (*fog* is real, *fen* is not).



Providing Support: If your child is having trouble making rhyming words, say the words in two parts: the beginning sound and the rest of the word, for example *b* and *-unny* or *f* and *-unny*. Have your child put the two parts of the words together.

Funny Bunny Picture Cards



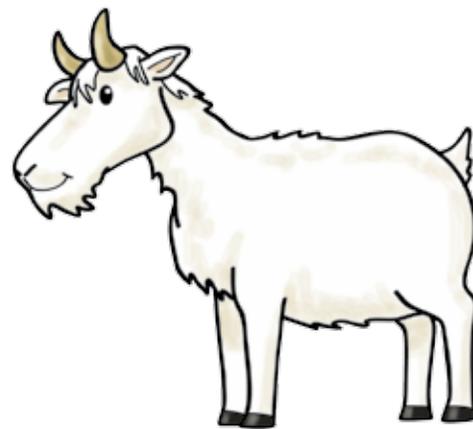
bunny



dog



toad

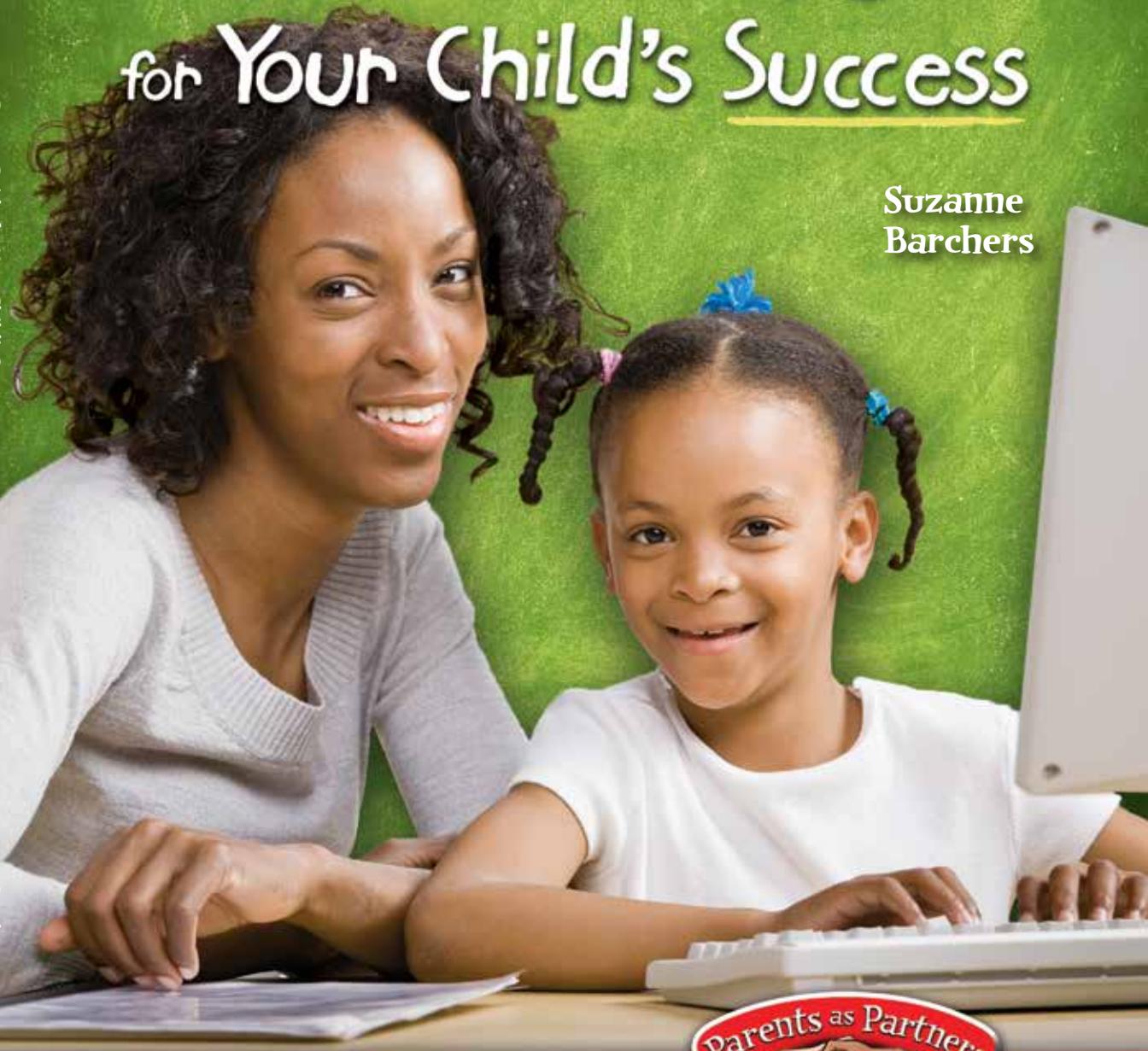


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Kindergarten Parent Guide

for Your Child's Success

Suzanne
Barchers



Teacher Created Materials

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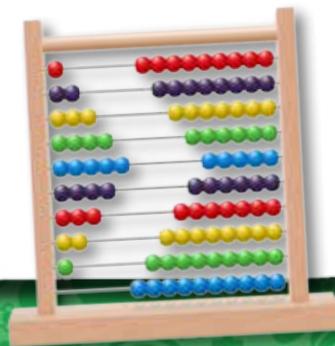
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Listen to Learn

Being able to focus and listen will become increasingly important now that your child attends kindergarten. Good listening skills will make your life easier, too!



Practice good listening with these fun activities.

Directions

Give a series of directions without stopping, such as clap three times, turn around twice, and touch your toes once. Add activities until your child can do five or six in a series.

Rhyme Time

Make up a story in rhyme. Provide the first sentence and your child can continue the story by starting a new rhyme.

Memory Game

For a quick memory game, tell five things about yourself in succession and have your child repeat the five facts. Then, swap turns and keep adding items.

Write

Starts

Your child will be adding short words to the printing of letters and numbers. Don't expect perfection, those hands are still developing the necessary motor skills. Your kindergartner may love to write little stories, and run all the words together.

.....

Encourage the development of those motor skills with *these ideas*.

Alphabet Strip

Make an alphabet and number strip or purchase one at a teacher or office supply store. Post it for easy reference.



Work Center

Have a work center or basket with art supplies, such as finger paints, brushes, and markers. Encourage your child to find creative ways to write his or her name, the dog's name, etc.

Model Writing

Help strengthen the connection between language and print by modeling writing for your child to see.

Alphabet Writing

Give your child a piece of waxed paper and a dollop of pudding or a squirt of shaving cream. Encourage your child to use his or her finger to trace the letters of the alphabet.

Painting Letters

Make paint with a few drops of food coloring and $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of milk. Have your child paint the letter of the day or week on white bread before toasting and eating it.



One last thought...

Encourage your child to write stories but don't worry about misspellings. Have him or her dictate the story to you while you write it on a sheet of paper.

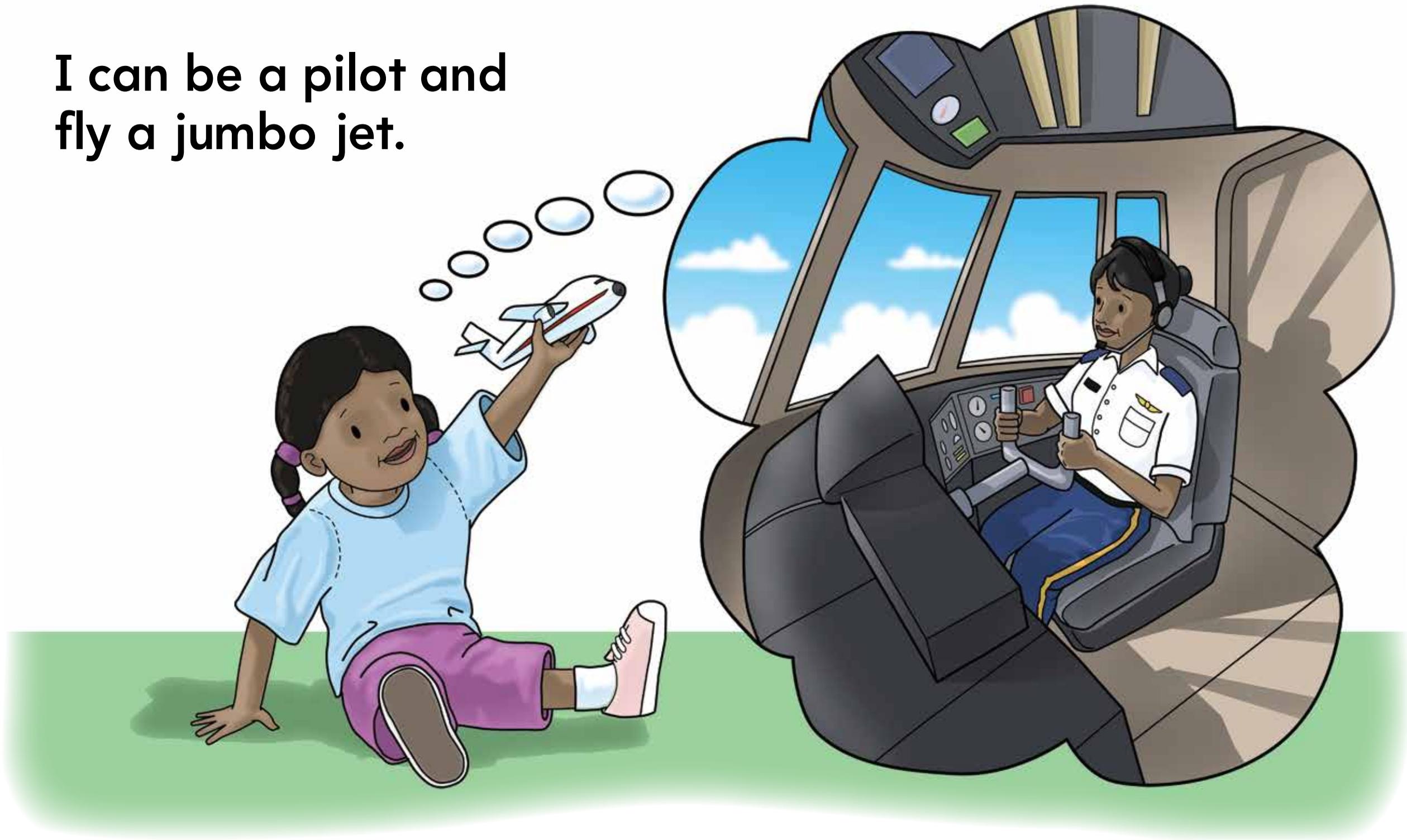


I Can Be Anything



Dona Herweck Rice

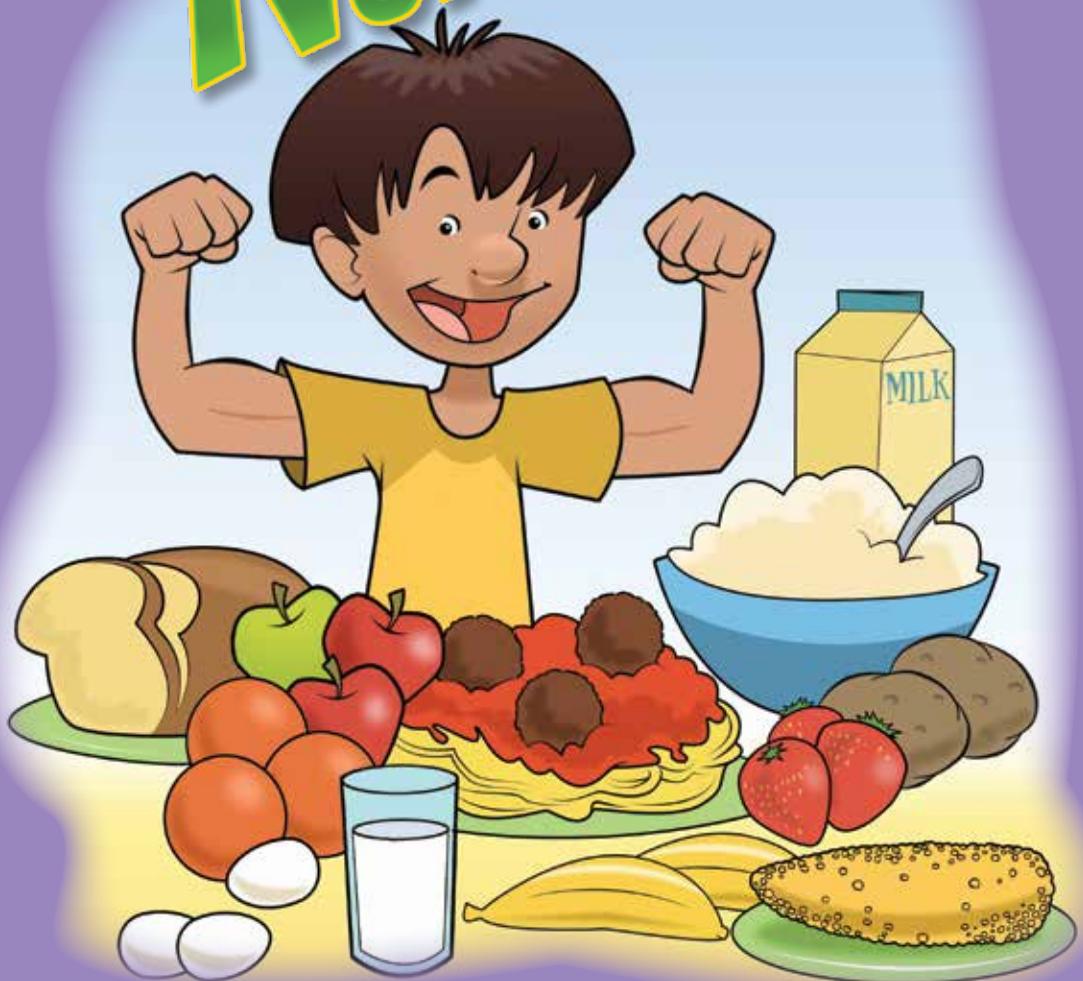
I can be a pilot and
fly a jumbo jet.



I can be a farmer with
a chicken for a pet.



Delicious and Nutritious



Dona Herweck Rice

Can you believe
it's really true
that all these foods
are good for you?



Speckled strawberries,
plump and sweet.

Crispy carrots,
a tasty treat.

