

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Your child is off to a fabulous start in reading! Please look inside for ways to keep your child's beginning reading and writing skills sharp over the summer. This will help to make school easier and more enjoyable for your child next year.

We want you to know that we have some free games and materials for working with your child over the summer. These are located on our Magic Penny website at:

[www.magicpennyreading.org](http://www.magicpennyreading.org).

Available on our website are:

Writing log sheets  
Cooperation Calendars  
Pickle in the Middle Game  
Penny Dare Game  
Gumball Sounds to practice

You may access our website from your public library if you do not have access at home.

There is a wealth of information on the Magic Penny Reading web site to help you help your child to continue developing their reading skills over the summer. It only takes 10-15 minutes a day to make a difference for a lifetime. Give your child the gift of literacy now. Your child's future depends on it.

## Tips for Parents

Continue to:

- Visit your local library every week.
- Read to your child every night.
- Have your daily "Magic Penny Time".
- Give your children wonderful experiences this summer so they can learn more vocabulary words and more about our world.
- Help them to make new friends and meet new people so they will have wonderful experiences to share in words, writing and pictures.

## COOPERATION CALENDARS

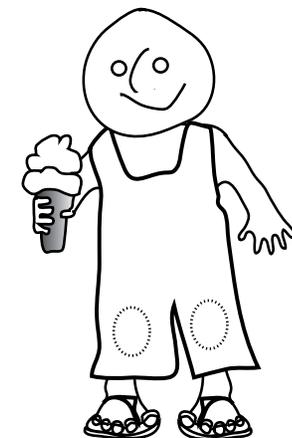
You may also want to print a Cooperation Calendar from the website for both July and August. If your child keeps track of their Magic Penny practice time by coloring in each day that they practice, you will be able to see at a glance that you are remembering to help them to keep their beginning reading skills sharp. Start today! Don't wait until the end of August to try to "catch up". Don't let the ice cream melt! Have a WONDERFUL summer! We look forward to teaching your child in September!

## A VERY IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO ALL MAGIC PENNY PARENTS

### Licking Literacy

Please remember the fact that when a child is at the beginning stages of learning how to read, it is similar to when they attempted to eat their first ice cream cone. If they forgot to work at licking it, it melted away. Please don't let this happen to the skills they have worked so hard to develop this year.

Throughout this school year we have worked together and provided you with all of the materials you needed to guide your child to strengthen their reading and writing skills at home. Now this summer it is up to you. Keep practicing skills. Use your Magic Penny games and activities as well as the materials provided on the Magic Penny website: [www.magicpennyreading.org](http://www.magicpennyreading.org).



**Your child is depending on you!**

## Pre-K Children

Keep playing the Magic Penny Level A: Early Literacy Games at home, when you are in the car, food shopping or waiting in line. You may also begin these games with younger siblings (ages 3-4).

Review:

**Beginning Sounds**  
**Rhyming Words**  
**Mystery Word Game**  
**Sound Order Games**

Also Play:

**Pickle in the Middle Game**

This game can be downloaded from the Magic Penny website. This is a very valuable tool to develop auditory memory and discrimination!

**Penny Dare Game**

This game can also be downloaded from the Magic Penny website to help your child to develop thinking fluency and critical thinking skills.

**Continue to read to your child daily and to discuss what you read.**

**Some good discussion questions are:**

1. Who is this story about?
2. What do you think will happen next?
3. Why do you think (the character) did that?
4. How do you think that (the character) will feel now?
5. Can you tell me the story (or what happened on this page) in your own words?

## Kindergartners

(children who are in Magic Penny Levels B: Pam and Sam, Level C: Bug in a Bag, Level D: Bob's Bugs)

All of the Kindergartners (and some of the Pre-K children) are decoding (sounding out words and blending the sounds together) and encoding (separating the sounds out of words in order to write the words). These two skills are **VERY IMPORTANT** and need to be reviewed over the summer for about 10-15 minutes a day.

We suggest that for **decoding** practice:

Have your child practice decoding the words on some of their Pam and Sam, Bug in a Bag or Bob's Bugs Decoding Practice Cards. Guide them to use a Magic Penny for any difficult words.

We suggest that for **encoding** practice:

1. Have your child practice encoding words by choosing 5 of their Decoding Practice Cards for that day and writing 5 sentences or a short story using the words correctly. Help them to practice good handwriting and letter formation.

2. These sentences should be written in a spiral notebook and each page dated, or, you may want to print writing log pages from our website at [www.magicpennyreading.com](http://www.magicpennyreading.com). and keep them together in a notebook or folder. The Writing Log also has an editing page to help your child to edit their sentences. This really helps children to write sentences that begin with a capital letter, end with a period, have spaces between words, have the correct spelling, and also make sense.

## Kindergarten, Grades 1 & 2

(children who are in Level E: Magic Penny Reading Secrets Books One or Two)

**Odd Numbered Days** - Have your child practice decoding the words on one of the Magic Penny Reading Secrets Decoding Practice Strips every day.

1. First review the "secret" at the top of the Decoding Practice Card Strip.

2. Then guide your child to decode the words on that card. Have your child use a Magic Penny for difficult words.

3. Guide your child to develop their vocabulary by helping them to understand the meanings of all the words. Then have them use each word orally in a sentence.

4. Guide your child to write (encode) five sentences or a short story using any five of the words on that page as they practice their good handwriting skills.

5. Have your child spell 5 words orally from the Decoding Practice Card Strip.

**Even Numbered Days** - Help your child develop independent reading and writing skills.

Have your child read a book of their choice orally to you for 10 minutes a day. Then have them write the title of the book, the date, and a short summary of what happened in the story. You may want to download the writing log pages from the Magic Penny website or have your child keep their log in a spiral notebook or a marble composition book. Guide your child to decode tricky words by analyzing how the letters work together to make the sounds in the words. Help them to also practice good handwriting and letter formation.