

March 26, 2004

Dear Parents:

Alex and I have been working with activities to help improve his comprehension and writing abilities. He continues to be willing and eager to complete the tasks asked of him.

On March 10th, we completed a comprehension activity where we read a book entitled Family Farm by Thomas Locker. Throughout the reading, I asked Alex questions about the story and had him make connections between the reading and what he has experienced in his own life. We also discussed what he would do if he was in the position of losing a farm. He shared with me that he had the idea of expanding the farm to the creek and getting more horses. After the reading, we discussed the characters, setting, problem of the story and the steps leading to the resolution of the problem.

On March 15th, we read an article about wild animals in suburbs. We read the article in three sections. After finishing a section, we stopped and Alex would first ask me all the questions he could come up with about what we had just read and then we would switch roles. His questioning improved as the activity went along and he became more comfortable in asking me the questions.

On March 17th, I had Alex create a story from a list of twelve story clues from the book, Jumanji by Chris Van Allsburg, which we read after he had written his pre-story. Once we had read the book, we compared the two stories (the one he had written and the book) and discussed the similarities and differences between them. During the following session, we worked on revising his story to include more details and to have the story make a little more sense in places.

On March 24th, we again read an article in three sections.

The article was about animals in a zoo and how they get taken care of by many different people. This time after finishing each section, we summarized what we read, listed any parts we thought were difficult to understand, wrote questions we had for the author about what we read, and finally made a prediction about what would be in the next part of the article.

I am enjoying the time that Alex and I work together in our sessions. If you have any questions about the activities discussed above, feel free to contact me! Thank you again for allowing him to participate in our tutoring sessions.

Sincerely,
Carrie D.