

Summer Reading: Tips for Parents

Your children have grown to be great readers this year. They have gained many reading skills. These skills need to be practiced over the summer to ensure that your children continue to grow as readers. Studies have repeatedly shown that children who continue to read during the summer months perform better when school resumes in the fall.

During the summer, parents can help children sustain, and even boost reading skills, strengthen their vocabulary and reinforce the benefits of reading for enjoyment. Summer reading can bridge the end of one school year and the beginning of the next. **Therefore, it is important for your children to continue their reading over the summer.**

Here are some tips to make summer reading a fun experience:

- 1. Summer is a time for fun. Make reading fun for your child.** Read outdoors - on the front steps, patio, at the beach or park.
- 2. Visit your local library regularly and participate in the summer reading program.** Obtain a library card for your child so he can check out books throughout the summer.
- 3. Help your child set a realistic reading goal** and reward your child's reading.
- 4. Read aloud together with your child every day.** Encourage your child to read to you, and you read to your child.
- 5. Show interest in anything your child reads.** The more your child reads, the better he will read. Reading takes practice.
- 6. Let kids choose what they want to read,** and every so often, read the same book that your child is reading and discuss it.
- 7. Have plenty of books, books on tape, magazines and other reading material** around the house for kids to read. Turn off the TV and have family reading time.
- 8. Let your kids see you read.** You are your child's most important role model. Let your child see you reading for pleasure as well as for information.
- 9. As you go through the day** - cooking, gardening, grocery shopping, playing games—utilize this time as an opportunity to engage in verbal word play, vocabulary building, recognizing new and familiar words or attaching meaning to words and sentences.
- 10. Connect reading with other summer activities.** Read books about places you will go over the summer or things you will be doing.
- 11. Trips can be a fun way** to encourage reading. Ask your children to read traffic signs and billboards aloud. Show them how to read a map, and once you are on the road, let them take turns being the navigator.
- 12. Encourage children to keep a summer scrapbook.** Tape in souvenirs of your family's summer activities - picture postcards, ticket stubs, photos. Have your children write the captions and read them aloud as you look at the book together.