



Raising Readers Newsletter
May, 2014

Check out this newsletter for some great reading tips and resources!

A Sizzling Summer of Reading!

Many children, especially struggling readers, forget some of what they've learned or slip out of practice during the summer months. Try these strategies to help your reader improve her reading during the summer and beyond:



1. **Six books to summer success:** Research shows that reading just six books during the summer may keep a struggling reader from regressing. When choosing the six, be sure that they are just right — not too hard and not too easy. Take advantage of your local library. Ask for help selecting books that match your child's age, interests, and abilities. Libraries often run summer reading programs that motivate kids to read, so find out what's available in your area. Also check our book lists for recommendations.
2. **Read something every day:** Encourage your child to take advantage of every opportunity to read. Find them throughout the day:
 - *Morning:* The newspaper — even if it is just the comics or today's weather.
 - *Daytime:* Schedules, TV guides, magazines, online resources, etc. For example, if your daughter likes the food channel, help her look for a recipe on the network's Web site — then cook it together for more reading practice.
 - *Evening:* End the day by having your child read to you from the book he is currently reading (one of the six books, above). Have him rehearse a paragraph, page, or chapter before reading to you. Rereading will help him be more fluent — able to read at an appropriate speed, correctly, and with nice expression.
3. **Keep reading aloud:** Reading aloud benefits all children and teens, especially those who struggle. One benefit is that you can read books your child can't, so she will build listening comprehension skills with grade-level and above books. This will increase her knowledge and expand her experience with text, so that she will do better when she reads on her own.

Source: <http://www.scholastic.com/parents/resources/article/developing-reading-skills/three-ways-to-prevent-summer-slide>

Summer Reading Resources Galore!

Barnes and Noble Summer Reading

Kids can earn a free book!

Step 1: Read any 8 books and record them in the [Reading Journal \(PDF\)](#).

Step 2: Bring the completed Reading Journal to your local B&N store. [Find a Store.](#)

Step 3: Choose a FREE BOOK from our selection on the Reading Journal list at the store... Enjoy reading!

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/u/summer-reading/379003570/>

Encourage Reading with Book Adventure!

Book Adventure is a fun, free way to motivate your child to read! Kids in grades K-8 can search for books, read them offline, come back to quiz on what they've read, and earn prizes for their reading success. Start your reading adventure below!

www.bookadventure.com

Book Lists!

Does your child need some ideas for books to read this summer? Check out the HUGE list of books!

Scholastic Book List for ages 3 to young adult:

<http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/collection/keep-kids-reading-all-summer-long>

Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge

The Summer Challenge begins May 5th, 2014! . Get kids of all ages reading and ready for back to school with a fun, friendly competition. The more minutes kids read, the more rewards and recognition they earn for themselves !

Learn more by visiting www.scholastic.com/summer

Day Trips for Book Lovers!

Consider your child's favorite stories - perhaps old classics, or something new he read during the past school year. Notice the themes that emerge, and plan a related trip. This is a fun way to support your child's curiosity about the subjects she loves most. Some popular genres and suggested activities are listed below that the whole family can enjoy.

You can also approach summer in the opposite way - visit somewhere first, then introduce a book, especially to tempt a child who's not an avid reader. Destination ideas abound online, or consult a regional travel guide. Two to try: *Frommer's Family Vacations in the National Parks*, by Charles Wohlforth, and *Watch it Made in the USA: A Visitor's Guide to the Companies that Make Your Favorite Products*, by Karen Axelrod and Bruce Brumberg. *Fodor's Family Adventures*, by Christine Loomis, focuses on longer vacations, not day trips, but includes names of books for kids who like archaeology, hiking, backpacking, and animals.

Click on the links below for ideas!

If your child loves...

[Adventure](#)

[American Indians](#)

[Ancient Egypt](#)

[Animals](#)

[Archaeology](#)

[Art](#)

[Battles](#)

[Biographies](#)

[Boating and fishing](#)

[Comic books and graphic novels](#)

[Detective stories](#)

[Explorers](#)

[History](#)

[Knights and medieval topics](#)

[Music](#)

[Robots](#)

[Pottery Barn Kids Summer Reading Challenge](#)

Check out this link for more information:

<http://www.potterybarnkids.com/design-studio/articles/summer-reading-challenge.html>



<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/14974/>

Encourage Reading Everyday!

Click on the links below for some outstanding resources to encourage reading every day!

[ENCOURAGE READING EVERY DAY](#)

Research shows that children who read build skills that support their academic and personal success. Here are our top tips to help you and your child explore reading all year round:

[Tip #1: Integrate reading adventures into your daily routine.](#)

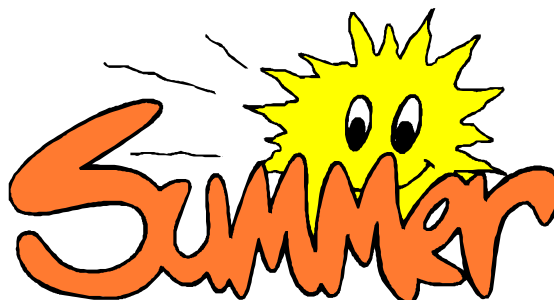
[Tip #2: Explore your local library.](#)

[Tip #3: Bring learning tools with you on the road.](#)

[Tip #4: Find educational activities you and your child can do together indoors and outdoors.](#)

[Tip #5: Look for books and programs that feature your child's favorite characters.](#)

<http://www.pbs.org/parents/education/read/>



[Summer Reading Activity: Character Scrapbook](#)

Use this reader's response activity to analyze the characters in any book. Print and collect your scrapbook pages!

teacher.scholastic.com/activities/scrapbook/



Tips for Encouraging Summer Reading

Summer reading should be a joy. Summer vacation should be a time to stretch out on a hammock or curl up in an armchair and dive deep into a fun, engrossing, fabulous read. Kids who spend time reading during the summer go back to school in the fall with their reading skills improved. This will help them in school, and help them later in life. But even more importantly, kids who read during the summer will form life-long memories and make powerful connections with books.



Make sure your kids have plenty of books. Take your kids to the library or the bookstore (new or used) to pick out some interesting new books. Go to the library every week, if you can., go to yard sales, and sort through the books there. Organize a book swap in your neighborhood or scout troop. Do whatever you need to do to keep a fresh supply of books around.

Always pack up books whenever you go somewhere, for your kids and for yourself (including audiobooks). Make sure your kids see you reading, whether it's on the beach, while waiting for the softball game to start, or at home. Bonus points if you spend some of your time reading kids' books. Then you can also talk about the books with your kids, and recommend other books that they might like. Listen to audiobooks in the car, especially on long trips. Pick books that are fun and/or exciting. You'll find that these add to your family's common frame of reference. And they makes the drives go by a lot more quickly.

Encourage social reading. If your child wants to read a book because other kids are reading it (and you don't have personal reasons why you think your child isn't ready for the book), by all means get a copy. This reinforces the idea that reading is cool, and gives your child a chance to talk about the book with others. Consider buying two copies of the same book, for your child and his or her best friend, so that they can both read it. Maybe start a book club. Take the kids to see a movie based on a book, and also read the book. Do whatever you can to make reading cool and social.

Try not to get hung up on whether or not your child "could" be reading more advanced books. Do you read Proust on your summer vacation, or do you read James Patterson? Kids turn to books for a respite from cares sometimes, just as adults do. They don't want everything they read to educational. There's no harm in suggesting the occasional book that's more of a stretch, but don't push too hard. If kids find reading enjoyable, they'll keep reading, and they will eventually push themselves. For that to happen, they just need to spend time reading.

Try to keep some time available for reading. This is perhaps the hardest thing, as schedules fill up with sports, cookouts, trips and movies. These are all fun, too. But if you ask me, there's no substitute for the occasional afternoon spent perched up in a tree exploring far-off worlds through books.

- <http://www.pbs.org/parents/experts/archive/2011/06/tips-for-encouraging-summer-re.html>

Hoosier Family of Readers

Who will be your *Hoosier Family of Readers* this summer? Even when school is out in Indiana, learning never stops! The *Hoosier Family of Readers* initiative establishes a unique, fun collaboration between our families, our schools, and many community partners. The goal for the initiative is for adults and children to identify their *Hoosier Family of Readers* and read each day throughout the summer. A reading family can be any combination of caring adults and children. Check out this link for more information: <http://www.doe.in.gov/hoosierreaders>



Through the *Hoosier Family of Readers* initiative, students and their families across the state will have unlimited access to reading material on myON, giving families an opportunity to share rich literacy experiences together. Click on the link for more information about myON: <http://www.doe.in.gov/improvement/myon-books> The IDOE is trying very hard to bring myOn back online for this summer, so make sure to check out the Hoosier Family of Readers website for any updates!



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