



Parent Tips For Summer Reading

Literacy experts and teachers agree that children of all ages need to be read to or read by themselves and to talk about books over the summer. Your child's summer reading and book discussions will help maintain reading skills, improve reading fluency, and will provide the opportunity to learn new vocabulary and concepts. Most importantly, when parents and children enjoy summer reading together, children develop a love of books and reading that lasts a lifetime. During your child's school vacation, it is important for your child to spend time reading and writing on a regular basis—whether a beginning reader or a fluent reader. Try some of these suggestions for making your child's summer full of literacy fun.

- **Be a reader and writer yourself.** When you spend time reading books on the beach or even directions for how to put together the grill this summer, you demonstrate for your child that reading is both fun and useful.
- Set aside a consistent time each day for reading. Depending on your family's schedule, reading time might be in the morning, afternoon, or before bed. Whatever time you choose, try to remain consistent.
- **Read aloud to your reader.** As school-aged children become better readers, parents often stop reading aloud to them. However, by reading more difficult books aloud to your reader, you help your child learn new vocabulary words, concepts, and ways of telling stories or presenting information.
- **Connect read-aloud choices to summer activities.** Read your child books about camping before or after a camping trip. When you read and discuss books about things your child has experienced, you help your child learn important vocabulary and extend understanding of experiences.
- **Allow your child to choose books for summer reading.** It is important for your child to read about topics that interest them, whether it is insects, dinosaurs, or a favorite fiction series.
- **Help your child select books at a comfortable level.** Listen to your child read. If your child reads smoothly, uses expression, and can accurately tell you what they read, the book is probably at a comfortable level. You may want to consult your local children's librarian, who is likely to be an expert at matching books to readers. In addition, teach your child to use the "Rule of Thumb" in selecting books: If they make 5 or more errors in reading a page of about 50 words, the book is too challenging.
- **Encourage your child not to limit summer reading to books.** Encourage your child to read the sports page to check up on a favorite baseball team or to read children's magazines such as Ranger Rick or National Geographic World.
- **Read a book and watch the movie together.** When you finish reading and viewing, discuss the similarities and differences and talk about which version you prefer. Many books, including Stone Fox, Sarah, Plain and Tall, and Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Finding Nemo, The Little Mermaid are available in movie versions.
- **Check out summer programs at your local public library.** Many feature special story times, sing-alongs, and puppet shows during the summer.
- **Take books along on outings.** Pack books in your beach bag or picnic basket, and bring a stack on long car rides. You and your child can enjoy books together anywhere you go this summer.
- **Encourage your child to write this summer, too.** From writing postcards to friends and relatives to keeping a journal while on a trip, summer presents unique ways for your child to write about their own experiences. Have your child pack a disposable camera on vacations or day trips and help them create a book about his experiences.

Recommended Reading Lists

Numerous recommended reading lists may be accessed through the internet. In addition, the librarian at your local library will serve as an excellent resource in helping your child find books that match their interest and reading level.

Just Read, Florida!

The Just Read, Florida! site provides a list of suggestion summer reading selections as well as tips for helping children with reading skills at home. <http://www.justreadflorida.com>



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Florida Department of Education Find a Book Florida!

The Find a Book Florida! website guides parents and students with the selection of books in an area of interest and on the skill level appropriate to the student.

Sunshine State Young Reader Awards

The Sunshine State Young Reader's Award Program is a statewide reading motivation program for students in grades 3-8. <http://myssyra.org>

Education World

A list of activities is provided on this site to extend your child's understanding of what they read in addition to an annotated list of recommended reading for kindergarten through eighth grade.

http://www.education-world.com/summer_reading

KidsReads

KidsReads offers an excellent annotated list of classic and new books arranged by age level.

<http://www.kidsreads.com/index.asp>

International Reading Association

The International Reading Association provides a unique, annotated, downloadable list of literature chosen by children and by teachers each year from 1998 to 2002 arranged by reading level.

<http://www.reading.org/resources/tools/choices.html>

Learn More About Favorite Authors and Illustrators

After reading a book this summer, you and your child may enjoy looking at the author or illustrator's Web site. Most authors include information about themselves and their books as well as information about how to send them a message. Check out these sites for more links to authors' and illustrators' Web sites.

Children's Book Council

This site offers an alphabetical listing of children's authors and illustrators with links to their Web sites.

<http://www.cbcbooks.org/contacts>

Children's Literature Web Guide

This site offers another complete listing of children's authors and illustrators with links to their Web sites.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/~dkbrown/authors.html>

The Just Read, Florida! staff wishes all Florida students a safe and happy summer full of reading opportunities and experiences!
