



Babies & Kids Books, Bits N' Tips

YOUR CHILD'S SUMMER SLIDE IS NOT AT THE PARK!

Yes, it's true...Summer vacation is here. Children and their weary parents are dreaming of long summer evenings free of homework. What a relief it will be to put those books in the drawer or on the shelf and leave them there for a few months!

Right? Wrong!

There's lots of [research](#) about it. Children tend to lose reading (& math) skills over the summer.

This is often referred to as the "summer slide" can harm your child's educational progress. Reading is a skill for life, and, as with any skill, practice is key. Studies have shown that children who read more become better readers.

Children who read over the

summer months often gain, rather than lose, important skills. When children become better readers, reading becomes a more enjoyable experience, and they want to read more. Whether your child is just beginning to learn the letters of the alphabet or reading Shakespeare, reading every single day, even in the summer, will keep reading enjoyable and skills sharp. Particularly for students who struggle, keeping hard-earned literacy skills strong over the summer break is essential.

It's not hard to do. Many libraries and bookstores offer summer reading clubs that keep children engaged with parties/prizes to encourage

reading. With so many great books out there, summer is the time for you to help your child find books and magazines that are interesting

and fun. Your local public library or bookstore can help you and your child find just the right book about just the right topic. Whether it is a book about building bridges, a favorite athlete, a magazine about cool cars or a funny comic book, read for at least 30 minutes a day your child on the road to becoming a lifelong reader. Writing should be part of the summer, too. Encourage your child to keep a summer journal and write letters to grandparents and friends.

Retrieved from http://www.education.com/reference/article/Ref_Developing_Literacy/



Dig into summer Reading!



DID YOU KNOW THAT:

research identifies the effect of summer learning differences as a primary cause of widening in-school achievement gaps between students by family income?

TRY THESE TIPS!

Summer Literacy Challenge!

For most parents, it's a challenge to keep kids reading and writing all summer. Suddenly 10 weeks of summer can feel like a very long time! We've got ideas to help make this summer full of fun, creativity & learning.

We've got a summer literacy challenge for you and your child. It's modest enough to be manageable — pick just one thing a week to kick start your week's literacy adventures. But it's also challenging enough to include a wide range of literacy fun for the family.

- **Investigate your public library's summer reading program.** Most libraries offer a special program or two during the summer, including puppet shows, book authors and children's storytellers. Most are free of charge.
- **Listen up!** Audiobooks are a great way to engage students to books above their reading level. Many libraries have audiobooks available for check out.
- **Make your own audio book!** Most phones and computers have simple re-

coding apps on them which are perfect for making homemade audio books, or reread a favorite loved book. **Visit a museum, online!** You'll be surprised by how much you can explore without leaving your house. One example is the [Smithsonian Institution Kids](#) site.

- **Point, shoot, and write.** Most families have access to a digital camera, iPad or camera phone. Snap some photos and then write a silly caption for each picture.

retrieved from <http://www.readingrockets.org/article/57820/>

Lapsit Ages birth to walkers Saturday @ 11:00—11:30 AM

Songs Fingerplays Stories, Bubbles Call 248-758-3942

Family Literacy Playgroup for Age "Walkers to Age 5" Fridays 10:30-12:00 Noon Crafts Songs Stories

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"The fire of literacy is created by the emotional sparks between a child, a book and the person reading. It isn't achieved by the book alone, or by the child alone, or by the adult who's reading aloud -- it's the relationship winding between all three, bringing them together in easy harmony," Mem Fox



THE FIVE PRACTICES THAT PROMOTE EARLY LITERACY

Talking: Talk with and listen to each child; add additional words to continue the conversation. Ask open ended questions. (Ones that can't be answered with a yes or a no).

Combine larger words with a simpler word to develop vocabulary.

Model taking turns with conversation.

Reading: Language in books has more complex words, ideas, and sentences.

Books have more rare words than normal conversation. Explain unknown words or let your child guess at the meaning of a word.

Talk about what you read for yourself with your child to help him understand how important reading is to your every day life.

Use alphabet books on topics your child enjoys—food, dinosaurs, plants, sea creatures.

Singing: Rhymes and songs have words not used in conversation.

Songs slow down language and separates sounds because different syllables have different notes.

This help children to break words into sounds and syllables when they start to read.

Make up your own silly songs using made up words that use different alphabet sounds.

Songs help children hear the rhythm and rhymes of language.

Writing: Encourage children to draw a picture about a book or story. Talk with them about what they drew or wrote. Remember that mark making, then scribbling, are the first two stages of writing!

Encourage children to write their own name on their picture/story, or write the starting letter yourself.

Ask questions and respond to what a child says about what he/she wrote or drew.

Repeat the words and add other words similar to or that describe further what they said or wrote.

Encourage children to write for things they enjoy—invitations, notes, thank you notes or to make a book.

Ask children to label parts of their own drawing, or write down what they say.

Playing: Use print as part of play—signs, menus, lists. Encourage pretend/dramatic play to tell and retell stories. Encourage role-playing of different situations.

Six Early Literacy Skills to Help Your Child Learn to Read

NARRATIVE SKILLS

Tell stories together.
Encourage pretend and play.
Let the child be storyteller.

LETTER KNOWLEDGE

Help your child identify the
First letter in his/her name.
Find it in books and signs.

PRINT AWARENESS

Help your child discover how to hold a
book and turn the pages.

VOCABULARY

Teach your child the specific names
of things. Try fruits and vegetables
at mealtimes.

PRINT MOTIVATION

Find books on topics that interest your
child and share them often.

PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS

Sing songs, play games and share
rhymes to help your child play with
the smaller sounds in words.



Getting Ready to Read Starts
In Infancy—
The skills a child learns BEFORE school

TRY THIS SONG!

YOU'RE A GRAND OLD FLAG!

George M. Cohan

You're a grand old flag,
You're a high flying flag
An forever in peace may you wave.
You're the emblem of
The land that I love.
The home of the free and the brave.

Ev'ry heart beats true
For the Red, White and Blue,
Where there's never a boast or a brag.
But should auld acquaintance be forgot,
Keep your eye on the grand old flag.