



Babies & Kids Books, Bits N' Tips

Tips to Keep Literacy Alive Over Summer



Summer Reading Improves Skills

Summer vacation is here. Children and their weary parents are dreaming of long summer evenings free of homework and studying. 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!

Teachers know, and experts agree, that what is often referred to as the "summer slide" can harm your child's educational progress.

Research demonstrates that all students experience significant learning losses during the summer months, according to the Center for Summer Learning at Johns Hopkins Universi-

ty. Children from low-income families are especially at risk, and may experience an average loss of two to three months in reading skill over the summer months.

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.

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. For students who struggle, keeping hard-earned literacy skills strong over the summer break is essential.

Retrieve 7/3/2014 from: <http://www.nclld.org/students-disabilities/homework-study-skills/keeping-literacy-alive-over-summer>

Tumbling Into Reading Mondays @ 2:00-3:00 PM

Ages 3 and up

Call 248-758-3942

Read, Meet and Treat Saturdays @ 1:00-2:00 PM School-aged Child Call 248-758-3942

Lapsit Infants of all ages Saturdays @ 11:00-11:30 AM

Call 248-758-3942 to register

A Summer of Fun Learning

You can make sure your children's summer vacation is enriching and entertaining by introducing them to new experiences, encouraging them to pursue their own interests — and combining reading and writing with their new adventures.

Throughout the summer, take advantage of local resources and everyday activities to read with

your children and help them learn. For example:

• **Check out the library.** Take

your children to the library regularly. See if your library has a summer club, story hours, or other reading events.

• **Visit parks, zoos, and nature centers.** Visit the

library afterward to get books on favorite animals

and field guides to help identify wildlife in your area.

• **Go to museums, science centers, and historical**

sites. Many have extended summer hours, special

exhibitions, and hands-on activities for children.

• **Check out local arts.** Summer events often

include summer stock theater, puppet shows, outdoor concerts, and crafts fairs.

• **Read up on your trip.** If you are traveling, involve your children in the planning. Read about the trip

together and highlight your route on a map.

Other tips and resources available at:

Toddling Into Reading for Ages 1-2 Wednesday 1:00 - 1:30 pm Songs, Fingerplays, Bubbles

Call 248-758-3942 to register To register

Ready, Set, Get Ready to Read Ages 3 and up Wednesdays 1:30-2:30 pm Crafts Songs Stories Call 248-758-3942 to register

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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

Five little fishies swimming in a pool,
(Wiggle 5 fingers.)

The first one said, "This pool is cool."
(Wrap arms around body.)

The second one said, "This pool is deep."
(Speak in a deep voice.)

The third one said, "I want to sleep."
(Rest head on hands.)

The fourth one said, "Let's dive and dip."
(Hand dives and dips.)

The fifth one said, "I spy a ship."
(Form eyeglass with hands and peer through it.)

A fisherman's boat comes, (Fingers form V and move away from body.)

The line goes KER-SPLASH, (Pantomime throwing fishing line.)

And away the five little fishies dash.
(Wiggle 5 fingers away from body.)

Five little fishies swimming in a pool,
(Wiggle 5 fingers.)

The first one said, "This pool is cool."
(Wrap arms around body.)

The second one said, "This pool is