

Summer Reading

15 ideas to keep your child reading

Parent's Guide

Summer's almost here, and you're probably worried about your child spending enough time with books over the break. You might even think your reader can't make progress without the structure of school and the help of a teacher. But did you know that you can be a huge influence on your child's reading development by simply encouraging reading in your home?

Here's a list of simple ideas that can help you keep your reader, and even the whole family, reading over the break.



- See a movie that's based on a book. Then, read the book together.
- Encourage your child to read for fun by reading entertaining books, newspapers, and magazine articles together.
- Have your child read the recipe as you make something fun, like a favorite family dish.
- Ask your child's teacher for printouts of books from the Imagine Learning English program to read over the summer.
- Read stories out loud, either to your child or with your child.
- Encourage your child to explore new interests by signing up for a sports team, summer camp, or even a fun summer class.
- Then, find books and magazine articles about his or her new interests and read them together.
- Have older children read out loud to their younger siblings.
- Make reading together enjoyable by focusing on the meaning of what you read rather than focusing on correctness.
- Talk to your child about things he or she has read in school or at home.
- Get a library card and help your child check out books related to his or her life and interests.
- Play board games that involve reading, and include siblings and friends whenever you can.
- Ask your child's teacher to recommend books.
- Have your child watch reading-focused television programs on PBS.
- Make reading a family event by having 15-30 minutes of family reading time every day.

Baker, Linda (2003). "The Role of Parents Motivating Struggling Readers," *Reading & Writing Quarterly* 19 (2003):87.