

Summer Reading

10 easy ways to make summer reading more effective

Parent's Guide

You probably know that summer reading can help your kids retain all the great skills they've learned throughout the school year. But did you know that when parents get involved, summer reading can be eight times more effective?

Here are ten simple ways you can make sure your kids get more out of their summer reading.

1. Sign up for a local library membership and visit often.
2. Boost reading comprehension by listening to your child read and then asking questions about the story, like which character your child would want to be and why.
3. Use the five-finger rule to choose books that aren't too easy or too hard. Have your child read 100 words in the middle of the book. Each time he or she encounters an unfamiliar word, hold up a finger. Two or three fingers means the book is a good fit—if you end up with more than three or fewer than two, try another book.
4. Ask your child's teacher to recommend or even lend you a few books that are at the right reading level for your child.
5. Ask other adults—older siblings, grandparents, aunts or uncles—to read their favorite childhood books out loud with your child, stopping to share what makes the tale their favorite.
6. After your child finishes reading a book independently, have him or her create a new cover for the book based on what happens in the story.
7. Help your child find reading materials related to his or her interests—comic books, science magazines, and instruction manuals are all great places to start.
8. Reread difficult passages with your child and discuss what the passages mean.
9. Join a school or community book exchange for easy access to a variety of books.
10. Check out audio books from your local library and take them along on road trips. Discuss the stories as a family, pausing in between chapters to imagine what might happen next.



National Summer Learning Association. (2009). *How to Make Summer Reading Effective*. Retrieved from http://www.summerlearning.org/?page=research_brief