

Launching Summer Reading

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Reading research indicates that many children's reading ability declines between the end of one school year and the beginning of the next because they generally do not read much over the summer. But this doesn't have to be the case! By reading just four or five books over the summer break, students can keep up the good work they've strived to achieve all year.

Here are a few activities you can plan to start the summer off right for your students.



Host a library card signup event. Encourage families to sign up for a library card and introduce them to the many resources your local library offers in addition to books, including summer activities, reading programs, author visits, and more.

Provide lots of opportunities for book recommendations.

Present booktalks daily in class, over the announcements, or at the Book Fair. Encourage students to share their top picks for summer reads.

Encourage students to make lists of books they would like to read over the break.

Goals help motivate students, as well as set expectations for their reading plan.

Open the school library for a few days a week. When school closes for the summer, many students lose access to reading material. Consider opening your school library for a few hours, two days a week. Invite parents and staff to volunteer for hour-long shifts.

Advise parents to set the expectations for their child to read every day. Reading for 20 to 30 minutes a day keeps students' vocabulary and reading ability growing during the summer. Encourage parents to keep books within arm's reach for their kids—it's a great activity for rainy days, car rides, and long waits.

Look for ways to include parents and children in your summer reading initiatives and you will have more buy-in and motivation to participate. Happy reading!

