



The research is clear- children who don't read during the summer can lose up to three months of reading progress and that loss adds up to a long-term effect.

This handout is meant to provide you with some great activities to encourage kids to learn, read, and have fun in the summer sun.

Community Summer Reading Programs

- The **Metropolitan Library System's "Summer Reading Program"** runs from June 1–July 31. You can sign up beginning on May 15. The program will be online and available to families, adults, and children. The goal of the Summer Reading Program is to read 20 minutes per day. <http://www.metrolibrary.org/>
- **Pizza Hut offers "Summer Break with Book It"** for kids grades K-6. This program features a minute tracker app, book recommendations, recipes for readers, printables, games, and activity calendars. <http://www.bookitprogram.com/summer/>
- The **"Scholastic Summer Challenge"** encourages kids to log the minutes they spend reading and map their accomplishments. Kids can participate in weekly challenges, earn digital rewards, and enter to win prizes. <http://www.scholastic.com/summer/>
- Through the **Barnes & Noble "Imagination Destination Challenge,"** your child can earn a free book after reading eight books and keeping track of them in a reading log. <http://www.barnesandnoble.com/u/summer-reading/379003570>

Enjoy Literacy Together

Give kids material that motivates them to read. Try comic books, directions for interesting projects, and mystery stories. Let them decide what they want to read.

Watch TV with the sound off and closed captioning on.

Read directions for how to play a new game.

Kids can help with meals by writing up a grocery list, finding things in the grocery store, and reading the recipe aloud for mom or dad during cooking time.

Ask your child to invent a product and write slogans or an advertisement for commercials they watch on television.

Visit your local library. Sign up for your own card- and one for your child. Ask about their summer reading program and activities.

Talk me into it. Using TV Guide or the TV section of the newspaper, have your children select their shows for the day. Then have them give you a “persuasive speech” as to why they should be permitted to watch that show.

Read a scary story to your child with the lights out, using a flashlight.

Write and act out your own play or puppet show. Puppets are fun to make from socks or gloves with yarn and markers. Invite the neighbor kids and have snacks. Videotape it if you can.

Make your own storybook. Make funny drawings, or glue photos of family members onto silly magazine pictures. A younger child can tell you the story as you write it on the pages; older children can write it themselves. Let creativity rule!

Create a treasure hunt. Hide an inexpensive treat that your child will enjoy. Write directions or draw a map for finding the treat. Have your child follow the directions to find it. You can add to the challenge by several different places within the search where they find new maps or directions before finally finding the “treasure.”

Set aside a consistent time each day for reading. Depending on your family’s schedule, reading time might be in the morning, afternoon or before bed. Whatever time you choose, stick to it, but also remember that flexibility around trips and special family events is OK.

Read a book and watch the video together. When you finish reading and viewing, discuss the similarities and differences and talk about which version you prefer. Many books, including “Stone Fox”, “Sarah, Plain and Tall” and “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory,” are available in movie versions.

Encourage your child to write this summer, too. Kids can write postcards to friends and relatives or keep a journal while on a trip. Summer presents unique ways for your child to write about real-life experiences! Have your child pack a disposable camera on vacations or day trips and help him create a book about his experiences.

Literacy Activities Using the Newspaper

- Look for “garage sales” in your local newspaper. Find sales near your home that may have books. Plan a route with you child, using a map of your area, usually in the phone book. Give each child a dollar. Let them buy their own book.
- Ask your child to read a short editorial printed in your local newspaper and to underline all the facts with a green pencil and all the opinions with an orange pencil.
- Clip pictures from the newspaper. Ask your child to tell you about the picture or list adjectives to describe the picture.
- Have your child find each of the following in the newspaper:
 - someone wearing glasses
 - television star
 - cartoon
 - story about another country
 - letter from a reader
 - movie review or ad
 - action word
 - map
 - animal
 - television listing
 - the name of your city
 - athlete
- Cut up comic strips, provide your child with one complete strip, and ask him or her to put the comics back in the correct order. Talk with them about why they put the comic in this order.



Metropolitan Library's Summer Reading Programs and Activities

- **Summer Reading Program:** The program will be online and available to families, adults, and children. It will run from June 1–July 31. You can sign up beginning on May 15. The goal of the Summer Reading Program is to read 20 minutes per day.
- **Neighborhood Arts:** Performing arts programs for all ages will be held each Monday at 10:30am. Programs include concerts, children's theater performances, and more.
- **Preschool Pre-scholars:** This program serves preschool children- Ages 3 - entering Grade 1. We will meet on Tuesday mornings at 10:30am in June and July. Registration is advised.
 - 6/3/14 Al Bostick Story Telling, African Folktales
 - 6/10/14 Oklahoma Science Museum program "Crazy About Science"
 - 6/17/14 Music Play with Miss Ginger- This program does require limited class size and registration, but will include multiple sessions at 10:00am, 10:45am, and 11:30am.
 - 6/24/14 Critter Tales stories and live animal demonstration.
- **Elementary Element:** This program serves kids in grades 2-6 and meets every Wednesday at 2:00pm. Again, registration is encouraged as some classes will be limited due to purchasing supplies.
 - 6/4/14 Backyard Songbirds with naturalist Neil Garrison
 - 6/11/14 Juggle Whatever- Learn to juggle
 - 6/18/14 Kitchen Chemistry: Mixtures and Solutions with the OSU Extension
 - 6/25/14 Ooey Goey Science with Neil Garrison
- **Budding Bookworms:** This Children's Book Club for ages 9-12, or any child who enjoys reading Tween Books, meets on the second Monday monthly at 4:00pm
- **Children Reading to Dogs:** Elementary age children may come read to licensed therapy dogs to practice reading aloud and build reading fluency and confidence. We offer this program every other Monday at 6:00pm during the summer. During the school year it meets every week.
 - June 9 June 23 July 7 July 21
- **Teen Scene:** Serving grades 6-12, these programs will meet every Thursday at 5:30pm. Again, registration is encouraged as some classes will be limited due to purchasing supplies.
 - 6/5/14 Cryptozoology with local artist Savannah Mitchell- Teens can deconstruct stuffed animals and sew them back together to make their own imaginative creatures.
 - 6/14/14 Chess Club (all ages welcome)
 - 6/19/14 Journal Junkies: Word Art. Local artist Kiona Millirons will demonstrate how to combine words and elements of pop art to make really cool stuff!
 - 6/26/14 Chess Club (all ages welcome)
 - 7/3/14 Imagineering with the Oklahoma Science Museum: Teens can use various materials to make imaginative creations and machines.