

Literacy Activities:

- Write a list of things you want to do over the summer (Don't forget to include reading!)
- Make a *joke* book. Collect jokes from your family and friends.
- Write a letter to your favorite author. A librarian can help you find a postal or email address.
- Swap books with a friend. Keep sharing books throughout the summer. Perhaps even create a *book club*!
- Work up an appetite by reading a story about food. Make and eat the food you read about.
- Play games such as: How many smaller words can you find in the word watermelon?
- Cut out words from a newspaper, Paste them on paper and make a letter to a friend.
- Make a list of all of the summer insects you can think of. Then see how many you can find.
- Make a list of all of the ice cream flavors you can think of. Then put them in A-B-C order.
- Collect shells at the beach or rocks along a trail. Use a nature guide to identify them.
- Find a list of baseball teams in the sports section of the **newspaper**. Then put them in A-B-C order. Find their cities on a map.
- Read a book without any words. Write your own story that matches the pictures. Find a pen-pal! Send letters or emails to friends.

Tips:

Time for Reading:

During the busy summer months, it can be hard to find a chance to read. Set aside a quiet time each day for reading, and remember to include 'reading time when planning summer activities.

Different Kinds of Reading:

To stimulate reading at home, keep reading materials throughout the house, including newspapers, magazines, and brochures. Keep some fun items on hand too, like word games and puzzles. This will provide more opportunities to practice reading.

Beat Boredom with Books:

Help your child find books that he/she finds interesting, especially on rainy days! These might include non-fiction books, fun fact books, arts and crafts, hands-on activities, and project books, or cookbooks.

Book List:

Have your child create a summer reading list of his/her own favorite books. Encourage him/her to exchange lists with friends. It will help make summer reading a fun opportunity to read books with friends instead of as a school assignment.

Book Talks:

Talk to your child about what he/she is reading. Discuss what he/she liked, disliked, and even his/her favorite characters. The following is a list of questions to ask after reading a story. These questions will make your child think about the story. Suggested question starters:

- Do you agree with...?
- Why was it better that...?
- What would you change...? How would you change...?

Road Trips:

If you will be spending a lot of time in the car or at home, rent books on tape or CDs from the library. This can be a great way to encourage language development as well as the joy of reading stories. Connect books to summer activities: Have your child read books related to summer activities. For example, have your child read a story about sand castles while at the beach. Helping your child connect books with his/her own experiences will help build vocabulary and will make experiences more meaningful.

Book Response Ideas:

1. I noticed that...
2. If I had been there, I would have...
3. In this story, the main character was...
4. The book reminds me of...
5. The most exciting part of the story was when...
6. I thought it was funny when...
7. It is hard to believe that...
8. My favorite part of the book was when....
9. I am most like the character _____ because...
10. The character learned that...
11. Two new words I learned are...
12. Two words to describe the main character are...
13. I think my friend would enjoy this book because...
14. If I could cook for the main character, I would make...
15. Two things I learned are....
16. I want to read more about...
17. Your own idea...