

Prevent the Summer Reading Slide

A Guide for Parents

“I know my students covered important reading skills last school year, but I still need to spend so much time reviewing those same skills at the start of each new school year.”

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The “summer slide” is an all-too-common frustration for teachers and parents. Students who don’t read during the summer are likely to lose crucial ground.

Help prevent your child from the “summer slide” and provide them with opportunities to strengthen reading skills during the break from school. Here are some suggestions:

Have your child read 20+ minutes each day.

Research proves that reading just 20 minutes each day outside of school can increase a student’s vocabulary by almost 2 million words!

Set a good example.

When your child sees you reading and enjoying a book, magazine, or newspaper, you are sending a message that reading is an important and valuable activity.

Read with your child.

Introduce a variety of book genres and writing styles.

Read for different purposes.

Reading a recipe or directions for assembling a toy are fun ways of incorporating reading into everyday activities.

Make reading and writing a regular part of your daily home activities.

If reading isn’t one of your child’s top priorities, consider setting up an incentive program to help them stay motivated.

Talk to your child about what he or she is reading.

Ask open-ended questions such as, “What do you think about that story?” or, “What would you have done if you were that character?” to encourage meaningful discussions.

Visit your public library.

Most community libraries run summer reading programs to inspire and engage students of all ages.

Play word games.

Play games such as thinking of different words to describe the same things.

Set limits for screen time.

Reducing screen time creates opportunities for reading.

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