

# A Dozen Ways to Get Your Child to Read Over the Summer and Have Fun Doing It!

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Every year student assessments show that when kids take a break from school over the summer and they don't read or have any reading instruction during that time, their reading skills are adversely affected. But this doesn't HAVE to happen. Encouraging children to read during the summer will not only sustain their current reading achievement, it will also contribute to their success in reading proficiency.



Here are a dozen ways parents can get their children to read over the summer and have fun doing it. These activities will support and extend reading achievement during the summer months.

## **For Early Primary Grade Children**

**Start a Car Library** - Buy books then leave them in the car. When running daily or weekly errands together, your children will have books available to read and explore while accompanying you on these trips.

**Create a Reading Schedule** – Designate a “reading time” each day. At this time read aloud or listen to your children read.

**Make Regular Library Visits** -Take out the calendar and mark down each day during the summer when visits to the library will take place. Make an effort to visit the library at least once a week. When you're there, let your children explore the picture book area of the library. Allow your children to check out books that appeal to them. Read these books aloud over and over to your children, or listen to them read the books to you (if they can) over and over again.

**Visit the BookStore** – Again, take out the calendar and mark down days that visits to bookstores will happen. Bookstores today have delightful children's books sections, where your children can explore vividly illustrated picture books. Allow your children to select one or two books, depending on your budget, to start or expand their own home libraries.

### For Intermediate Grade Children

**Create a Neighborhood Book Club** – Children this age are very social. Initiate the book club by designing a flyer that describes what the book club is going to be about. Have your children pass it along to their friends and other children in the neighborhood. Schedule a specific time each week when book club members will meet to talk about the books they're reading. Provide inexpensive treats for the kids, and ask other parents to sign up to provide snacks as well.

**Have a Book Swap** – During book club meetings suggest students swap books they might have at home and no longer want or need.

**Make Reading Fun** – Students not only need to learn how to read stories, they need to learn how to read directions. Find simple recipes and have book club members make treats for their meetings once in a while.

**Integrate Art with Reading** – Provide construction paper and a variety art media such as: colored pencils, markers, water colors. Encourage book club members to design a new book cover for the book they are currently reading.

### For Secondary Grade Children

Most teenagers have summer jobs, so pulling off some of these activities might be tricky.

**Have Your Teen Tutor a Younger Child:** Make arrangements for your teenager to read aloud to and tutor a younger student. Tutoring others teaches teenagers their civic responsibility, boosts their self-esteem (as well as the self-esteem of the student being tutored). It also sends the message that reading is an important skill to have.

**Read One of the Classics Together** – Get two copies of: *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Moby Dick*, *A Separate Piece*, or one of the other classics. Read one of these books together with your teen. After each chapter summarize what's going on in the story. Talk about the message or central theme your teen senses though-out the book. **Note:** Many books which are considered classics come with discussion questions at the end of chapters or the end of the book.

**Get Your Teen Interested in Biographies** – Naturally during high school, a teenager begins to think about the college he wants to attend, and the profession he wants to pursue. Find a biography of someone who has been successful in the field your teen is interested in and read this biography with them.

**Plan a Field Trip** – Schedule a trip to a major library and take a tour. Your teen will come away with a better appreciation of books.

These are just a few ways parents can keep their children read and enjoy reading throughout the summer.

Make an effort, parents, to keep your children reading throughout the summer and you'll see the benefits in their academic achievement.

For more literacy tips, visit Carol Fraser Boles at [www.carolfraserboles.com](http://www.carolfraserboles.com)