



12 Tips for Summer Reading

From Banyan Tree Learning Center

School may be out for summer, but studies have shown that taking a break from reading can have a significant impact when students return to the classroom in the fall. For some students — especially those already at risk — a summer off can mean the loss of 6-9 months progress, putting a child behind from the first day of school. The key to preventing learning loss over summer break is simple — it's **reading regularly**. Setting aside as little as 15 minutes each day for reading will make all the difference. Parents play a critical role in helping children follow through on this commitment during the summer months.

Here are some tips from Read Naturally, for getting children engaged in, and excited about, reading this summer:

- 1 Involve the child in choosing appropriate material** — Taking ownership increases motivation, so find books or magazines based on their hobbies and interests. Make sure the material is at a reading level that is challenging, but not frustrating.
- 2 Make a date with a librarian** — Librarians will help locate books based on interests and reading ability. Check out your library for summer reading programs and a huge supply of great books.
- 3 Lead by example** — Actions speak louder than words so let your child see you reading the newspaper or curling up with a good book. For younger readers, go ahead and read together with you reading a page and them reading the next.
- 4 See reading everywhere** — Show how important reading is in everyday life by asking them to read the recipe while you make something together or read signs as you go about your day.
- 5 Set goals, chart progress** — Setting and meeting goals increases pride and confidence. To keep track of comprehension, visit www.bookadventures.com where kids can answer questions about the books they read and get points that can be redeemed for prizes.
- 6 Learn, listen, and discuss** — Asking good questions shows interest and helps the child read for meaning. Instead of "Did you like the book?," use open ended questions like "Which character did you like the best and why?" or "How would you describe the book to someone who didn't read it?"
- 7 Create a book-of-the-month for your child** — Send them a book anonymously once a month. Kids love getting mail and will see it as a present instead of a chore. This is a great way for grandparents to get involved.
- 8 Read the book, then see the movie** — Use the excitement of an upcoming movie to get them to read the book. Then see the movie and discuss the differences between the two versions. They'll quickly learn that books are better. This can be done with videos as well.
- 9 Bring books while you hit the highway** — Books are terrific because they are portable and don't need any batteries or wires. Audio books are also great for getting kids to see the value in the great stories found in books.
- 10 Give TV a timeout** — According to a U.S. Department of Education study, the average kindergarten student has spent more than 5,000 hours watching television. Cutting down on TV time will create more time for your child to tune into reading.
- 11 Have a Bookshare** — Get a group of kids and adults to read a book of their choice and then get together and have everyone share their book and what they liked about it. Then swap books so everyone goes home with a different book.
- 12 Reach out for resources** — There are plenty of wonderful reading programs, book lists, and advice out there. Seek out teachers, librarians, community education, and the internet for ideas and assistance. If your child really struggles in any aspect of reading, from decoding new words to comprehension, seek professional help **THIS SUMMER FOR SUCCESS IN THE FALL!**