

A Publication of

Banyan Tree Learning Centers

Building Foundations for Learning

Summer 2007



8 Weeks of Summer Reading Adventures For You and Your Kids

It's not hard to help your children keep their interest in reading and learning during the summer break. Here are eight weeks of suggestions to encourage your children to open books even after school doors close. Children acquire skills throughout the school year, but they can lose ground if learning stops during the summer break. Fortunately, learning

never has to stop. Children who read throughout the summer gain skills, can start the new school year with a better understanding of language and the world around them, and discover the joy of reading. The more they like to read, the more they will read. It's not hard to help your children keep their interest in reading and learning. Children learn through a variety of activities, and almost everything we do presents an opportunity to read. When you're eating breakfast, read

the cereal box; if you're in a restaurant, read the menu. Read the newspaper with your children and discuss what's happening in the world. **Reading every day, even if it's just a few minutes, improves children's ability to read and learn all year long.** Here are 8 weeks of activities that involve reading and related skills. There's no special order, and you don't have to do everything listed in a particular week. Just pick the ones that look interesting and fun!

Continued on page 2

Excerpted from "Summertime Reading Adventures: A Guide for Parents," [Reading Is Fundamental](#), 2001

- Banyan Tree offers:**
- Assessment and diagnosis
 - Remediation of dyslexia, LD, processing skills
 - Instruction in reading, writing, spelling, and math
 - Homework help
 - On-line classes or homeschool classes
 - IEP assistance/guidance

What if Reading is NOT Fun?

Maryanne Wolf, Director of the Center for Reading and Language Research at Tufts University says "**reading is not a natural act.** The human brain was never made to read. Out of 100 children, 30 to 40 are going to have a harder time. **Ten to 20 of them are going to have a very difficult time.** Many will come from homes where there's a lot of care, nurturing and enough money to get them good tutoring twice a week for **three years.**

But they'll make it."
If your child is struggling with reading, call **Banyan Tree Learning Center** to find out the reason for the problem and how to correct it. Summer is a great time to work **intensively** to really make a difference for next year!
Call 858-578-6616 in Mira Mesa or 619-226-6171 in Point Loma.
www.banyantlc.com

Week 1: Celebrate Summer



Write a list of things you want to do this summer. Don't forget to include reading!

Make a chart to keep track of all the books you read this summer.

Write down on your calendar the time the sun sets today.

Start a summer scrapbook. Include souvenirs of any trips you take, photos, ticket stubs, and projects you work on during the summer.

List all the books by your favorite author. See how many you can read

this summer.

Swap books with a friend. Keep sharing books throughout summer.

Take a walk. Write about or draw the things you see that show summer is here.

Week 2: Stay in Touch



Make a personal phone book. List phone numbers and addresses of your friends and relatives.

Design your own stationery and write a letter to a friend.

Start a journal with a friend or relative. Take turns writing in it all summer long.

You can even do this by mail or e-mail.

Write a letter to your favorite author. A librarian can help you find a postal or e-mail address.

Draw a picture post card of an imaginary place. On the back, write a message. Mail it to a

friend or relative or put it in your scrapbook.

The first U.S. postage stamps were designed in 1847. Be a philatelist. Design your own stamp.

Word game! Invent a code (A=1, B=2, for example). Send a message in code to a friend.

Week 3: Discover Recipes for Fun



List all the ice cream flavors you can think of. Now put them in A-BC order.

Invent a recipe for a cool summer drink. Write it on a recipe card. Serve the drink to your friends.

Go to the library and find a cookbook. Make the most interesting dish in the book.

Read the directions on a box of gelatin. Ask a parent if you can help make dessert tonight.

☺ Work up an appetite

by reading a story about food. Make and eat the food you read about.

Word game! How many smaller words can you find in the word *watermelon*? *ice cream*? *spaghetti*?

Week 4: Travel the World

If you are going on a family vacation this summer, read about your trip. Mark your travel route on a map.

Pretend you are going to visit another city, state, or country with a friend or relative. Write to the tourist bureau for more informa-

tion. If you plan to visit a foreign country, write to the embassy. Visit the library and find books about the place you want to visit. Or search online for information. Plan your itinerary – and don't forget to check the weather!

Pick an important news event from another city, state, or country. Find as much information on the topic as possible – read newspapers, listen to the radio, and watch TV news. Talk about what you learned.

Look for out-of-state license plates.



Make a list of the state names and slogans. Decide which ones you like the best. Ask friends which are their favorites.

Week 5: Enjoy the Great Outdoors

Pick wildflowers and press them between the pages of a heavy book until the end of summer.

Plan a backyard camping trip with a friend. List all the things you will need to survive.

Plan a family 'booknic' at your favorite outdoor spot, such as the beach, a park, or the woods. Pack lunch and plenty to read.

Collect shells at the beach or rocks along a trail. Use a nature guide to identify them.

Find something small enough to put in your pocket. Write a story about it.

Look for shapes and designs in the clouds. Draw them.

Word game! Make a list of words to describe fireworks.



Week 6: Visit Fun Places

An animal has escaped from the zoo! Make up a story about it.

Make a list of zoo animals. Sort them by different categories, such as type of animal (mammals, fish, etc.) or coloring (green, brown, striped, etc.).

Visit the zoo with friends or relatives and find the animals on your list.

Visit a museum or historical building with friends or relatives. Write a list of things you see that you didn't

expect.

Word game! Think of the softest animal or the oldest thing you've ever touched. Write a poem about it, but don't use the word *soft* or *old*.





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8 Weeks of Summer Reading Ideas!

**Where to get help
when reading is hard!**

Week 7: Become a Publisher



Make your own joke book. Collect jokes and riddles from your family and friends.

Cut out pictures from an old magazine or catalog. Write a

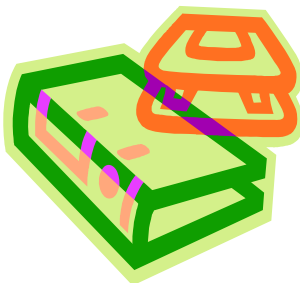
story about them.

Create a rebus story (a story that uses pictures to represent words). Write a short story, and then substitute pictures (that you

draw or cut out) for some of the words.

Start a round-robin story. Write the beginning, then ask friends to add to it until it has an ending.

Week 8: Honor Summer's End



Remember the wildflowers you pressed between the pages of a heavy book? Remove them, and put them in your

summer scrapbook or paste them on heavy paper to make a bookmark.

Review the chart you made to track the books you read this

summer. Pick new books to read.

Notice what time the sun sets today. Compare it to the time the sun set during *week one*.