

Five strategies can keep children reading through summer months

Students who don't read over the summer months lose an average of two to three months of growth in reading skills. Those who keep reading often experience gains.

The more your child reads, the easier reading will be for her—and the more she'll want to read. See that your child reads 30 minutes every day.

Try these activities to make reading enjoyable:

1. Read the newspaper together. Give your child the comics to read. Ask her which one's the funniest. Discuss sports, the weather, letters to the editor, travel destinations, etc.
2. Read aloud together. You read a line or page of a book. Then your child does. Or you read the narrative. Let your child read the dialogue—what characters say.
3. Dramatize what you read. Select a simple scene from one of your child's books. Assign character roles. Discuss what happens first, second, next. Then act it out, adding lots of dialogue.
4. Promote practical reading. Ask your child to read a recipe while you bake cookies. Involve her in reading instructions to build or repair something.
5. Create reading-related jobs. Ask your child to recopy damaged recipes. She could also organize the family bookshelf or DVD collection in alphabetical order.

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