

Reading Tips for Parents

1. Read aloud together with your child every day.

Make it fun by reading outdoors on the front steps, patio, at the beach or park. Read to your child and let them read to you.

2. Set a good example!

Parents must be willing to model behavior for their children. Turn off the TV and have each person read his or her book, including mom and dad. Decide on a time (e.g. 20 minutes) for the whole family to read their own books together in the same space. This may be looking at pictures for little ones. Keep lots of reading material around your home.

3. Pair books with activities

Read the book before seeing a movie or even after it. Find non-fiction books around activities that your child is interested in and read to learn the 'how to' as well as to encourage and validate their enthusiasm.

4. Read the same book your child is reading and discuss it.

This is the way to develop capacity for thought and insight and provide joint discussion around literature.

5. Let kids choose what they want to read including graphic novels/books and picture books.

Being too prescriptive with what kids read over the summer will only discourage the reading habit.

6. Buy books on tape or take out from your local library

Listen to them in the car, or turn off the TV and have the family listen to them together.

7. Take your children to the library regularly.

Most libraries sponsor summer reading clubs with easy-to-reach goals for preschool and school-age children. Check the library calendar for special summer reading activities and events. Libraries also provide age appropriate lists for summer reading.

8. Subscribe, in your child's name, to magazines like *Sports Illustrated for Kids*, or *National Geographic World*.

Encourage older children to read the newspaper and current events magazines to keep up the reading habit over the summer and develop vocabulary. Ask them what they think about what they've read, and listen to what they say.

9. Make trips a way to encourage reading by reading aloud traffic signs, billboards, notices.

Show your children how to read a map, and once you are on the road, let them take turns being the navigator.

10. Encourage children to keep a summer scrapbook.

Tape in souvenirs of your family's summer activities picture postcards, ticket stubs, photos. Have your children write the captions and read them and read them aloud as you look at the book together.