



Catch the
Summer Reading
BUZZ!

Quick Tips for Parents— to Encourage Summer Reading!

Trading Books

One way to stretch your book budget and get your hands on more books is to swap books with other families and friends.

Keeping Track

Have everyone in the family keep a reading log. Set a goal and then celebrate when the magic number of books has been achieved.

Books for Breakfast

With summer's more leisurely pace, reading to your kids just doesn't have to be a bedtime task. Try reading to your children after breakfast or some other time of the day.

Stay Up Late

Extend bedtime to allow more time for reading during the holidays.

Reading on the Go

Look for interesting signs, licence plates from different states and other printed material when you are walking or travelling in a car, train or bus.

Get Organised

Summer is a great time to get your children's books organised.

Here's a simple SOS process:

Sort – decide what to keep

Organise – by author? by topic? – arrange books in a way that works for you.

Share – find ways to give used books to libraries, schools or others who can use them.

Be a Good Sport

Sport inspires not only health and fitness, but also reading. Encourage kids to keep track of favourite teams by reading news stories and also by reading and collecting trading cards.



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Play a Board Game

Get a new board game for the family and have your child read the instructions then explain to everyone how to play it.

Visit a Museum

Museums are fun places to see, learn and read. When visiting a museum, an aquarium or a zoo, be sure to read all of the signs.

Be a Word Watcher

Encourage your child to find interesting words and to share them with the rest of the family.

Ha! Ha! Ha!

Who doesn't like to laugh? Joke books, the funny pages and humorous stories may not make good reading for book reports, but they are great for summer reading. Encourage your child to share the jokes that they read.

Sing

Songs make great reading text. Encourage kids to read the lyrics of the songs they like (and that you approve of). Also, look for books based on songs to read and use for sing-a-longs.

Write

Writing is the flipside of reading; when you write you also improve your reading. Encourage your kids to pick up a pencil, pen or use the computer to do word puzzles and crosswords. Also, they may keep a summer journal; write postcards and letters, and stories and poems.

Start a Summer Book Collection

Just like collecting rocks or seashells, collect books with summer themes. Put them in a fun box or container and take them out to celebrate summer. It is also fun to pull these books out of storage in the middle of winter as a surprise and to think about warmer days ahead.



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What's News?

Your children can keep up on the news of the day by reading magazines and newspapers. Try to watch the news together and talk about it.

Start a Series – Bet You Can't Read Just One

If you can match the right child to the right book in a series, the reading habit will grow. Your child's teacher, a librarian or a bookseller can advise you on popular series.

Join the Club

Reading doesn't have to be a solo activity—sharing the reading experience can be fun and rewarding. You can have your child read with other kids in the neighbourhood or a few classmates, then host a book club party.

It's Showtime!

Many movies are released in the summer and many more are available on DVD and Blue Ray. Reading the book and seeing the movie are a winning combination when it comes to getting kids to read and talk about books. It is a good idea to read the book first and then see the movie.

Picture This

Remember the comic books you read? Today's graphic texts are a big leap from yesterday's comics and they still hold great appeal. Your child may want to try some of these new illustrated texts or read some of the same comics you did.

Play with Your Books

Find craft and activity books and encourage your child to adopt a hobby or to continue with one. Following written directions and reading up on a special interest makes reading purposeful and fun.



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Read and Rhyme Time

Put poetry on your summer reading schedule. It is fun to read aloud. Maybe you can even get your child to memorise a poem or two during the summer. How does that help with reading? Your child will have to read the poem over and over again to remember it.

Cook with Books

It doesn't have to be a special occasion to cook something interesting and delicious—and to read with purpose. Older kids may be able to help out by fixing family meals or snacks and younger ones can read recipes and follow directions with you.

Think Outside the Book

Don't forget that magazines, newspapers, game directions or any printed material can motivate your child and add variety to their reading experience.

Keeping Track

Maybe your library or community centre has a reading incentive program—keeping track of books read with stickers and listening to books read out loud may be part of a summer reading program in your area. You can do the same thing at home by making a chart and helping your child make a list of books read.

