



What Every Parent of An Elementary Child Needs to Know

Did you know that your child may be a victim of summer reading loss? Students can lose up to three months' worth of reading progress over one summer. And, if you take into consideration all summers combined, students could possibly lose 1.5 years' worth of reading progress. Summer reading loss can be defeated through time spent reading with your child, providing a variety of reading material, using various Internet resources, and encouraging your child to just read for fun and the pleasure of learning!

You can protect your child against summer reading loss by:

- Reading to your child daily
- Reading a lot of different materials
- Discussing what you've read together
- Asking your child questions about what was read
- Encouraging your child to write or draw in response to what they've read

Every Question Counts!

Part of continual literacy progress is learning how to think as you read. Asking questions supports learning how to think. Examples of some questions you might ask your child before, during, or after they read might be:

- What was it all about?
- What do you think will happen next?
- Does this make you wonder about anything?
- What was your favorite part of the story?
- What did you learn?
- How did the characters change over time?
- What was the problem in the story?
- What was the solution?



Every Word Counts!

Part of continual reading progress is learning new words. You can help your students learn new words by:

- Stopping every once in a while and taking a few moments to talk about the meaning of a word.
- For example, you and your child read the word "avoid" in a story, and you comment, "This is an important word. You will see this often, so it's important to
 - know what it means. It means to stay away from something. For example, Goldilocks will avoid the three bears' house from now on."
- Afterwards, frequently using the word you read and talked about helps your child to remember a new word. It might sound like this: "Suzie, avoid leaving the front door open." And then, again, later: "Suzie, what are some ways that you can avoid making your little brother angry?"

"Students say that the number one reason why they do not read more is because they cannot find books they like to read" (Kids and Family Reading Report, June 2006, Scholastic/Yankelovich)

There are an array of reading materials and activities that can assist parents with keeping your children motivated to read during the summer and prevent reading loss from occurring.

Here is a list of resources that can help:

Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) Resources:

"Find a Book, Florida" (http://florida.lexile.com) is a free online book search utility that helps users build custom reading lists based on their reading ability level and interests or school assignments. By providing this utility, students and their families will have greater access to more ability-appropriate/targeted reading options year round.

- Summer Recommended Reading List: http://www.justreadfamilies.org/ provides lists of books by grade bands that students are sure to enjoy over the summer.
- Sample recommended reading list by district, including county library links by district for more information about summer activities offered in the area: http://www.justreadfamilies.org/reading/
- Reading Tips for Parents: http://www.justreadfamilies.org/gettingstarted/
- K-5 Summer Activities Calendar- (a month's worth of daily activities for your child to do this summer, Summer Reading Activities Kit (creative ideas for fun summer reading parents and children can do together while on vacation, at home, or on the road), and other links for parents: http://www.justreadfamilies.org/greatideas/
 - Kid-friendly websites for ages 2 and up that develop reading skills through word games, story times: http://www.justreadfami-lies.org/kids/

Other Resources:

- Reading Rockets http://www.readingrockets.org/calendar/summer offers a wealth of reading strategies, lessons, and activities designed to help young children learn how to read and read better. The reading resources assist parents, teachers, and other educators in helping students build fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension skills.
- Reading is Fundamental sets out to motivate young children to read by working with them, their parents, and community members to make reading a fun and beneficial part of everyday life. Reading is Fundamental's (RIF) highest priority is reaching children from birth to age eight: http://www.rif.org/
- SummerReads offers free texts aimed at "getting students ready" for a particular grade level in the fall—third, fourth and fifth: http://www.textproject.org/products/summerreads/

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Parents need to consider taking advantage of public library summer reading programs as research indicates these programs can enhance student achievement. Below are two web sites which highlight research on summer reading and its effects on student achievement.

New York State Library Summer Reading Program

(http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/summer/research.htm)

This is a compendium of research and resources which shows the effectiveness of summer reading programs in assisting with student achievement and the public library's role.

Let's Read. Let's Move. Strong Minds

(http://www.serve.gov/?q=site-page/lrlm)

U.S. Department of Education sponsored this program designed to encourage students to read during the summer months and to help prevent fall-off in reading skills during vacation months.

Make Summer Reading Fun!

Summer reading is different from reading during the school year. It should be less structured and much more informal. Summer reading should emphasize:

- student interest to keep students motivated to read
- wide-reading to help students learn the meanings of new words

Scheduling time for reading on a daily basis throughout the summer helps support your child's reading development. Make reading a priority this summer for yourself and your students.







Summer Recommended Reading List

Just Read, Florida! 2015 Summer Recommended Reading List

Grades K-3

- A Day in the Life of Murphy, Alice Provensen
- A Drop of Water: A Book of Science and Wonder, Walter Wick
- Actual Size, Steve Jenkins
- Ants, Melissa Stewart
- Ape Escapes!: And More True Stories of Animals Behaving Badly, Aline Alexander Newman
- Aunt Flossie's Hats, Elizabeth Fitzgerald Howard
- Benny and Penny in the Big No-No!, Geoffrey Hayes
- Big Wolf and Little Wolf, Nadine Brun-Cosme
- **Buffy the Burrowing Owl**, Betty Gilbert
- **Buster**, Denise Fleming
- Christian, the Hugging Lion, Justine Richardson and Peter Parnell
- Count Down to Fall, Fran Hawk
- Daddy & I, Eloise Greenfield
- **Deep in the Swamp**, Donna Bateman
- **Diary of a Worm,** Doreen Cronin
- **Dino-Dinners**, Mick Manning and Brita Granstrom
- Discovery in the Cave, Mark Dubowski
- Flat Stanley, Jeff Brown
- Fly Danny, Fly, Chip Gilbertson, Gina Restivo, and Michelle Kendrich
- Frog and Toad Together, Arnold Lobel
- Gracias *Thanks, Pat More
- Hi! Fly Guy, Tedd Arnold
- Hot City, Barbara Joosse
- How People Learned to Fly, Fran Hodgkins and True Kelley
- How to Eat Fried Worms, Thomas Rockwell
- I Always, Always Get My Way, Thad Krasnesky
- Iggy Peck Architect, Andrea Beaty and David Roberts
- Jitterbug Jam, Barbara Jean Hicks
- **Leaf Jumpers,** Carole Gerber
- Little Melba and Her Big Trombone, Katheryn Russell-Brown and Frank Morrison
- Little Skink's Tail, Janet Halfmann
- My Name is Yoon, Helen Recorvits
- No, David!, David Shannon
- Noisy Paint Box, Barb Rosenstock and Mary GrandPre
- Ocean Hide and Seek, Jennifer Evans Kramer

- Polar Slumber, Dennis Rockhill
- **Poppleton in Winter,** Cynthia Rylant
- River of Dreams: The Story of the Hudson River, Hudson Talbott
- Rosie Revere Engineer, Andrea Beaty and David Roberts
- She Sang Promise: The Story of Betty Mae Jumper, Seminole Tribal Leader, J.G. Annino
- Sheep in a Jeep, Nancy Shaw
- The BFG, Roald Dahl
- The Chicken Sisters, Laura Joffe Numeroff
- The Most Magnificent Thing, Ashley Spires
- The Napping House, Audrey and Dan Wood
- The Secret Olivia Told Me, N. Joy
- The Story of Ruby Bridges, Robert Coles
- Twas the Day Before Zoo Day, Catherine Ipcizade
- What Do You Do With a Tail Like This?, Steve Jenkins and Robin Page
- What Pet Should I Get?, Dr. Seuss
- Wonder Horse, Emily Arnold McCully

Grades 4-5

- A Faraway Island, Annika Thor
- A History of US, Joy Hakim
- A Nest for Celeste: A Story About Art, Inspiration, and the Meaning of Home, Henry Cole
- A Snicker of Magic, Natalie Lloyd
- Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, Lewis Carroll
- AQUIFERioius, Margaret Ross Tolbert
- Bad News for Outlaws: The Remarkable Life of Bass Reeves, Deputy U.S. Marshal, Vaunda Micheaux Nelson
- Bud, Not Buddy, Christopher Paul Curtis
- Chasing Redbird, Sharon Creech
- Dare to Dream! Carl Sommer
- Discovering Mars, Melvin Berger
- Do Not Open: An Encyclopedia of the World's Best-Kept Secrets, John Farndon
- Dog Diaries: Secret Writings of the WOOF Society, Betsy Byars, Betsy Duffey, and Laurie Myers
- **Eidi**, Bodil Bredsdorff
- Elijah of Buxton, Christopher Paul Curtis
- Extreme Pets! Jane Harrington
- Heroes for My Son, Brad Meltzer
- Hurricanes: Earth's Mightiest Storms, Patricia Lauber
- Inside Out & Back Again, Thanhha Lai
- Island of the Blue Dolphins, Scott O'Dell
- Jason and Elihu, Shelley Frazer Mickle

- Just Being Audrey, Margaret Cardillo
- Life Under Ice, Mary M. Cerullo
- My Side of the Mountain, Jean Craighead George
- Number the Stars, Lois Lowry
- Princess Academy, Shannon Hale
- Quest for the Tree Kangaroo, Sy Montgomery
- Riddle-iculous Math, Joan Holub
- Sarah, Plain and Tall, Patricia MacLachlan
- Search for the Shadowman, Joan Lowery Nixon
- See What You Can Be: Explore Careers That Could Be for You! Diane Heiman, and Liz Suneby
- The Birchbark House, Louise Erdrich
- The Black Stallion, Walter Farley
- The Indian in the Cupboard, Lynne Reid Banks
- The Underneath, Kathi Appelt
- This One Summer, Mariko Tamaki
- Viva Frida, Yuyi Morales
- Where the Mountain Meets the Moon, Grace Lin
- Whittington, Alan Armstrong
- Who Has Seen the Wind? Christina G. Rossetti
- Zlateh the Goat, Isaac Bashevis Singer



Dear Parent,

Research shows that most children lose 2-3 months of math learning over the summer. We're delighted to inform you about a free program offered by TenMarks, an Amazon Company that will provide your child with access to a powerful, personalized summer math program designed to help them reverse summer learning loss.

The program is called TenMarks Summer Math Program and here is how it works.

- 1. You can visit http://summer.tenmarks.com to pre-register for the program.
- Before summer break, you'll receive an email with instructions on how to get started.
- 3. At the start of the program, your child will receive a short diagnostic assessment based on the grade s/he is completing.
- The assessment will be automatically graded and TenMarks will create a
 personalized program designed to prepare your child for the upcoming year.
- 5. You can create custom rewards to keep your child motivated pizza, ice cream, or a trip to the zoo! It's all up to you!

An hour a week is all it takes for your child to strengthen his/her math skills, and prepare for the year ahead. The TenMarks Summer Math Program will guide your child through their personalized program, one topic at a time, helping them refresh what they know, and learn what they don't. Each assignment contains embedded instruction (hints, video lessons, and interventions) to ensure success.

The 3-month program starts at the end of May. To get started, pre-register at http://summer.tenmarks.com.

Let's say goodbye to summer learning loss!

Sincerely,





Reverse Summer Learning Loss

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