

Making Summer Reading Count

Simple, Joyful Ways to Keep Kids Reading All Summer

Summer is a time for adventure, rest, and making memories, and books can be part of all of it. While children deserve a break from school, regular reading helps them maintain the literacy skills they built throughout the year. Research shows that when children are not regularly engaging with reading, they can lose up to 20% of their school-year reading gains over the summer, a phenomenon often referred to as the "summer slide" (Borman & Yang, 2025). The good news is that reading doesn't have to feel like schoolwork to make a difference. Just a few minutes of enjoyable reading each day can help children maintain their skills, build confidence, and discover the joy of reading all summer long.

- **Build Excitement Around Books.** Help make reading feel like one of the highlights of summer. Visit the library or bookstore together, let your child choose books that match their interests, and create a cozy place to read at home or outside. Starting the summer with a few new books can build excitement and encourage children to see reading as something they look forward to.
- **Make Reading Part of Everyday Routines:** Reading doesn't have to happen at a desk or on a strict schedule. Find natural moments throughout the day to enjoy books together, whether it's before bed, during breakfast, while waiting for an appointment, relaxing at the park, or traveling. Even reading for 10 to 20 minutes each day can make a meaningful difference over the course of the summer.
- **Follow Your Child's Interest:** Children are more likely to read when they get to choose what they read. Whether your child enjoys graphic novels, comics, magazines, nonfiction books, audiobooks, or traditional chapter books, every type of reading helps build literacy skills. The most important thing is helping children discover books they genuinely enjoy.
- **Talk About What You Read:** Reading becomes even more meaningful when families share conversations about books. After reading together, ask simple questions like, "What was your favorite part?" or "Which character would you like to meet?" Sharing thoughts, making predictions, and connecting stories to everyday life strengthens comprehension while making reading a fun family experience.

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- **Use Technology to Support Reading:** Technology can expand children's access to books and create new opportunities to read. Audiobooks are perfect for road trips, while digital books and interactive reading platforms can provide engaging ways to enjoy stories at home or on the go. When used thoughtfully, technology can complement shared reading experiences.
- **Celebrate Reading All Summer Long:** Celebrating reading helps children stay motivated and proud of their progress. Keep a simple reading log, draw pictures inspired by favorite books, create a family display of books you've enjoyed, or set fun reading challenges together. Focus on celebrating the habit of reading rather than the number of books completed.

Keep the Reading Adventure Going!

RIF's **Summer Reading Camp** offers free book recommendations, printable activities, reading challenges, family resources, and engaging literacy activities for children from early childhood through middle school. Explore these free resources and keep the reading adventure going all summer long at [rif.org/summer](https://www.rif.org/summer)

*Adapted from the RIF blog [Making Summer Reading Count: Joyful Ways Families Can Keep Kids Engaged](#)

*This tip sheet is available in other languages. Find them at **rif.org**.

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