



Summer Reading

It is important that your child read during the summer to maintain reading skills gained during the school year. At the same time, summer is a break from busy schedules and required reading. Children should have the freedom to select what they read, and if they haven't already, discover the pleasure of reading for enjoyment. In order to build fluency, your child should read books at his or her reading level. (See the "Suggested Reading List" on the PTSA website.)

Here are some ideas to make summer reading a pleasurable and worthwhile experience:

- Help your child set aside time each day for reading. It helps if you help your child create a routine by choosing the same time and place each day. Be creative! For example, your child could read outside on a blanket during the afternoon.
- Read aloud to your child. Select a book a few grade levels above your child's reading level. Children of all ages benefit from this activity! Reading aloud offers wonderful benefits including opportunities to increase vocabulary and comprehension and time for parents to discuss books and bond with their children.
- Start a book club with other children your child's age. Each child can read the same book and then get together as a group to discuss it. For more information, go to KidsRead.com: <http://www.kidsreads.com/clubs/index.asp>
- Have your child participate in the King County Library's Summer Reading program: <http://www.kcls.org/srp/>
- Have your child listen to books on tape (thousands of CDs are available at the King County Library).
- Encourage your child to write letters to authors.
- Have your child write and post a book review on Amazon.com or write a book review for a library or book store.
- Take your child to the summer weekly story times at public libraries.
- Encourage your child to write a letter to a new teacher about a favorite book.
- Have your child practice looking up words in a dictionary.

Other helpful resources:

- Barnes and Noble's Summer Reading program:
<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/summerreading/>
- The KCLS kids page (includes grade-specific book lists): <http://www.kcls.org/kids>
- The KCLS parents page: <http://www.kcls.org/parents>
- The Seattle Public Library kids page:
http://www.spl.org/default.asp?pageID=audience_children
- The UW Bookstore kids page:
<http://www.bookstore.washington.edu/staff.taf?dept=staffpgs&category=kids&tli=kids&par=trade&page=1>
- Island Books' children book page: <http://www.mercerislandbooks.com/children.html>
- BCC's Summer Reading Skills program: <http://bcc.readingprograms.org/>
- Cricket magazines for children: <http://www.cricketmag.com/home.asp>
- ALA Newbery and Caldecott Award lists:
<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/newberymedal/newberymedal.cfm>
<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/caldecottmedal/caldecottmedal.cfm>
- Lists of books for boys: <http://www.kidsreads.com/features/great-books-boys.asp>
- Ideas to help your child keep on reading during the summer:
http://www.rif.org/parents/articles/what_can_families_do.msp
- Family ideas for summer reading: <http://www.eduguide.org/Parents-Library/Family-Ideas-for-Summer-Reading-288.aspx>
- The New York Times Children's Bestseller List:
<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/05/24/books/bestseller/bestchildren.html>
- A website that supports the teaching of comprehension and phonics to kindergarten through second graders: <http://www.starfall.com>

Links to Bookstores:

- Secret Garden:
http://www.secretgardenbooks.com/NASApp/store/IndexJsp;jsessionid=bacB6R_MliDReYJewpfs?s=storepicks
- Queen Anne:
<http://www.queenannebooks.com/NASApp/store/IndexJsp?s=storebargains>
- Powell's: <http://www.powells.com/psection/ChildrensMiddleReaders.html>
- Chinaberry: <http://www.chinaberry.com/cat.cfm/pgc/11300>
- Half-Price Books summer reading program & reading tips for kids:
http://halfpricebooks.com/feed_your_brain.html
- <http://www.amazon.com>