



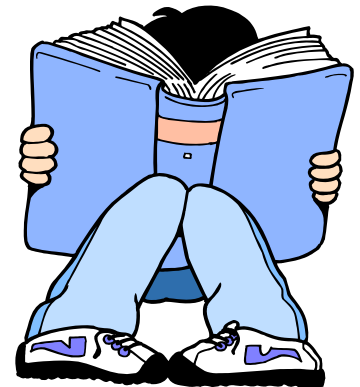
Congratulations! Your child has just completed a wonderful year of school! Your son/daughter has learned what strong readers do. Although every child develops at different intervals along their reading journey, the habit of reading daily is important to continue throughout the summer months to avoid reading loss.

Summer reading loss refers to the decline in children's reading development that can occur during summer vacation times when children are away from the classroom and not participating in formal literacy programs (Allington & McGill-Franzen, 2003). Of all the activities in which children engage outside of school, time spent actually reading is the best predictor of reading achievement—***the more students read, the better readers they become*** (Allington, 2006).

The value placed on literacy in the home, time spent reading with children, and the availability and use of reading materials have been identified as important elements in children's reading success (Snow, Burns, & Griffin, 1998). Parents can look for books and magazines which appeal to the interests of the child. Parents should create a positive climate for reading so that children look forward to reading. While on the way to a favorite place or waiting for an appointment, children can read. Make regular visits to the library and encourage children to explore different reading materials. Books that seem slightly below a child's reading level or books that have become "old favorites" can help a reader build confidence and fluency.

HERE ARE SOME ADDITIONAL LITERACY TIPS:

- ◇ Sing songs, say short poems or nursery rhymes, and play rhyming word games with your child.
- ◇ Tell stories to your child.
- ◇ Have books, magazines, and newspapers around the house. Let your child see you reading.
- ◇ When watching television, have the captioning feature enabled so that the children view the words while hearing them performed aloud.
- ◇ Talk to your child about what he/she is reading. Ask open-ended questions such as "What do you think about that story?" "What would you have done if you were that character?"
- ◇ Visit the public library. Help your child get his/her own library card.
- ◇ Read to your child regularly, even after your child is able to read books independently.
- ◇ Set reasonable limits for television viewing.



Happy Reading!

References

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