

Did you know...



During the summer our schedules change and routines are sometimes harder to keep. It is important to keep reading, talking, singing, writing, and playing with your child so their early literacy skills can continue to grow. Studies show that children who do not continue reading routines over the summer can *lose* many of the skills they developed during the school year. Look for programs at your library or in the community that will be fun and provide opportunities for your kindergartner to learn.

Be sure to sign-up for summer reading at the library, where prizes can be earned for reading with your child. Most libraries offer storytimes, and you can meet other parents and let your child play. This year's theme is "Build a Better World."

Here's how...

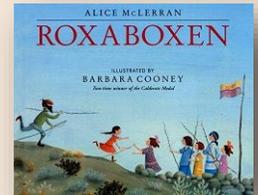


- ✦ Choose a quiet spot for you and your child to read aloud 15 – 20 minutes each day.
- ✦ Take books and writing supplies with you when you leave home so that your child can read and write wherever you go.
- ✦ Get your child (or family) a library card at your local public library. It's free for most people. Some libraries offer free summer cards for those who live out of the taxing district.
- ✦ Let your child pick out books they enjoy even if you have to read the same books over and over. When children choose books they enjoy, they love to learn reading and become better readers when they start school.
- ✦ Check out audiobooks from the library (see page 2).

Read

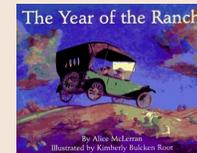
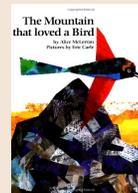


Roxaboxen, by Alice McLerran, illustrated by Barbara Cooney

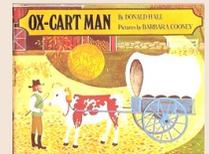
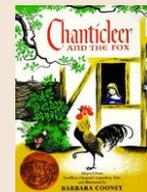
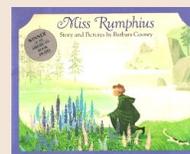


With a little imagination, Marian and friends make a magical place in the desert. Using sticks for horses and crates and rocks to build a town, the children find no limits to what they might dream up.

More books by Alice McLerran



More books illustrated by Barbara Cooney



Choose Books



"Build a Better World" with these books:

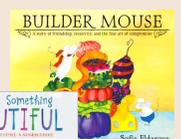
Builder Mouse, by Sofia Eldarova

Iggy Peck, Architect by Andrea Beaty

Maybe Something Beautiful: How Art Transformed a Neighborhood, by F. Isabel Campoy & Theresa Howell

Mr. King's Machine, by Geneviève Côté

Billions of Bricks, by Kurt Cyrus



Talk



Some kindergarteners begin reading independently at this time of year. Though it is important for your child to maintain some reading practice over the summer, it is also very important that they continue to have stories read to them. Read aloud with your child every day, and play audiobooks so your child can listen to stories in the car, during “toes up” time, or when you are not able to read aloud yourself. Children learn a lot about reading by listening, especially about how words and phrasing sound (fluency). Ask your child questions about the stories they are listening to.

Write



Summer is a great time for your child to keep a diary or journal. Let her write about something fun she did, a favorite book, a place she visited. Let her write the sounds she hears in the words, and don't worry about spelling things correctly, unless she asks for help. Encourage her to draw pictures as well.



Play



Make a Box City

Collect clean containers for a few weeks, such as cereal and other food boxes, plastic tubs, egg cartons, and shoe boxes, and let your child build a city with them. Cover them with paper, if you wish, and let your child draw windows and doors, then label what the building is.



Sing



The More We Get Together

The more we get together,
together, together.
The more we get together,
the happier we'll be.
'Cause your friends are my friends,
and my friends are your friends.
The more we get together,
the happier we'll be!

Additional verses:

The more we play together...
The more we dance together...
The more we build together...
The more we talk together...
Make up your own!

Hear this song at <https://kidsongs.com/lyrics/the-more-we-get-together.html/>

At your library...



Libraries are helping young children develop science, technology, engineering, and mathematics skills. Contact your library to learn more about STEM programs, and be sure to visit www.stemgame.lili.org for a fun online game to play with your child!