Summer Reading

Repeated studies show that over the summer months most children lose some of the reading gains they made throughout the school year. You can help prevent this set-back!

**SIX EASY WAYS TO GET YOUR KIDS TO READ THIS SUMMER**

1. Get your child a library card at your local public library. It’s **free**! And many libraries offer free summer cards for those who live out of the district.

2. Keep a list on the refrigerator of the books everyone has read during the summer.

3. Encourage your child to read every day. Take advantage of “waiting” time to share books: on trips, at the doctor’s office, in line at the grocery store.

4. Set a good example: read on your own and talk to your child about what you’re reading.

5. Have books everywhere – in the car, in front of the TV, in the kitchen, on the porch...

6. Sign your child up for this year’s summer reading program at your library. When children read what they enjoy, they learn to love reading and become better readers.

Make a Splash – Read!

This year’s summer reading theme is all about water. Check out your local library’s summer calendar for free children’s programs, events, storytimes, prizes, and more!

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Book of the Month

**Come On, Rain,** by Karen Hesse

It’s summertime and it hasn’t rained for three weeks. More than anything, Tess hopes for rain. And when it comes she and her friends, along with their mothers, join together in a rain dance of celebration. This is a great story to read with your child all summer long!

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More books to “Make a Splash!”

*All the World*, Liz Garton Scanlon (2010 Caldecott Honor book)

*Tsunami*, Kimiko Kajikawa

*Down, Down, Down: A Journey to the Bottom of the Sea*, Steve Jenkins

*I Know the River Loves Me/Yo sé que el río me ama*, Maya Christina Gonzalez

*Manfish: the story of Jacques Cousteau*, Jennifer Berne

*ThunderBoomer!*, Shutta Crum

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2010 Summer Reading Illustrator:

HENRY COLE has been chosen to provide the artwork for the 2010 children’s summer reading theme. Look for his artwork in other books, such as:

*On the Way to the Beach*, Henry Cole

*Big Chickens Go to Town*, Leslie Helakoski

*Mouse Was Mad*, Linda Urban
6 Early Literacy Skills

Each month *The Bookworm* has featured one of the 6 early literacy skills that help your child become a reader:

**Print Motivation (loving books):** Find books that match your child’s interests and share them often. Encourage her to write notes and e-mails, or ask her to write a caption on her artwork.

**Print Awareness (using books):** As you read with your child ask him to point out the front and back covers, title, author, and illustrator. Have him point to the beginning and ending of a sentence, as well as punctuation such as periods and question marks.

**Letter Knowledge (ABC’s):** Point out letters and have your child name them. Play games like “I Spy” to help him learn the sounds that go with the letters. Make an alphabet book with your child.

**Vocabulary (words):** Talk with your child about what is going on in the story, teach her the meaning of new words, and ask her lots of questions about her world. Build words by reading information books together.

**Phonological Awareness (sounds):** Sing songs, play games, and share rhymes to help your child hear and play with the smaller sounds in words. Ask if two words rhyme, or clap syllables in words. Listen for words that have the same beginning or ending sound.

**Narrative Skills (storytelling):** Tell stories together and encourage pretend play. Help your child learn order: beginning, middle, ending. Ask him to re-tell or act out the story. Have him tell you about a picture he drew, or ask what is happening in the pictures of a book.

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**Activity: Make a Rainbow**

1. Fill a clear glass 3/4 full of water.
2. Place it on a surface so that sun shines through it and part of the glass sits over the edge.
3. Place white paper below the glass on a table or floor.
4. Move the paper and glass until a rainbow appears on the paper.
5. What’s happening? The “colorless” light we see is really made of several colors passing through water, as sunlight does on a rainy day when the clouds separate. The water refracts (bends) the light into individual colors we can see.


**What your library can do for you…**

Did your child like the books he/she received this year? How can we make the Read to Me First Book program better? Be sure to fill out your First Book Parent Survey and return it to your child’s teacher or local librarian!

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