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. When children read what they enjoy, they learn to love reading and become better readers.

Be Creative @ Your Library

This year’s summer reading theme is all about getting creative! Check out your local library’s summer calendar for free children's programs on arts and crafts, music, dance, drama, storytimes and more. Get your creative kid signed up today!

Book of the Month

Look! Look! Look! By Nancy Elizabeth Wallace

This lovable mouse family borrows a postcard showing a famous painting, and as they carefully study the portrait, they see patterns, colors, lines, and shapes. They have so much fun that they decide to create their own pictures. This art adventure will inspire children to Be Creative!

Check out some more books to help your child be creative:

Lester Fizz, Bubble Gum Artist, Ruth Spiro

Little Rat Makes Music, Monika Bang-Campbell

Hip Hop Speaks to Children with CD: A Celebration of Poetry with a Beat, Nikki Giovanni

Purple, Green, Yellow, Robert Munsch

“Be Creative @ Your Library” Illustrator:

DAVID CATROW has been chosen to provide the artwork for the 2009 summer reading theme. Look for his artwork in other books, such as:

I Ain’t Gonna Paint No More, Karen Beaumont

Smelly Locker: Silly Dilly School Songs, and Take Me Out of the Bathtub, Kevin Katz
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 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.

**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.

**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.

More fun with Look! Look! Look!

**Print Awareness/vocabulary:** Show your child the “glossary” in the back of the book. A glossary explains the meaning of certain words used in the book.

**Around the house:** Cut a frame out of a cereal box—help your child look for patterns, shapes, colors, and lines, like the mice did in the story.

**Arts and crafts:** Recycled art: help your child cut shapes out of magazines, food boxes, used wrapping paper, postcards, junk mail, etc. Glue onto the backs of old school papers to create new masterpieces!

**Print Motivation:** Traveling this summer? Let your child write postcards or letters and send them to friends and relatives!

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!

Funding for this project is made possible by the Idaho Commission for Libraries’ Read to Me program, and the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under a provision of the Library Services and Technology Act.