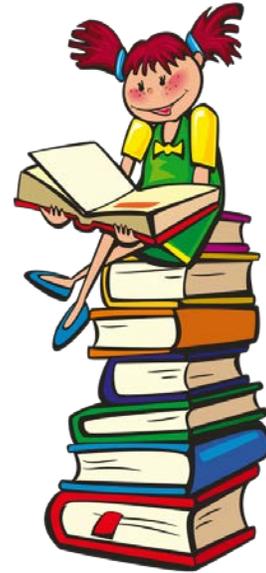


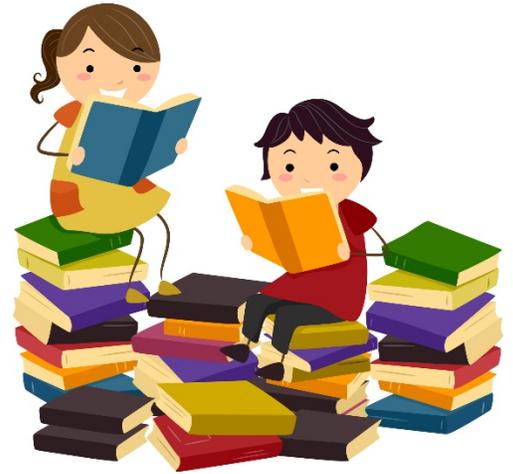
## Top Ten Ways School Library Staff Can Support Beginning Readers



- 1) Allow all students in all grades (starting with PreK if you have any classrooms on school grounds) to check out more than one book per week starting the first semester of school.
- 2) Provide as many new books, especially high-interest nonfiction and graphic books, as possible in your school library's collection.
- 3) Start or enhance a "Read and Return" or "Honor" box of paperback books that students can read and return if they forget their library book that week or if their parents don't allow checking out library books. Eliminate late fines for books if you have them.
- 4) Collaborate with your public library staff to ensure more students are reading over the summer and during out of school time.
- 5) Provide information for parents on how they can support their beginning reader at home.
- 6) Ask teachers for title suggestions, provide them with lists of new books, and share information about other library resources they might not know about.
- 7) Share your excitement about reading with students. Booktalk, read aloud, invite guest readers in, and select many different genres to promote. Explore contests and book challenges to build excitement among students.
- 8) Merchandise your collection by having as many books face out as possible and by creating fun displays that help kids explore books.
- 9) Weed out the books that haven't been checked out for a long time and are not appealing to kids.
- 10) Have fun! Let your inner child out and create a fun-filled atmosphere that makes library time a treat for all.

**Bonus ideas:** See if boxes of paperbacks can be added to buses to encourage reading to and from school. Set up a "Little Free Library" near the school or bus stop for students to read and return books. Have books in the school office for students who are waiting.

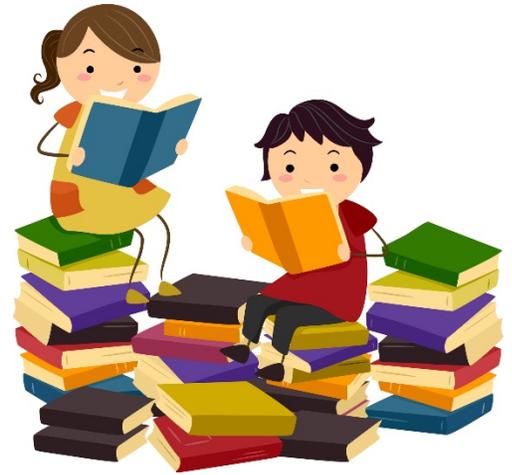
# Ways Public Library Staff Can Support Beginning Readers



- 1) Create a plan to educate parents and caregivers on how they can help support their beginning reader.
- 2) Provide after-school programming for early elementary students.
- 3) Eliminate late fines for children's books if you have them.
- 4) Collaborate with your school principal(s) and school library staff to ensure more students are reading over the summer and during out of school time. See if you can have more of a library presence during parent events at the school.
- 5) Participate in Read to Me outreach programs like Jump Start, My First Books, Year-Round Underserved, and Every Child Ready to Read to target children who may not have books at home and ensure they have more books at home.
- 6) Consider working with others to create "Little Libraries" at bus stops or other places students hang out. Promote TumbleBooks, DayByDayID.org, and other eBook and early literacy resources.
- 7) Share your excitement about reading with students. Booktalk, read aloud, invite guest readers in, and select many different genres to promote. Explore contests and book challenges to build excitement among students.
- 8) Participate in the Idaho Commission for Libraries' Bright Futures Summer Reading programs. These programs are designed to minimize the summer slide.
- 9) Explore programs that target struggling readers. Reading to therapy dogs, tutoring programs, and programs that pair retired educators with students have been proven to help.
- 10) Cultivate relationships with elementary teachers and share booklists, library resources, and information they can pass along to parents on a regular basis. Let them know you are committed to helping support beginning readers.
- 11) Have fun! Let your inner child out and create a fun-filled atmosphere that makes visiting your library a treat for all.

## Top Ten Ways Principals Can Help Ensure More Students Are Reading on Grade Level

Students who only read during the school day will rarely become proficient readers. They need practice and more exposure to outside reading to become better readers. These strategies will help ensure more students read outside the school day and during the summer.



- 1) Get to know your town's public librarians and invite them to school events.
- 2) Work to ensure parents know how important out-of-school and summer reading is to school success.
- 3) Find ways to increase your school library's book budget and ensure your school library staff get as much training as possible to help them do a good job running the library and motivating students to read as much as possible.
- 4) Work to schedule field trips to the public library.
- 5) Recognize and reward students who participate in summer reading programs.
- 6) Consider keeping your school library open during the summer and/or providing a book distribution the last week of school.
- 7) Schedule a meeting with your local public library director and school library staff to develop strategies for a comprehensive literacy plan. See the State's Comprehensive Literacy Plan for good ideas.
- 8) Encourage your school library staff to attend literacy and school library professional development opportunities.
- 9) Provide information for parents on how they can support their beginning reader at home.
- 10) Share your excitement about reading with students. Read aloud to classes from time to time, invite other guest readers in, and explore contests and book challenges to build excitement among students.