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Tips and tools from your school library

LOW HANGING FRUIT

School's Out for Summer!

(Well, almost—as soon as ISAT 2.0, EOC's, projects & grades are finished)

By Jeannie Standal

Now that school is winding down for the year, it's time to turn some attention to summer activities: swimming, vacationing, backyard cook-outs, napping, and, most importantly, reading. Reading for students and adults alike.

The Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) estimates that it costs \$1,500 per student to reteach material that has been forgotten over the summer. Further, the Summer Slide, as it's called, is a barrier to reading at grade level by the end of 3rd grade. It happens in every state, in every school district.

But there is good news, too! Reading over the summer has been shown to be as effective as summer school in closing the summer reading gap, especially for lower income children. Kids who read over



Teachers do an Excellent Job!

Learning loss does not happen in the classroom—during the school year, kids progress at about the same rate. It happens during the summer. -Campaign for Grade Level Reading

the summer either slide less or don't slide at all! So now all that's left is getting the kids to read over the summer. Easy, right?

Well, maybe not so much, but schools can encourage summer reading in many successful ways: first, create a culture of literacy at school to show that reading is a real priority both in and out of school; partner with the public library to enroll kids in the summer reading program — students can participate in fun events and activities and win prizes; schools can issue [challenges like this one](#) (doesn't everyone secretly yearn to be in a lib dub video?); find a way to touch base with students during the summer to remind them to read, like a robocall from the principal or a post card. Some schools even keep their libraries open for some hours in the summer!

Last, but not least, model good reading behavior. Let your students see you read and talk about what all of you are planning on reading over the summer!

Smith, Lorna. *Slowing the Summer Slide*. The Resourceful School, Dec. 2011/Jan 2012, Vol. 69, No. 4. Accessed 5/6/15 at <http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational-leadership/dec11/vol69/num04/Slowing-the-Summer-Slide.aspx>

LINKS TO MORE LEARNING



National Education Association

Get ready for Summer Reading. Summer: NEA's resources for getting kids to read over the summer.

<http://www.nea.org/home/37004.htm?q=summer%20reading>

Campaign for Grade Level Reading

Facts about the importance of reading at grade level by the end of 3rd Grade.

<http://gradelevelreading.net/>

Collaborative Summer Library Program

The organization that brings us the summer reading themes each year. Check full of information on summer reading.

<http://www.cspreads.org/>

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS



Instructions for Summer Reading

1. Pour a glass of lemonade. Iced tea works just as well. A closed top is recommended for use with a hammock.
2. Scan the area for a comfortable seat. Best choices include hammocks, easy chairs, or pool-side lounge chairs.
3. Thoughtfully select a book that compliments the mood.
4. Take aforementioned comfortable seat with beverage and book in hand. A snack is optional.
5. Open book. Begin to read. Enjoy!

DIGITAL TOOLS



[Novelist Plus](#)

A comprehensive readers advisory tool to help find the perfect summer read! Includes read-alike suggestions and nonfiction titles.

[DaybyDayID.org](#)

An online story time with Tumblebooks that includes rhymes, games, finger plays and other early literacy tools.



