

# **Georgia's Summer Reading Challenge**

**Help Every Child Find Great Books to Read This Summer!**

**Challenge: Read every day for at least 15 to 30 minutes.**

**Suggested Goals:**

Grades K-2 Students: read 10 books

Grades 3-5 Students: read 8 chapter books

Grades 6-HS Students: read 5 fiction books & 5 non-fiction books

**Georgia is proud to be part of a nationwide summer reading initiative and challenge Georgia students to read every day during the summer break.**

- Georgia's challenge is focusing on reading to:
  - raise national awareness of the summer loss epidemic,
  - share compelling research on the importance of personalized reading activities, and
  - provide access to a variety of free resources to support targeted reading and the initiative as a whole.

**Research studies show that --**

- reading loss occurs for most children when they are not in a formal learning environment or not engaged in any form of educational activities during the summer.
- students can have up to a 2-3 month loss in reading ability over summer.
- lower income students may suffer most due to lack of books in the home and transportation access to public libraries.
- rural area students also lack easy access.
- innovative partnering of schools, publishers, and public libraries has great promise for solving the summer reading loss dilemma.

**Summer reading loss can be minimized.**

Research shows that children who read during the summer do not have to suffer this reading loss and may even show some growth in their reading ability.

• Harvard University Professor Dr. James S. Kim has demonstrated that when students read a minimum of eight high-interest, ability-appropriate books over the summer, their reading skills grow as much as students who attend summer school.

**Using Lexiles for Summer Reading:** Lexiles can be used to target reading materials for the student in order to maximize learning and growth.

One way to select appropriate summer reading materials is to find out the student's reading level. There are two ways to approximate a Lexile measure of a student.

Students can determine their own Lexile measure by looking at the Lexiles associated with the last 4 or 5 books they read during the school year. Choose books around the Lexiles of the book(s) they felt most comfortable reading.

- Visit the [Find a Book](#) site and enter the grade level of the student and check the statement that best describes the student’s comfort with reading, and a Lexile range will be generated.

Another way to target summer reading materials is to have students read materials that fall within the demand of text ranges by grade level. These ranges represent the demand of text that students should be reading to be college and career ready by the end of Grade 12. Using these ranges may help identify challenging reading material for students.

### Text Demand by Grade

<b>Grade 1 190L-530L</b>	<b>Grade 2 420L-650L</b>	<b>Grade 3 520L-820L</b>	<b>Grade 4 740L-940L</b>
<b>Grade 5 830L-1010L</b>	<b>Grade 6 925L-1070L</b>	<b>Grade 7 970L-1120L</b>	<b>Grade 8 1010L-1185L</b>

**Find a Book** is a great way to generate personalized reading lists using a student’s Lexile score. Using a student’s Lexile measure is a great way to get started identifying books at a student’s appropriate reading level for summer reading.

Remember, a Lexile measure is a measure of text complexity only. It does not address the subject matter, text quality, or age-appropriateness of the content of a reader’s interests. The Lexile measure is one piece of information that you can use when selecting books. Help students choose books around their interests as well as a variety of books that might expand their interests.

 <p><b>Governor’s Office of Student Achievement</b></p>	 <p><b>GET GEORGIA READING</b> CAMPAIGN FOR GRADE LEVEL READING <b>PARTNER</b></p>
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Summer Reading Program- activities calendar is located online or by calling

<https://www.rabuncountylibrary.org/>

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## Hawks “Check it Out” Reading Challenge

### Supplemental Reading Program

Check It Out Reading Challenge (<https://www.nba.com/hawks/community/checkitout>)

This program is available to children and young adults, grades K-12.

Participants must read five (5) books—the type of book is not specifically defined, but it is heavily encouraged participants read books on athletics, health, sportsmanship, basketball, sports history, etc. Participants then visit [hawks.com/checkitoutreading](https://hawks.com/checkitoutreading), fill out the form, and with the purchase of an adult ticket they receive a free youth ticket to one (1) select Hawks game.

Patrons receive their tickets via email towards the beginning of the season.

To help staff and patrons, the Hawks have provided a [FAQ at the bottom of the Check it Out Reading Challenge page](#).



## **Georgia Aquarium Poseidon Kit and Library Discount**

### **Educational Loaner Kit and Admission Discount Program**

Poseidon is a traveling educational toolkit and exhibit of curated technology and activities jointly designed by Georgia Public Library Service and the Georgia Aquarium to take the Aquarium's mission of community outreach, conservation support, and the rescue and rehabilitation of marine life outside of the Aquarium's walls. The kit is available to public libraries only.

Public libraries in Georgia receive a special discount to the Georgia Aquarium. The Aquarium does offer some discounts of its own, but the Library Discount is available at all times. The Library Discount is obtained by visiting [www.georgiaaquarium.org/libraries](http://www.georgiaaquarium.org/libraries).



# LEARNING RESOURCES

All links to the learning resources may be found at <https://getgeorgiareading.org/georgia-summer/>

**Be Proud Read Aloud series:** Georgia judges read children's books focused on the 19th Amendment in this series created by Judicial Council of Georgia.

**Bright By Text:** Bright by Text is a free service that provides activities, games, and resources right to your smartphone. Messages are targeted to your child's age and include information on child development, language and early literacy, health and safety, behavioral tips, and more. Message and data rates may apply. To get started, text **GPB** to **274448** or fill out [this form](#). Subscribers can receive texts in English or Spanish.

**Capstone:** This publisher's mission is to help children develop a love of reading and learning, no matter their ability level. Capstone is offering free trials for the following tools to all preschool and elementary school students from May 13 through Aug. 26.

- **PebbleGo:** This K – 2 database is specifically designed to teach growing learners technology and literacy skills early in their school career. PebbleGo's easy navigation and read-aloud audio help young learners of all abilities as soon as preschool.
- **PebbleGo Next:** This is the next step in research, providing students in grades 3 – 5 with more robust content and tools to meet their curriculum needs.
- **Capstone Interactive eBooks:** Over 5,000 titles will capture the imagination and curiosity of any reader.

**Log in now.** The username for all digital content for summer reading is **gaschools** and the password is **gaschools**.

**Common Lit:** This free collection of fiction and nonfiction for students in grades 3-12 can be searched and filtered by Lexile level, grade, theme, genre, literary device, or standard. Readings can be read online or downloaded.

**Cox Campus for Families:** This website offers free, online courses, videos, guides, and activity ideas to help parents and families support their child's early learning and development.

## **Department of Early Care and Learning Resources**

- **Chat About Children:** This educational series for families features episodes on monitoring development, supporting transition back to child care and school, building your young child's brain, engaging children in play, how early language builds literacy, and more.
- **School-Age Resource Page:** Children need a balance of cognitive learning time, social time, physical development time, creative playtime, and reading or literacy time throughout the day. To help providers, caregivers, and children, DECAL has compiled resources that can be used to help enhance a child's daily schedule with creativity and fun learning.
- **Toddler Time at Home:** This calendar of daily activities features weekly themes that encompass five categories: On The Move, Adventures Online, Sensory Time, Story Time, and Arts and Creativity.
- **Georgia Pre-K At Home:** This website includes educational resources divided into four categories: Storytime, Virtual Field Trips, Let's Go Outside, and Screen-Free Time. Activities are based on the Georgia Early Learning and Development Standards and intentionally involve simple household items easily found at home.
- **Pre-K Summer Transition Program:** DECAL offers this six-week program to prepare rising pre-K and kindergarten students for success in school.

**Freckle:** This free online learning platform helps students in grades K – 10 practice math and ELA at their own level.

## Georgia Public Broadcasting Education Resources

- **Summer of Discovery with GPB and PBS KIDS:** All-new summer content and resources will keep kids learning and encourage exploration with their favorite PBS KIDS characters. PBS KIDS will air all-new specials and episodes and offer free digital learning activities, virtual screening events, and more.
- **Georgia Home Classroom:** GPB, in partnership with GaDOE, offers instructional TV broadcasts aligned to Georgia’s state standards, along with a library of digital learning resources to support at-home summer learning.
- **Getting Ready Guides and Videos for Grades K – 5:** GPB, in partnership with GaDOE, is offering “Getting Ready” guides and videos to help parents of young learners in grades K – 5 keep the learning going over the summer and explore skills that will prepare a student for the school year ahead. These resources are now available in English and Spanish.
- **Daily Activity Calendar:** Inspire curiosity each day with these activities, printables, and videos.

## Georgia Public Library Service Resources

- **Summer Reading Programs:** Summer reading programs at public libraries offer creative, fun, and free ways to build a love for reading. Libraries offer prizes for meeting reading goals, in-person and online activities, and even opportunities to explore Georgia. This year’s theme is “All Together Now.” Programs typically take place from late May until early August. [Check your local library](#) for their dates. Many public libraries also serve as meal or snack sites for the USDA’s Summer Food Service Program, which makes free healthy meals and snacks available to young people in communities with high rates of poverty. Libraries bring in talented performers during summer programming, so be sure to check their schedule to take advantage of free puppet or magic shows, STEM activities, gardening, and even cooking demonstrations.
- **e-READ KIDS:** This collection of e-books and audio books for kids in pre-K through fourth grade features a mix of more than 20,000 fiction and nonfiction titles. Use [your library’s](#) digital checkout to access these e-books and audio books from any of your devices with an internet connection.

- **PINES Kids Catalog:** Check out the special link on this catalog with titles that support the “All Together Now” theme this summer. Other categories include ABC’s, counting, nutrition, shapes, colors, and much more.
- **Explore Georgia:** Did you know your family can check out library passes for free admission or parking to places like the Georgia Aquarium, museums, Zoo Atlanta, state parks, and the Go Fish Education Center? Through partnerships with organizations across the state, Georgia’s public libraries provide families with educational and recreational opportunities to spend time together while saving money.
- **Express creativity and learn something new:** Enjoy summer (and year round) programming for every type of kid. Children can express their creativity at one of the many library makerspaces around the state. These activities encourage engagement and critical thinking as they help children learn about robotics, engineering, cooking, electronics and more. Many libraries offer storytimes in multiple languages and early literacy activities. Libraries are innovating programs to engage youth in everything from gardening to encouraging reluctant readers. If a child has special needs, ask about services for children with visual or hearing impairments. Summertime can be a great time for kids to explore a new skill or even learn an instrument. Libraries offer items for checkout beyond books and movies, everything from sewing machines to Snap Circuit kits to ukuleles. No matter your child’s interest, the sky’s the limit at your local library.

## Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network Resources

- **Summer Activity Guide:** GSAN has developed a suite of fun and engaging activities and challenges for school-age children designed specifically for summer skill development and enrichment. The activities are organized by four different age groups (5 – 9, 10 – 12, 13 – 15, 16 – 18), adaptable for in-person and virtual instruction, and based in skill building and social-emotional learning.
- **Literacy and Future Learning Resources:** Afterschool and summer learning programs provide students with the additional supports they need to help build a strong foundation in literacy, including reading, writing, and critical thinking skills that pave the way for future learning.
- **Summer Planning Toolkit:** This guide is for summer learning and youth development programs looking to grow and strengthen their summer programming.



- **Mizzen by Mott:** This digital app provides high-quality resources and experiences for youth-serving professionals that spark curiosity, joy, and a love of learning for children and youth. Supported by the Mott Foundation, Mizzen is available at no cost to those who are empowering young learners everywhere.

**Háblame Bebé:** The Háblame Bebé app, available for both [IOS](#) and [android](#), supports Spanish-speaking parents in delivering abundant language nutrition to their infants and young children.

**iCivics:** Games are a great tool for summer learning that won't feel like school work. Check out more than 20 free online games that are designed to help students put their civics and history knowledge into play. iCivics games can be played on a computer or tablet, so your student can learn on the go this summer.

**NASA STEM at Home:** NASA is helping inspire the next generation of STEM professionals with these free hands-on projects categorized to help kids Build It! Solve It! Launch It! Play It! Color It! and Read It! at home.

**Open Middle:** Organized by grade level and specific skill for grades K – 12, Open Middle features a series of equations with missing numbers that students solve using critical thinking, number sense, and math concept knowledge.

**Prodigy:** Check out engaging, curriculum-aligned math platform designed to motivate students in grades 1 – 8 to learn and practice math. No cost, ever.

**READCamp with Malcolm Mitchell:** This three-month program allows students in grades K – 12 to participate in training, drills, and practice in order to maintain literacy skills during summer break. This reading challenge, led by Super Bowl Champion and author Malcolm Mitchell, is designed to encourage reading over the summer to avoid

“the summer slide” learning gap. Kids and/or parents can sign up, or teachers can sign up their entire class. The program kicks off on May 29.

**Sightwords.com:** The Georgia Preschool Association sponsors resources to help teach your child to read, including games, lessons and flashcards.

**Storyline Online:** This award-winning children’s literacy website streams videos featuring celebrated actors reading children’s books alongside creatively produced illustrations.

**The Kids Should See This:** An educational alternative to YouTube, this collection of kid-friendly (not made-for-kids) videos, is curated for teachers and parents who want to share smarter, more meaningful media in the classroom and home.

**Vroom:** Boost learning from birth – 5. Boost learning from birth – 5. Available for **iOS** and **android** phones, this app is filled with fun and simple learning activities for mealtime, bathtime, bedtime, or anytime.

**Wide Open School:** This free collection of online learning experiences features resources for children in pre-K through grade 12, offering suggested daily schedules with online and offline activities. The site features content developed by National Geographic, Sesame Workshop, noggIn, Boys & Girls Club, and National Head Start Association, among others.

**Words2Reading:** Grow your young reader from birth – 8 through easy-to-follow videos, links, downloadable documents, e-books, and audio clips.