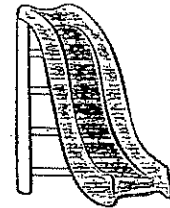


Tips for Preventing the Summer Slide



Studies show that children who do not read or have access to books during the summer lose up to two months of reading performance. Those losses accumulate during the elementary school years so by the time a child enters middle school he/she may be 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ years behind! All children, whether from low, middle or upper income families, may fall victim to the "summer slide" if not provided with summer reading opportunities. So how do we prevent the summer slide or, even accelerate reading growth? Here are a few ideas:

1. Visit your local library! Help your child find "right fit" books. Right fit books are books that are of high interest to your child and are not beyond their reading level. You can use the five finger test to determine if the book is too difficult for your child.
2. Be sure your child reads at least 20 minutes a day. According to research, a child who only reads 1 minute a day outside of school will learn 8,000 words by the end of 6th grade where a student who reads 20 minutes outside of school will learn 1,800,000 words! That's huge! If reading isn't one of your child's top priority you may need to set up an incentive program.
3. Set a good example. When your child sees you reading and enjoying a book or a newspaper article, you are sending a message that reading is important and valuable.
4. Read for difference purposes. Reading directions for a recipe or directions for assembling a toy are fun ways or incorporating reading into everyday activities.
5. Play games with words. Commercial games such as Apples To Apples improves vocabulary.
6. If you have access to an iPad, there are tons of interactive books and apps that address reading. There are also many websites that offer free reading related games.

Have a happy and healthy summer! Be sure to read, read and read some more! Not only can we prevent the summer slide, we can accelerate summer growth.