



Keeping up a regular reading routine over the summer is the best way to keep your child's skills from getting rusty and prevent the "summer slide." Here are some tips to help make summer reading a success in your home!

- **Help your child find a "just right" book.** An easy way to test if a book is at the appropriate reading level is to have your child read a random page and put up a finger for each word she doesn't understand. If she has five fingers up by the time she reaches the end of the page, the book is most likely too difficult. Another good test is to check reading speed—if your child is reading a book that holds his interest and is at the right level, he will be able to read roughly 22 pages in 30 minutes.
- **If your child is struggling with a book, let her abandon it.** Struggling through a book does not build a love of reading! Use this as an opportunity to discuss "just right" books.
- **Make time for reading as a family.** Set aside time each day to read together as a family. This could even be as simple as reading the newspaper at the breakfast table. Be sure to save a few minutes to share what you each read at the end of reading time. Being a reader yourself shows your child that reading is a life-long habit.
- **Visit the library and bookstores together.** This is a great way to spend quality time with your busy child or teen. You can also find great book recommendations on websites such as goodreads.com, teenreads.com and guysread.com.
- **Find opportunities to discuss your child's reading.** Asking questions about her book is a great way to show you value reading and the work that your child is doing.
- **Listen to audio books.** Find a novel that will appeal to your family to listen to on road trips or even back and forth to camp and other activities. Most libraries offer online audio book downloads for free, or you can download them on iTunes or Audible.com.
- **Always have reading material with you.** You never know when your child can find a spare minute to catch up on some reading while running errands. A good book is the perfect way to beat boredom!
- **Subscribe to magazines that will interest your child.** There are many great magazines written for elementary and middle school students, as well as adult magazines that are also appropriate. Try to find magazines that match your child's interests.
- **Create a reading space.** Help your child find a quiet, well lit, and comfortable space to read. The warm weather makes the possibilities endless!

Visit www.parentsforliteracy.com for additional ideas and book recommendations!