

# Tips for Preventing Summer Slide



Many students can forget some of the reading strategies or skills they have learned in school, or they slip out of practice during the summer months. We call this “Summer Slide”. Studies show that children who do not read or have access to books during the summer lose up to 2 months of reading performance. Those losses accumulate during the elementary school years so that by the time a child enters middle school he or she may be 2 1/2 years behind! Children may have “Summer Slide” if not provided with summer reading opportunities. So how do we prevent “Summer Slide”? Here are a few ideas to help!

## Visit the Library

According to research, a child who reads only 1 minute a day outside of school will learn 8,000 words by the end of sixth grade. A student who reads 20 minutes outside of school will learn 1,800,000 words! So...hit the library and READ! Use the 5 finger rule to tell if the book is just right for your kiddo. Open the book to any page and ask your child to read. Put up a finger for every word your child doesn't know. If you put up 5 fingers before the end of the page, the book is a little too tricky. **Also be sure to visit the Little Free Library outside of our school to get your hands on some free books!**

## Reading IS fun!

Hit the beach with a good book, camp out under the stars with a book, or find your favorite summer spot and bring along something to read. Make it fun! On those rainy days, you can even get out the iPad. There are tons of interactive books and apps that address phonics and early reading skills. There are also many websites that offer reading related games. You can also visit the website [www.raz-kids.com](http://www.raz-kids.com). Click on “KIDS LOGIN.” My teacher username is kswansonr. These online books are all leveled, too! Try [www.storylineonline.net](http://www.storylineonline.net), too (Turn the closed captioning on so your kiddo can read along!).

## Read for Different Purposes

Reading a recipe, directions for playing a game, the menu at a restaurant, magazines, or even reading the back of the cereal box are fun ways of incorporating reading into everyday activities!

## Lead by Example!

If kids see the adults around them reading often, they will understand that reading can be a fun and important part of their summer. Even if your child is content reading independently, reading aloud to them is such a great way to spend time with your kiddo and benefits their comprehension, understanding of texts, fluency, and accuracy.

## Reading Routine

Be sure to have a routine for reading. Read first thing in the morning before the T.V. goes on, read at bedtime, or maybe even after lunch when little brother or sister are taking a nap. Whatever works for you and your reader!