



# FRONT PAGE NEWS

## TITLE I SCHOOLS

100 Tarrar Springs Road • PO Box 1869 • Lexington, SC 29071 (803) 821-1000



www.lexington1.net

### FIVE EASY TIPS FOR SUMMER LEARNING

Research about how much children lose ground over the summer is well documented. Harris Cooper of Duke University notes, "Overall, children experience an average summer learning loss across reading and mathematics of about one month". If you build in daily opportunities for learning, however, you can encourage your child to have a summer of fun *and* learning with these five free and easy things to do. Try them out!

- 1) Read Every Day** - Take your children to the library often and let them choose which books to check out. Don't have a library card? Signing up is free and the library has more than just books! You can check out movies, magazines, CDs and much more! Find books with topics that interest your child. Listen to books on CD while taking a trip. Take turns reading to each other. It's important to let your child see you reading, too!
- 2) Use Math Every Day** - Practice math facts (addition, subtraction, multiplication, etc.) to beat "boredom blues". Ask your child to help make change at the drive-thru or checkout counter. Make up math word problems in the car or at the dinner table. Keep it fun and try to use math in some way every day.
- 3) Get Outside and Play** - Find ways to keep your child active for at least 60 minutes per day. Look for safe, fun ways to play outside together. Red Light/Green Light, Hopscotch, Tag, and Capture the Flag are all fun outdoor games that can involve the whole family! For very hot days, plan to get up and moving with an early morning walk or bike ride. Don't forget the sunscreen!
- 4) Write Every Week** - Ask your child to write a letter to a relative or friend. Encourage him/her to keep a summer journal or scrapbook and write about summer adventures. Even helping to write the grocery list is good writing practice.
- 5) Do a Good Deed** - Encourage your child to help at home with small chores. Clean out the closets and take outgrown clothes, toys or books to a charity organization or someone in need. Your child will feel good about giving and you will find you have more space in the process!



\* **May 30**  
Holiday - Memorial Day

Summer learning tips by *Reading Rockets* is an excellent resource for providing ideas to jumpstart reading, writing, and simple science activities for you and your child. You will receive one text message each week, all summer long. These tips will help you and your child have a summer full of learning and fun! (Also available in Spanish.) Please note, the *Summer Reading Tips to Go!* Program is not a requirement, but rather an option you might consider for summer learning activities. **There are no fees to sign up, but data rates could apply depending on the wireless carrier/service plan which would be the responsibility of you.** If you elect to receive summer literacy texts, you will need to text **READING** to 41411 from your mobile phone.



Brought to you by ReadingRockets.org  
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Source: (adapted from Reading Rockets) <http://www.readingrockets.org/article/five-easy-tips-summer-learning>

### READ TO SUCCEED: SUMMER READING



The summer is a wonderful time for children to read what they most enjoy, to learn new things, and to have fun! Summer reading is also an important way to prevent kids from losing too much ground over the summer. Research shows that summer reading can make a significant difference in a student's overall academic achievement, particularly when he/she begins a new school year in the fall. As a parent, there are a number of things you can do to encourage your child to read and develop strong reading and writing skills over the summer. See the back page of this newsletter for a list of tips to get your summer reading off to a great start!

Source: <http://www.colorincolorado.org/article/parent-tips-summer-reading> (list adapted from Colorincolorado.org)

# Parent Tips: Summer Reading



*During the busy summer months, it can be challenging for you and your child to find a chance to read together, but it is so important to make time for reading each day. With these helpful tips you will find fun and engaging ways to keep your child reading all summer long!*



## At Home

Make time for reading. Set aside a quiet time each day for reading, and remember to include "reading time" when planning summer activities.

Be a reading role model. Make sure your child sees you reading and writing, whether it's reading the newspaper or making a shopping list. Talk with your child about what you are currently reading, and about books you read as a child. Turn off the TV for some quiet reading time. Seeing that reading is an important part of your life will help children understand that reading can be an important part of theirs.

Keep different kinds of reading materials at home, including newspapers and magazines. Keep some fun things on hand too, like word games, puzzles, or the kids' section of the newspaper. This will increase your child's access to books and printed material, providing more opportunities to practice reading.

Beat boredom with books. Help your child find books that she finds interesting — especially on rainy days! These might include non-fiction (true fact) books, fun fact books, arts and crafts books, hands-on activity and project books, or cookbooks with kid-friendly recipes.

Give your child a chance to read aloud to you. Reading aloud will give your child the opportunity to practice his reading skills. Encourage rereading of favorite books he can read easily. For older kids, ask them to read you things that are interesting to them, such as the newspaper sports page, a detective novel, or a magazine article.

Read aloud every day. Try to find time each day to read aloud to your children — even the older ones. Reading aloud benefits children, particularly those who are struggling readers. Read aloud in different places, from the porch to the park. And don't be afraid to use silly voices and act out the story!

Write away! Keep writing materials handy, such as pencils, paper, and crayons so that your child can practice writing. Encourage her to write letters to friends and relatives over the summer, to keep a journal, make a summer scrapbook, or to write stories and poems. Ask your child to help you when making shopping lists or copying a recipe.

## At the Library

Visit the library frequently and be sure to sign up for the summer reading program at your local branch. Libraries can be magical places during the summer, and they offer summer reading programs, book clubs, and events for kids like puppet shows or storyteller presentations.

Help your child select books at the right level. A good way to decide whether your child is reading books at the right reading level is to have her read from a page in the book that she has chosen. If she is reading smoothly and understands what she is reading, the book is probably at a good level for her. If she makes five or more errors in a passage, the level may be too challenging. Ask your child's teacher to give suggestions for "just right" book titles to read over the summer. Librarians can also help you choose books at the appropriate level for your child.

Allow your child to choose his own reading material, including popular fiction, magazines, and comic books. Summer is a time when children can discover the joys of reading, and they will be more motivated if they are reading something they enjoy. If you are concerned about the content of what your child is reading, talk with him about his interests and set some guidelines for appropriate choices.

Find magazines that interest your child. Magazines are a great way for kids to practice reading, to learn new things, and to develop their vocabulary. You may be able to find your child's favorite magazine at the public library, or you can get a subscription through the mail.

If you will be spending a lot of time in the car or plan on taking a long trip, check out books on tape or CD from the library and listen to them together. This is a great way to hear the story while providing a model of fluent reading.

Connect books to summer activities and travel. Read books related to your summer activities and trips. For example, you might read a book about dinosaurs after visiting the museum, or a story about sand castles while at the beach. Helping your child connect books with her own experiences will build her vocabulary and will make her experiences more meaningful. Older children may also enjoy helping you research your summer plans at the library or on the Internet.

Remember, keep it fun! Don't set rules about reading for a certain amount of time or reading a minimum number of pages, and don't make reading a punishment — keep it fun so that it's something that your child wants to keep doing! By encouraging your children to engage in summer reading activities, you will help them find lots of fun ways to use reading throughout the summer while keeping their reading skills in good shape!