

Games are a great way to stretch your imagination and increase your language and communication skills. The following are both fun and educational!

Language Arts Websites

<http://www.gamequarium.com>
<http://www.teachervision.fen.com>
<http://resources.kaboose.com>
<http://games.pppst.com>
<http://www.funbrain.com>

Games/Puzzles

Scrabble
Balderdash
Apples for Apples Kids
Boggle/Boggle Jr.
Pictionary/Pictionary Jr.
Bananagrams
Upwords
Taboo/Taboo Jr.
Scattergories
Mad Libs
Crossword Puzzle
Word Search

There are plenty of ways to keep reading beyond books. Words to read are everywhere, you just have to look. Here are some ideas to keep reading in ways you might not have imagined!

- * Song lyrics
- * Magazines
- * Instructions
- * Cookbooks
- * Food and Product Labels
- * Comic Books
- * Catalogues
- * Brochures
- * Backs of Videos/DVDs



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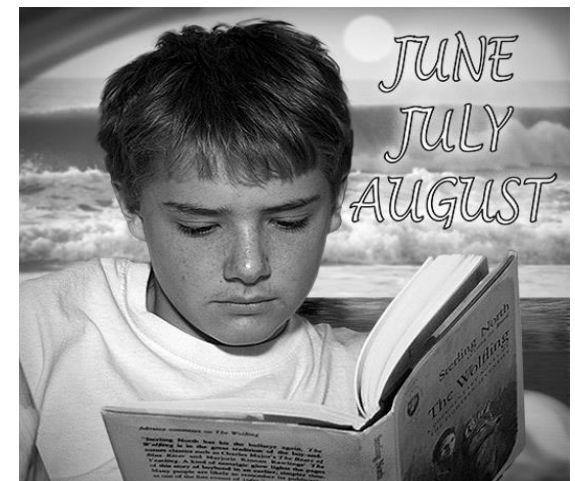


SUMMER READING

Looking for something to do this summer?

Check out the Middle School Summer Reading Program!

<http://agorasummerreading.weebly.com/>
(Link can also be found on <http://www.agoraeagles.org/>)



A Summer of Fun Learning

School may be out for summer, but studies have shown that taking a break from reading can have a significant impact when students return to the classroom in the fall. The key to preventing learning loss over summer break is simple — it's reading regularly. **Setting aside as little as 15 minutes each day for reading will make all the difference.** Parents play a critical role in helping children follow through on this commitment during the summer months.

Here are some tips from *Read Naturally*, for getting children engaged in, and excited about, reading this summer:

- 1. Involve your child in choosing appropriate material** — Taking ownership increases motivation, so find books or magazines based on their hobbies and interests. Make sure the material is at a reading level that is challenging, but not frustrating.
- 2. Make a date with a librarian** — Librarians will help locate books based on interests and reading ability. Check out your library for summer reading programs and a huge supply of great books.
- 3. Lead by example** — Actions speak louder than words so let your child see you reading the newspaper or curling up with a good book.

4. See reading everywhere — Show how important reading is in everyday life by asking them to read the recipe while you make something together or read signs as you go about your day.

5. Learn, listen, and discuss — Asking good questions shows interest and helps the child read for meaning. Instead of "Did you like the book?" use open ended questions like "Which character did you like the best and why?" or "How would you describe the book to someone who didn't read it?"

6. Create a book-of-the-month for your child — Send them a book anonymously once a month. Kids love getting mail and will see it as a present instead of a chore. This is a great way for grandparents to get involved.

7. Read the book, then see the movie — Use the excitement of an upcoming movie to get them to read the book. Then see the movie and discuss the differences between the two versions. They'll quickly learn that books are better. This can be done with videos as well.

8. Bring books while you hit the highway — Books are terrific because they are portable and don't need any batteries or wires. Audio books are also great for getting kids to see the value in the great stories found in books.

9. Give TV a timeout — According to a U.S. Department of Education study, the average kindergarten student has spent more than 5,000 hours watching television. Cutting down on TV time will create more time for your child to tune into reading.



Get Excited About Reading This Summer!

More ideas for keeping summer reading exciting:

- Go somewhere new.** Take books along on camping trips, or sit under a tree while reading.
- Take a trip through a book.** Read about the places you plan to go this summer, before you get there. Or, read about a place you want to go!
- Find a fun series.** Look for a series of books by an author you enjoy.
- Keep a journal.** Write about what you read throughout the summer.
- Start a book club.** Find friends or family members that enjoy the same books and plan to meet to discuss the books you read.
- Organize a book swap.** Share with family and friends books you have already read.

Online Resources:

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