

Summer Reading

Lazy days, a slower pace, times to get away, times to stay home and relax. Whatever your summer brings, I hope it also brings some time to spend reading. Studies have found that students who read just four age-appropriate books over the summer will be much better prepared for school in the fall than students who don't. Here are a few ideas for making reading a part of your family's summer.

- ❖ Reading programs: RMCA and the public libraries all have summer reading programs where kids can mark their progress and earn prizes. It's a fun, free way to motivate readers.
- ❖ DEAR time: Your student may already be familiar with "Drop Everything And Read" time from their classes. Try doing it at home, and have everyone stop what they're doing and read for a set amount of time.
- ❖ Books on tape: My family loves these for passing the miles on road trips. They help keep the driver alert, and they provide a shared experience for everyone in the car. Your public library has a great selection.
- ❖ Read aloud: We are never too old to enjoy hearing a good story. Choose a chapter book, and just before bedtime, pile on a bed and read a chapter a night. Sharing books together will be a warm memory for years to come.
- ❖ Quiet time: Everyone needs a little space now and then. Try designating a set time each day as "quiet time," where everyone can go to their rooms or special place and be alone to read.
- ❖ Visit the Library: And visit it often. Give everyone a book bag to fill up. Also take advantage of the fun crafts and activities libraries offer during the summer.
- ❖ Have a Reading Adventure: Encourage kids to find a creative place to read. Let kids read in a tree or a fort, under the stars or the steps, in a tent or a hammock. Books, like kids, can go all sorts of places.
- ❖ Get Caught Reading: If we want our kids to be readers, we need to be readers too. Let your kids see you reading the newspaper, magazines, and books. Share with them something you discovered that was interesting or that made you laugh or that you thought was worded nicely. Don't forget to ask them about what they're reading.
- ❖ Try some new books: If you are looking for some ideas for what to read, try these websites:
 - ◆ <http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001316.shtml>
 - ◆ <http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/search?isParent=Y&isBrowse=Y&N=2078>
 - ◆ http://www.cdli.ca/CITE/summer_reading.htm