

Summer Reading: What Does the Research Say?



Research has proven time and time again that students who do not read over the summer are at risk of losing many skills they had gained during the school year. Between grades 1 and 6, the potential cumulative impact of this achievement gap could compound to 1.5 years' worth of reading development lost in the summer months alone.

The Importance of Parental Involvement:

- Parent involvement will make learning to read easier and more meaningful. (Walde & Baker, 1990; Education Alliance, 2007)
- Parents play a significant role in helping children to become readers and writers when involvement is substantive, ongoing, and consistent. (Henderson & Mapp, 2002)
- Reading activity at home influences reading achievement and reading attitudes. (Rowe, 1991)
- Early literacy skills are related to home environment and reading proficiency through the primary years. (Rowe, 1991)
- Children who do read over the summer typically maintain and even improve upon their current reading level. (Cooper, Nye, Charlton, Lindsay, & Greathouse)

How can parents help?

1. Make reading material available at home – books, magazines, comics, newspapers, etc. Make your home a reader-friendly environment.
2. Let your children see that reading is important to you, and that it extends to many areas of life, e.g. following recipes, reading manual instructions, reading road signs, etc
3. Make reading a family activity. Continue to read to your children, no matter their age, even if they are good readers themselves; have all family members read out loud to each other.
4. Talk with your children about what they are reading – and about what you are reading (as appropriate). Ask questions – get your children involved in the text.
5. Get library cards for the entire family and make regular trips to the library.