



Dear Families,

What comes to mind when you think about summer with your children? Swimming? Summer camp? Barbecues? Vacations? This year, why not make sharing books part of your family's summer fun? Teachers and literacy experts agree that children of all ages need to be read to or to read by themselves and to talk about books over the summer. When you read or talk to your young child about books, she develops important language skills, understandings about books and print, and knowledge about how stories are constructed that will help her to become a strong reader and writer. Your school-aged child's summer reading and book discussions will help him maintain his reading skills, improve his reading fluency, and learn new vocabulary and concepts. Most importantly, when parents and children enjoy summer reading together, children develop a love of books and reading that lasts a lifetime.

<http://www.pbs.org/parents/readinglanguage/articles/sumreading/main.html>

This summer your Giff Hill student will be asked to read at least 2 books. One of the books that your child will be read is connected to our theme of dogs. Here is the list of books selected for our theme:

Incoming pre-school: Too Many Dogs by Lori Haskins

Incoming pre-kindergarten: Bark, George by Jules Feiffer

Incoming Primary Class (k-1): Doggone Dogs! by Karen Beaumont

Incoming 2<sup>nd</sup>: The Stray Dog by marc Simont

Incoming 3<sup>rd</sup>: A Dog on His Own by Mary Jane Auch

Incoming 4<sup>th</sup>: Because of Winn-Dixie by Kate DiCamillo

Incoming 5<sup>th</sup>: Shiloh by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

The second book is a free choice from the Caldecott or Newberry Award winner and honor books.

Students may read these books independently or have them read to them. Students will be asked to do a simple assignment with each book to share with the class when they return to school in the fall.

There are also many summer reading programs that your child can participate in. Here are a few:

<http://www.scholastic.com/summerreading/index.htm>

[http://www.barnesandnobleinc.com/our\\_company/community/Summer\\_Reading/Summer\\_Reading\\_Program.html](http://www.barnesandnobleinc.com/our_company/community/Summer_Reading/Summer_Reading_Program.html)

[http://www.borders.com/online/store/MediaView\\_doubledogdare?cmpid=SA\\_20100513\\_V2](http://www.borders.com/online/store/MediaView_doubledogdare?cmpid=SA_20100513_V2)

And don't forget to check out the local library! Happy summer reading!

## Summer Reading Tips for Families

### **Combine activities with books.**

Summer leaves lots of time for kids to enjoy fun activities such as going to the park, seeing a movie, or going to the beach. Why not also encourage them to read a book about the activity? If you're going to a baseball game, suggest your child read a book about his or her favorite player beforehand. In the car or over a hot dog, you'll have lots of time to talk about the book and the game.

### **Visit the library.**

If your child doesn't have a library card, summer is a great time to sign up. In addition to a wide selection of books to borrow, many libraries have fun, child-friendly summer reading programs.

### **Lead by example.**

Read the newspaper at breakfast, pick up a magazine at the doctor's office, and stuff a paperback in your beach bag. If kids see the adults around them reading often, they will understand that literature can be a fun and important part of their summer days.

### **Talk it up.**

Talking with your kids about what you have read also lets them know that reading is an important part of your life. Tell them why you liked a book, what you learned from it, or how it helped you -- soon they might start doing the same.

### **Help kids find time to read.**

Summer camp, music lessons, baseball games, and videos are all fun things kids like to do during the summer. However, by the end of the day, children may be too tired to pick up a book. When planning summer activities with children, remember to leave some time in their schedules for reading. Some convenient times may be before bedtime or over breakfast.

### **Relax the rules for summer.**

During the school year, children have busy schedules and often have required reading for classes. Summer is a time when children can read what, when, and how they please. Don't set daily minute requirements or determine the number of pages they should read. Instead, make sure they pick up books for fun and help find ways for them to choose to read on their own. You may even want to make bedtime a little bit later if you find that your child can't put down a book.

### **Have plenty of reading material around.**

Storybooks aren't the only thing that kids can read for fun. Be sure to have newspapers, magazines, and informational material on hand that might spark the interest of a young reader.

### **Use books to break the boredom.**

Without the regular school regimen, adults and kids need more activities to fill the hours. Books that teach kids how to make or do something are a great way to get kids reading and keep them occupied. Don't forget to take your kids' favorite reading series along on long road trips.

### **Read aloud with kids.**

Take your children to see a local storyteller or be one yourself. The summer months leave extra time for enthusiastic read-alouds with children no matter what their age. Don't forget to improvise different voices or wear a silly hat to make the story that much more interesting!