

Preventing Summer Slide

Experts believe that children who read during the summer gain reading skills, while those who do not often slide backward – the dreaded “summer slide.” Research shows that reading just six books during the summer will keep your young reader from regressing. But how to get your kids to read when family vacations, trips to the pool, and baseball practice call?

Try these strategies:

Join a summer reading program. My family has signed up for the Carbon Valley Library's "Get a Clue @ Your Library" reading program. We're doing it in conjunction with Scholastic's Summer Reading Buzz (www.scholastic.com/summerreading). For every four books we log in, Scholastic will donate one book to Reading is Fundamental.

This year Summer Reading Buzz is being done in conjunction with the TODAY Show's "Al's Book Club for Kids." Over the summer Al and a group of book club members, ages 9 to 11, will meet in Rockefeller Plaza to talk about the selected book and ask questions of the author. Check out the "Al's Book Club for Kids" page on the TODAY Show website (www.todayshow.com).

Read aloud: Reading out loud benefits all children, including teens. Find ways to read throughout the day – read from the newspaper, cookbooks, menus, or magazines.

Start a book club: Get together at someone's home or at a park for lunch and a book discussion. With the new Harry Potter coming out this July, your book club could participate in prerelease activities like reading the previous books or getting together to watch the movies.

Get inspired: Sign up for the Reading is Fundamental e-newsletter (www.rig.org) and check out their monthly family activity calendar for reading activity ideas.

What strategies do you already use? Email me and I'll share your tips with my blog readers!

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