

Make Reading a Summer Goal!



During the school year, children are given many opportunities to handle, read, and listen to books. This reading practice helps to build confident and successful readers. Over the summer, please make sure that your child is given plenty of reading opportunities. Remember that reading is an ongoing process and that beginning readers need lots of practice.

Reading can also be squeezed into everyday activities. Show your child how you use reading each day, as you follow road signs, shop, read menus in a restaurant, etc. Ask them to point out words or letters they recognize. Encourage them to take along books for summer travel and vacations.

Over the summer break, there are many things that you can do with your child to prepare him or her for kindergarten. One of the most important of these tasks is to read **to** them and **with** them. This allows for a little one-on-one time with family and promotes being able to sit still and listen to a story. Reading increases a child's vocabulary and enriches their background knowledge. Make reading a priority over the summer, and your child will surely benefit from it. When children see parent/guardians reading, they know that you value reading and realize that it is important. By making this time together fun for your child, it will more likely become a habit if he or she enjoys it. Keep in mind that whether your child is using pictures or words to make meaning, they are developing story language. One of the greatest gifts you can give your child is a love of reading!

Visit any of our county's public libraries for information on the summer reading program. Our reading lists will be available at these locations. As you read with your child over the summer, please fill out the attached sheet and return it at the beginning of the school year. The minutes read will also count for the public library's summer program. Attached is a list of titles to help prepare your child for kindergarten. This is only a suggested list, and we hope you and your child find time to dive into many good books over the summer vacation.

Recommended websites to help with Kindergarten Readiness and Summer Reading include:

www.decal.ga.gov

www.readingrockets.org

www.Scholastic.com

www.goodreads.com