

# Keep your kids and teens **READING** (and **HAVING FUN**) this *Summer*

Reading is one of the most important things children and teens can do during the summer to keep their skills sharp for the next school year.

Reading just 4 to 6 books helps keep kids and teens from losing the reading ability they gained in the last school year.

- Keep reading fun for your kids. They'll see reading as an enjoyable activity and one they want to continue through the summer and their whole lives.
- Listen to audiobooks in the house and while traveling (it's an engaging way to pass the time on a long car trip!). Check them out for free from your library!
- Let kids and teens choose their own books and other materials to read. They tend to read more on their own and enjoy it more if they're able to pick what they read.
- The public library provides free, safe, fun, enriching activities for your kids and teens over the summer and year-round.
- Provide your children with lots of access to a wide variety of books and reading materials in different formats (books, eBooks, audiobooks, magazines, etc). Frequent trips to the library as well as books and reading materials you have in your home make this possible.
- Get your kids their own library cards (they're free!). When kids have their own library card and use it regularly, they see that reading plays an important role in their family and lives.
- Summer reading can take place anywhere—at the park, at the kitchen table and in the car, at the library, or while visiting family and friends. Taking the reading adventure beyond the classroom is a great way for your kids and whole family to explore new worlds, have fun, and find new friends
- Become a reading role model for the kids and teens in your life. When you spend time reading books, eBooks, blogs, the newspaper, or even directions for how to put together a piece of furniture, you show your child that reading is both fun and useful.
- Starting at birth, read aloud to your children. Reading aloud helps them develop language and pre-literacy skills. Make sure your caregivers are also reading with your children.
- Set reading goals with your kids and reward effort. Reward reading with more reading. Stop by the library for the next book in your child's favorite series, or to discover new ones. Ask librarians for suggestions.
- Encourage kids to branch out and read about new topics and from new genres. Share your favorite books from childhood and make new memories together.
- Together with your kids, watch movies based on books, and read those books. Discuss the differences, talk about why the filmmakers chose to make changes, and ask which version they prefer and why.

