



COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

201 East Colfax Avenue • Denver, Colorado 80203-1799
303.866.6600 • www.cde.state.co.us

Dwight D. Jones
Commissioner of Education

Robert K. Hammond
Deputy Commissioner

Prevent Summer Set-Back!

Keep children reading all summer long.

Contrary to popular opinion – including many educators' – most students, even those "at-risk," make decent progress during the school year! It's summer when they fall behind¹.

Surprised?

Scientific-based research shows that "On average, children from low-income families lose nearly three months of grade-level equivalency during the summer months each year, compared to an average of one month lost by middle-income children."¹

What IS Summer Reading?

Nearly every public library in Colorado sponsors a Summer Reading Program with organized, summer activities to promote reading during the summer. Often, libraries will provide programs, projects, games, incentives and FUN! for children of all ages – Pre-K through Teens. Many libraries will also have family activities or adult summer reading programs, too. Check with your local public library to see how YOUR schools can collaborate to help kids keep reading all summer long!

How can you EASILY prevent Summer Set-Back?

Libraries across Colorado, both public and school, urge parents and educators to team up and eliminate this phenomenon. Encourage families, parents, care providers, summer camps, and others to get youngsters reading every summer.



Why Summer Reading?

Summer reading programs are an efficient, fun way to incorporate reading and related activities into summer family time. Note these findings from Stephen Krashenⁱⁱ, nationally known reading expert.

- Reading gets better when you practice it.
- Reading helps improve writing style.
- Having a school librarian makes a difference in the amount children read.
- Children read more when they listen to and discuss stories.

Where can you get more information about Summer Reading?

- Colorado State Library's web site for additional tips
www.coloradostatelibrary.org/SummerReading
- NY State Library research compilation www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/summer/research.htm
- *Fiore's Summer Library Reading Program Handbook*, Carole D. Fiore, Neal-Schuman Publishers, 2005.

Want more information about summer learning?

Visit the National Summer Learning Association at www.summerlearning.org. Based at Johns Hopkins University, the Association develops, evaluates, and disseminates model summer learning programs, stimulates research, and builds public support to ensure that no child takes a vacation from learning during the summer months.



For more information, please contact:

Nance Nassar
School Library Senior Consultant
nassar_n@cde.state.co.us
303-866-6772



Patricia Froehlich
Youth Services Senior Consultant
froehlich_p@cde.state.co.us
303-866-6908

¹ Johnson, Peter "Building Effective Programs for Summer Learning" U.S. Department of Education. 2000.

² McGill-Franzen, Anne and Richard Allington. "Bridging the Summer Reading Gap" Instructor, May/June, 2003.

³Stephen D. Krashen. The Power of Reading: Insights from the Research, Second Edition. Libraries Unlimited. Westport, Connecticut. ©2004.