

Did you know that....

1. A child needs to hear 1000 stories before he or she is able to read independently?
2. A school age child needs to read 6 books over the summer to maintain his or her current reading level?

But summer outdoor activities, family trips and relaxed routines often take the place of reading. How can parents help their children maintain their literacy skills and promote reading for pleasure?

Summer reading tips:

- Combine activities with books. (E.g. If your child plays soccer find books or magazines about soccer.)
- Help kids find time to read each day, but relax the rules. Don't set daily minutes or number of pages to read. Reading isn't homework. It's fun.
- Show your child by example that reading is for lifelong pleasure. Let your child see you reading. Talk about what you're reading with your child – what you liked and disliked about your book.
- Visit the library. Children need a variety of books, magazines and reading material around the house.
- Use books to break boredom. Take books on car trips, camping and to the cottage.
- Read aloud with your children, no matter how young or how old. Even babies need to hear stories, and independent readers still gain much from stories read aloud.