



## RESOURCES FOR PARENTS

[www.rif.org/summer](http://www.rif.org/summer), [www.rif.org/parents](http://www.rif.org/parents)  
Reading Is Fundamental, Inc.

[www.pbs.org/parents](http://www.pbs.org/parents)  
PBS Parents

[www.reading.org/choices](http://www.reading.org/choices)  
International Reading Association

[www.ala.org/yalsa/booklists](http://www.ala.org/yalsa/booklists)  
American Library Association

Best Books for Kids Who (Think They) Hate to Read.  
Laura Backes. Prima Publishing, 2001.

## RESOURCES FOR KIDS

[www.rif.org/readingplanet](http://www.rif.org/readingplanet)  
Reading Is Fundamental, Inc.

Fun with Nature: Take-Along Guide.  
Mel Boring. NorthWord Press, 1999.

The Kids' Multicultural Cookbook:  
Food & Fun Around the World.  
Deanna F. Cook. Williamson Publishing, 1995.

The Kids' Nature Book:  
365 Indoor/Outdoor Activities and Experiences.  
Susan Milord. Williamson Publishing, 1996.

TravelMates: Fun Games Kids  
Can Play in the Car or on the Go.  
Story Evans and Lise O'Haire. Three Rivers Press, 1997.



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RIF'S GUIDE TO

# Summertime Reading

## for children of All Ages



# Summertime Reading

**It's summer.** It's time to relax, spend time outside, visit friends, and enjoy your time as a family. But don't stop reading. Make it part of your family's summer fun.

Research shows children lose one to three months of learning every summer. They forget math and reading skills they worked hard to acquire during the school year. Then they have to work even harder to catch up in the fall. You can help prevent this summer learning loss. The tips and strategies in this Reading Is Fundamental guide will help you to motivate your children to continue reading and learning all summer long.

### CHECK IT OUT

If your child is longing for adventure this summer, take a trip to the library. With a little imagination and a library card, kids can explore new places, meet new people, and discover

new things. They can borrow as many adventure-filled books as they choose, for free! Kids can also participate in the reading clubs, story hours, puppet shows, and other fun family activities your library offers during the summer. Contact your local library to learn more.

### BEYOND THE LIBRARY

Weekly trips to the library or reading books on an assigned summer reading list might not be every child's idea of fun. That's okay, because words are everywhere! There are countless other ways to make reading a part of your child's daily life. This guide will show you how to create literacy experiences wherever you are: at home, on the bus, in the park, at the grocery store, on a family trip, and anywhere else you can think of.

For a complete list of RIF parent guides, visit [www.rif.org/parents/resources](http://www.rif.org/parents/resources).

**READING IS FUNDAMENTAL, INC.** works to build a literate nation by helping young people discover the joy of reading. For more information and to access reading resources, visit [www.rif.org](http://www.rif.org).



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A Guide for Parents from  
Reading Is Fundamental®



## FUN AT HOME

Some of the best reading adventures take place at home. A bedroom, living room, kitchen, or yard can offer a cozy spot for getting lost in a book. Encourage children to create their own reading corner or clubhouse, where they can read by themselves or with siblings and friends. There are lots of ways to have fun reading inside and outside your home. Here are a few:

- \* Cooking and making crafts are great ways to practice reading and following directions.
- \* Plan a family “booknic” at your favorite outdoor spot. Pack a lunch and plenty to read.
- \* Encourage kids to read cereal boxes and food labels as they munch on their favorite summer treats.
- \* Sending letters or email to friends can help kids sharpen their writing skills.



### Quick Tips!

- \* Get caught reading, and set an example for your children. Let them see you with a newspaper in hand or curled up on the couch enjoying a book.
- \* Make dinnertime reading time. As family members are preparing meals or cleaning up, have a read-aloud of a favorite classic or an exciting new novel. One person reads each night as the others do chores.



# 8 Weeks of Fun

## RIF'S SUMMER READING CALENDAR



Reading every day, even if it's just a few minutes and even if it's not a book, improves children's ability to read and learn year round. Here are 8 weeks of literacy activities to share with your children. Do them in any order you choose, just pick the ones that look interesting, or think of your own ideas for summertime reading fun.

# 1

- \* Write a list of things you want to do this summer. Don't forget to include reading!
- \* Make a chart to keep track of all the books you read this summer.
- \* Swap books with a friend. Keep sharing books throughout the summer.
- \* Read aloud the names of cars in the classified section of your newspaper. Design a new car and name it.

# 2

- \* Write a letter to your favorite author. A librarian can help you find a postal or email address.
- \* The first U.S. postage stamps were designed in 1847. Be a stamp artist and design your own stamp.
- \* Start a journal with a friend or relative. Take turns writing in it all summer long. You can even do this by mail or email.
- \* Summer days are the longest days of the year. List the longest words you know.

# 3

- \* Work up an appetite by reading a story about food. Make and eat the food you read about.
- \* How many smaller words can you find in the word *watermelon*?
- \* Cut out words from a newspaper. Paste them on paper and make a letter for a friend.
- \* List all the summer insects you can think of. Then see how many you can find.

# 4

- \* Find something small enough to put in your pocket. Write or tell a story about it.
- \* Plan a backyard camping trip with a friend. List all the things you will need to “survive.”
- \* List all the ice cream flavors you can think of. Now put them in A-B-C order.
- \* Collect shells at the beach or rocks along a trail. Use a nature guide to identify them.

# 5

- \* Read a picture book without words. Use your own words to tell the story.
- \* Invent a tool to help you do chores more easily. Draw a picture of it or make it from some old junk.
- \* Draw a picture postcard of an imaginary place. On the back, write a message to a friend.
- \* An animal has escaped from the zoo! Make up a story about it. Tell it to a friend or family member—or write it down. Add pictures if you'd like.

# 6

- \* Make your own board game. Include game pieces, cards, and a spinner or dice.
- \* Start a round-robin story. Write the beginning, and then ask friends to add to it until it has an ending.
- \* Make your own joke book. Collect jokes from your family and friends.
- \* Create a rebus story (a story that uses pictures to represent words). Write a short story, and then substitute pictures (that you draw or cut out) for some of the words.

# 7

- \* Pretend you are going to visit another city or state. Write to a tourist bureau for more information.
- \* Find a list of baseball teams in the sports section of the newspaper. Put them in A-B-C order. Find their cities on a map.
- \* List all the ways you used reading today.
- \* Which constellations can you see on a clear summer night? Look at the sky using a star guide to help you find the constellations.

# 8

- \* Sit under a tree and read or write a poem.
- \* Take a walk with a friend. Write about or draw the things you see that show summer is coming to an end.
- \* Draw a reading poster about the books you read this summer. Hang it in your room.
- \* Play charades with your family. Take turns acting out book titles and characters.

## ROAD TRIPS

Whether your family travels across the country or just down the street, there are lots of ways to read on your trip. Of course, you can bring along books, magazines, comic books, and newspapers. You can also take advantage of the print around you. Road signs, license plates, street signs, billboards, and maps are filled with letters and words. Use them to play word games or letter hunts.



### Quick Tip!

- \* Kids can write letters to family, send postcards to friends, or keep a travel journal. They'll be improving their writing skills as they document their summer adventures.

## AROUND TOWN

You don't have to travel far to find a perfect destination for a family reading adventure. You can read maps and field guides as you explore parks, zoos, and nature centers. Shopping centers are filled with things to read such as store names, price tags, and a store directory. Museums and historical sites have exhibit descriptions and pamphlets you can read together. Menus at restaurants or food labels on shelves at the grocery store are filled with words. Before you go to a movie, outdoor concert, or theater performance, read a newspaper review. Even keeping score at a baseball game is a literacy activity.

