

Additional Resources:

The [Reading Now Network](#) is a collective effort of superintendents, school boards and school districts throughout West Michigan to improve early literacy and, ultimately, student achievement across all grade levels. Check out their summer reading Campaign "[6 to Make it Stick.](#)"

[Reading Rockets](#) offers a wealth of reading strategies, lessons, and activities designed to help young children learn how to read and read better. The reading resources assist parents, teachers, and other educators in helping students build fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension skills.

[Reading is Fundamental](#) sets out to motivate young children to read by working with them, their parents, and community members to make reading a fun and beneficial part of everyday life. Reading is Fundamental's (RIF) highest priority is reaching children from birth to age eight.

[Barnes and Noble Summer Reading Program](#) provides an opportunity to earn a free book, summer reading kit, and more through various promotional themes. Find great books and ideas to work on reading over the summer.

[Summer Reads](#) offers free texts aimed at getting students ready for a particular grade level in the fall specifically focusing in on third, fourth, and fifth grade.

The [Collaborative Summer Library Program \(CSLP\)](#) web site has additional materials for you to use, forums you can post on to talk with other children or teen librarians around the country, family literacy materials, disability resources including signing videos relating to the Summer Reading themes, etc.



Summer Reading Loss, Summer Slide, How do you avoid it? What you need to know!

We have all heard of summer reading loss, the summer slide, students losing learning over the summer. It seems unavoidable, it is just something that happens based on the fact that our children don't attend school for 2-3 months in the summer. Missing 2-3 months should not make much of a difference right? Wrong! Missing these summer months has a major impact on student achievement. Consider the loss of 2-3 months of reading and then add that up over a student's K-5 time in education and you are looking at the possibility of losing about 1.5 years of reading just over K-5. There is good news, however, we can stop this from happening. Here are some ways that we can prevent summer reading loss:

- Read something every day
- Read different types of text
- Have conversation around the reading
- Ask questions about the reading
- Incorporate writing or drawing with the reading



Reading Something Every Day

Take advantage of every opportunity to read. Any time of the day is a good time to read, breakfast, lunch, dinner, or even in the car. Here are some other great suggestions on when to read provided by [Scholastic Books](#).

Read Different Types of Text

Work with your child on reading [typical literature based books](#) such as the Arthur Series, The Magic Treehouse Series, or even Dr. Seuss Books but also provide them with [informational text](#) opportunities. Remember with the Common Core State Standards text now can include different mediums: books, songs, books on tape, videos, movies, magazines, and more.

Have Conversation Around the Reading

So you just finished reading a book to your child or on your way home from summer library story time . . . ask your child to tell you what happened in the story. Just having them go back and access the information that they just heard and restating it will further their comprehension and understanding of the book. Also it will help the child recognize the importance of reading and paying attention while reading.

Ask Questions Around the Reading

Asking questions is the glue to help students make meaning of the reading that they are participating in. Questions can be appropriately asked before, during, and after reading. Here are some [sample questions or activities](#) you may consider with your child.

Incorporate Writing or Drawing with Reading

Ok enough talking about the story now have your child put their learning and understanding of the story to paper. As supported by research, especially this study completed by the [National Writing Project in 2010](#), writing has a large impact on increasing reading skills. The writing can be in the form of a picture they might draw, a simple sentence, or even a paragraph or 1-2 page summary. The point is you want them to talk through what they learned and support the brain in remembering the information by transferring the knowledge to paper.

Resources from the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) on Reading:

Research shows that children typically learn to read by the third grade – then read to learn after that. Research also shows that children who cannot read by the third grade often experience developmental and academic challenges throughout their education and beyond. Visit this site to learn more about MDE’s stance promoting a [“Culture of Reading”](#) in the State of Michigan.

Local Kent County Resources

The [Grand Rapids Public Library](#) offers reading challenges to all kids 18 and under in Grand Rapids during the summer. Each summer they generate a motivating theme to challenge students to read to accomplish a set overall reading goal. Visit public library’s page link above for details on this year’s theme!

[Kent District Library \(KDL\)](#) offers a themed reading program during the summer months. The program encourages kids, teens, and adults to join KDL for summer activities, reading, and prizes! Be sure to check it out!

