



Summer Reading Tips for Families

Jill Eggleton QSO, author and educator



Daily independent reading is one of the best ways to keep your child learning over the long summer break. Here are some tips to make it successful and enjoyable for the whole family!

Make it a plan

- Choose a regular time each day for independent reading time. This will provide a routine that establishes expectations.
- For beginning readers, daily independent reading time can be 5–10 minutes. For older children, it should be at least 20 minutes.
- Keep a log to record the day’s reading and set a reward for completing a week.
- Help your child to choose and create a comfortable, cozy reading space.
- Above all, make daily reading a special, enjoyable time.

Make it together time

- While your child is reading, read yourself—a book, magazine, any printed material—but not on a device.
- Talk to your child about what they read, ensuring it is a lighthearted discussion.
- Always show an interest in your child’s reading and give genuine and positive feedback for the smallest milestones.
- Read to your child daily—even older children. Reading aloud is essential at every age.
- Encourage a younger child to read to a pet, stuffed toy, or older sibling.

Make it fun

- Visit the library on a regular basis and encourage your child to select books that are of interest to them.
- Ask your child to read a page to you. If they stumble over more than one in twenty words, the book is too hard for independent reading—but it might be a great book for you to read aloud.
- Get your child to record themselves reading and listen to it back.
- To encourage pace and fluency, ask more able readers to time how long it takes them to read one page. Repeat this every day for a week, with the aim of becoming faster each day.

THERE IS NO PLACE FOR STRUGGLE, PAIN, OR BOREDOM IN READING!



