Strategies to Support your Child’s Summer Reading at Home

June 21, 2022

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Summer Outcomes: Key Features

- Most students experience long summer breaks
- Summer slide is often assumed to occur
- Many communities offer summer reading activities and programs
- Research is limited

Why do we have summer vacation?

- Common misconception:
  - Summer vacation originally was required so that children could support farming responsibilities in agricultural society.

Why do we have summer vacation?

- Clarification (Gold, 2002):
  - Schooling held during the summer months was relatively common in the early to mid 1800s.
  - Summer vacation was implemented to make rural and urban school schedules consistent.

Summer in... GAIN GROWTH PROGRESS GLIDE MAINTENANCE SLIDE SLUMP SETBACK REGRESSION

What is summer slide?

- On average, students slow, stall or slide in academic skill development during the summer.
- Estimates vary from 2 weeks to 3 months of learning loss (Cooper, Nye, Charlton, Lindsay, & Greathouse, 1996; von Hippel & Hamrock, 2019; von Hippel, Workman, Downey, 2018).
- Summer outcome estimates can depend on:
  - Student factors (academic area, socioeconomic status, reading habits, grade) (Cooper, Nye, et al., 1996; von Hippel, et al., 2018)
  - Measurement factors (test formats, item difficulty, scaling) (von Hippel, 2019)
Reading, spelling and writing can be tiring for children with dyslexia so here is what you can do...

1. Activities need to feel **MANAGEABLE**
   - You want your child to feel a sense of accomplishment and success, and feel good energy.

2. The work needs to be given in **SMALL CHUNKS**
   - You avoid burn-out + the regularity and daily practice of literacy skills is what is most important.

It's helpful to address multiple reading skills:

- **Decoding** (reading the words)
  - Phonological awareness
  - Decodable books
  - Games
  - Online programs

- **Language Comprehension** (understanding the words)
  - Audiobooks
  - Read alouds
  - Trade books (not decodables)

**How much time should I be spending on literacy skills with my child?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Time (min)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5-7</td>
<td>10-30</td>
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<td>8-10</td>
<td>20-45</td>
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<td>11-13</td>
<td>40-60</td>
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<td>14-15</td>
<td>60-90</td>
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Source:
- https://braintrusttutors.com/what-is-the-reading-rope/
- https://dyslexiaeducation.com/what-is-the-reading-rope/
Here are some... READING STRATEGIES!

20-30 min/day

- **Choral reading** (you read together aloud)
- **Echo reading** (you read sentence and your child repeats it)
- **Read and then stop midway in a sentence**, child fills in word or finishes the sentence. Take turns doing this on each page.
- Ask comprehension questions:
  - **Factual**: Ex. “Where does Little Red Riding Hood live?”
  - **Inferential**: Ex. “Why do you think the gingerbread man was so afraid?”

Where do I find Books that are right for my Child?

- Use 5% rule to choose a book for your child. (If your child missed 5% or more of the words on page then the book is too hard. 5/100 words, 5% rule.)

- **Decodables**: (can sound out the words)
  - Library (in person or digital access)
  - [https://portal.flyleafpublishing.com/](https://portal.flyleafpublishing.com/) (free)
  - [https://accounts.learninga-z.com/accountsweb/marketing/trial.do?campaign=rkCOVID19Trial](https://accounts.learninga-z.com/accountsweb/marketing/trial.do?campaign=rkCOVID19Trial) (pay)

- **Trade Books**: (mix of phonetic and sight words)
  - [https://bookwizard.scholastic.com/](https://bookwizard.scholastic.com/)
  - What book is the right level for my kid? Scholastic Book Wizard
  - [https://www.uniteforliteracy.com/](https://www.uniteforliteracy.com/)
  - Provides free digital access to picture books, including a variety of fiction and informational text, for children to read. There is also an option for the text to be narrated.
  - [https://seattle.bibliocommons.com/list/share/72464741/100345981](https://seattle.bibliocommons.com/list/share/72464741/100345981) (high interest, low level reading) Good for middle schoolers! Hi-low books!
  - [Epic!](https://www.epic.com/) ($7/month Unlimited books!)

- **Audio Books**: “Take-Along” audiobooks (oral language development)
  - [Learning Ally](https://www.learningally.org/) ($12/month)
  - [Book Share](https://www.bookshare.org/) (free)
**Quickies…**

- **Phonemic Awareness:** Awareness of Sounds (can do in the car!)
  - Blending: Ex. /b/ /a/ /t/ = bat
  - Segmenting: Ex. dog = /d/ /o/ /g/
  - Elision: Say “bat”, now say “bat” without the /b/ (= at)
  - Find me something that starts with (sound),
  - Rhyming: What rhymes with “sit”? (bit, mit, etc)

**Online:**
- [https://www.education.com/games/phonological-awareness/](https://www.education.com/games/phonological-awareness/)
- [https://www.education.com/games/phonological-awareness/](https://www.education.com/games/phonological-awareness/) (phonics worksheets)

**Quickies (continued)**

- **Sidewalk chalk activities**— jump to the letter that says _____; jump to the word that says _____________ (sight words)
- **Vocabulary jar**— list of interesting words you come across over the summer (reading aloud to a child)
- **Decodable Poetry**
  - Partner Poems for Fluency Practice (Summer Theme) $3
  - Partner poems for Building Fluency (Book)

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**Tips for motivating your child to read**

1. Set a goal (# of books or amount of time)
2. Make a plan
3. Keep track
4. Celebrate!

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**Join us for a virtual research study at MGH Institute of Health Professions about children’s summer reading development!**

**WHO?**

- Students completing grade 4, 5 or 6
- Any reading level (with or without Dyslexia)
- With or without ADHD

**WHAT?**

- Students will complete reading and related assessments during 2 sessions about 8 weeks apart during the summer
- Participants earn up to $40 in gift cards!
- Score reports will be available to parents/guardians

Please use this link to sign up: [https://redcap.link/MGHsummer](https://redcap.link/MGHsummer)