

Young Readers Preventing Summer Slide



Help Your Child Enjoy *Reading and Writing*

“*Summer Slide*” is a term used to describe a child’s learning loss over the summer months when they are not in school. Young children need continuous opportunities to grow and apply the knowledge and skills that they develop at school. Summer break is the perfect time for families and caregivers to get involved in expanding their child’s learning outside of the classroom!

The summer slide is real. The summer slide is a decline in reading ability and other academic skills that can occur when school isn’t in session. Many schools encourage summer reading and writing activities to help students make up for this break in learning. Explore your child’s school website or ask the teacher for resources such as reading lists, activity packets, technology-based educational programs, information about local museums, and other events and resources in your community. (You can do the same thing for holiday and Spring breaks!)

Don’t wait to get kids ready for the next school year...they should be ready to learn today!

Help Your Child *Think and Do!*

- Plan to read with your child more often.
- Talk to your child about what he or she is reading.
- Ask questions such as “Did you like the book?” “What happened at the beginning, middle, and end of the book?”
- Look for opportunities that allow your child to make connections to books and their own life.
- Notice when your child gets stuck on a word.
- Call attention to tricky words in books.
- Check in to find out if your child understands the story.



Skills for Young Readers

The NJ Student Learning Standards for grades K–3 are made up of important skills and knowledge that help students read and write, including:

- Word recognition and phonics
- Reading fiction and non-fiction
- Writing and grammar
- Speaking and listening

When you communicate with your child’s teachers you may hear the words above. Knowing these words may help you ask informed questions about your child’s strengths and areas in need of improvement.

To learn more about the grade-level skills for students go to:

- [English Language Arts Learning Standards for Kindergarten](http://nj.gov/education/cccs/2016/ela/k.pdf)
nj.gov/education/cccs/2016/ela/k.pdf
- [English Language Arts Learning Standards for 1st Grade](http://nj.gov/education/cccs/2016/ela/g01.pdf)
nj.gov/education/cccs/2016/ela/g01.pdf
- [English Language Arts Learning Standards for 2nd Grade](http://nj.gov/education/cccs/2016/ela/g02.pdf)
nj.gov/education/cccs/2016/ela/g02.pdf
- [English Language Arts Learning Standards for 3rd Grade](http://nj.gov/education/cccs/2016/ela/g03.pdf)
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Four Important Reading Skills

Decoding

Decoding is the ability to sound out new words. It starts with the ability to match letters and their sounds and blend sounds together.

Vocabulary

Vocabulary refers to words your child must understand in order to communicate. Communication is listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

Comprehension

Comprehension is the reason for reading. Good readers understand what they read, analyze it and make sense of ideas.

Fluency

Fluency is the ability to read accurately, quickly, and with expression. It connects word recognition and comprehension.

Online Resources

- The SAG-AFTRA Foundation's award-winning children's literacy website, Storyline Online, streams videos featuring celebrated actors reading children's books storylineonline.net/
- Directory of NJ Public Libraries by county njstatelib.org/services_for_libraries/resources/directories_of_libraries/new_jersey_public_libraries/
- Resources to help utilize *PBS KIDS* to support your child's learning every day: pbs.org/parents/
- Database of children's e-books, available by subscription to public libraries: tumblebooks.com/
- Book club for students: biblionasium.com/#tab/content-summer-picks

Ideas for Learning Every Day in Many Ways

- 👉 Read every day and make a chart or list of all the books or magazines you read this summer. Include a review on each one.
- 👉 Start a journal or scrapbook. Include special photos and letters that you write to family and friends.
- 👉 Start a book club with friends and visit each other to talk about your favorite books.
- 👉 If you visit a new restaurant, read the menu with the people at your table. When you get home, design a menu of your favorite summer treats.
- 👉 Read a recipe on how to make your favorite treat from a cookbook or online cookbook. Imagine making the same treat but in a different way. Write clear directions on how to make it and include a picture of what your treat might look like.
- 👉 If you take a day or overnight trip with family or friends, describe what you see and do. When you return home, use your memories to create a travel guide for other visitors.
- 👉 Collect jokes and riddles from your family and friends and write your own joke book. Tell your jokes to people and keep a list of the ones they find funny. Create a comic strip using your jokes.
- 👉 Invent a tool to help you do chores inside or outside of your home. Draw a picture or write about it.
- 👉 Ask an adult to help you start a blog. Select a topic that interests you and describe the topic so others can learn about it. Keep an adult with you the entire time that you work on this project.
(Guidance for adults: state.nj.us/education/techno/htcrime/online_safety.htm)
- 👉 Take a walk in the neighborhood with an adult. Imagine adding something new to your neighborhood such as a home, store, playground, park, firehouse, hospital, school, or another interesting place. Draw the new place and write a description about it.
- 👉 Play a board game, and afterward, design your own board game. Write the rules, explain them to others, and try to play the game. Afterward, create an advertisement for a company to sell your game.

The best part ... Have Fun!!!