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 lose 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 motivate your children to continue reading and learning all summer long.

**RESOURCES FOR PARENTS**
- [www.rif.org/us/literacy-resources.htm](http://www.rif.org/us/literacy-resources.htm)
- [Reading Is Fundamental, Inc.](http://www.rif.org)
- [International Reading Association](http://www.irlen.org)
- [www.pbs.org/parents](http://www.pbs.org/parents)
- [PBS Parents](http://www.pbs.org/parents)
- [www.reading.org](http://www.reading.org)
- [International Reading Association](http://www.irlen.org)
- [www.ala.org/yalsa/booklists](http://www.ala.org/yalsa/booklists)
- [American Library Association](http://www.ala.org)
- [Best Books for Kids Who (Think They) Hate to Read](http://www.rif.org)

**RESOURCES FOR KIDS**
- [www.rif.org/readingplanet](http://www.rif.org/readingplanet)
- [Reading Is Fundamental, Inc.](http://www.rif.org)
- [Fun with Nature Take-Along Guide](http://www.rif.org/readingplanet)

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**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.

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**RIF’s GUIDE TO**

**Summertime Reading**

**for Children of All Ages**

**A Guide for Parents from Reading Is Fundamental**

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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!
2. Make a chart to keep track of all the books you read this summer.
3. Work up an appetite by reading a story about food. Make and eat the food you read about.
4. Find something small enough to put in your pocket. Write or tell a story about it.
5. Read a picture book without words. Use your own words to tell the story.
6. Pretend you are going to invent a tool to help you do chores more easily. Draw a picture of it or make it from some old junk.
7. Sit under a tree and read or write a poem.
8. Write a list of things you need to “survive.”

Quick Tip! 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 a 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.

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.

Around town
You don’t have to travel 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 a 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.

8 Weeks of Fun

RIF’s Summer Reading Calendar

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 e-mail to friends can help kids sharpen their writing skills.