



Dear Parent,

Summer can be a season full of good times and fun memories, but did you know that kids may experience learning losses when they don't read during the summer? There's actually a name for it: the summer slide (and that isn't the one at the park).

So what can you do as a parent to help STOP the summer slide?

Here's one idea! The Scholastic Summer Challenge is a FREE summer-long program designed to motivate all children to read books for fun. The web-based campaign helps kids find great books and log their reading minutes to help set a new Scholastic Read for the World Record! All summer long, kids can play reading-related games, chat with other readers, and even make a difference: on behalf of all participating readers, Scholastic will make a donation of 50,000 books to kids in need through Reading Is Fundamental, a children's literacy non-profit (www.rif.org).

You can get involved too! Track your child's reading progress; share their successes on Facebook; find summer book lists, plus get plenty of children's book recommendations and tips from reading experts about stopping the summer slide in your home.

Studies show that children who **read four or more age-appropriate books** over the summer do better on reading tests in the fall than those who read only one or no books over the summer. And, asking questions about what your child is reading, can help with comprehension.

Motivating your kids to read doesn't have to be costly, and can even be free if you visit your local library. Here are a few ways you can help your kids keep their reading skills sharp:

- Let your kids **choose the books** *they* want to read.
- Give kids **access** to a wide variety of age-appropriate books.
- Invite them to go online and join the **Scholastic Summer Challenge!**

Go to www.scholastic.com/summer to learn more, and get your child to read and join the Scholastic Summer Challenge! For parent tips from the National Summer Learning Association, click for English or Spanish, or go to www.summerlearningcampaign.org for more information about summer learning, and what you can do to spread the word about the importance of summer learning for kids in your community.

Have a great summer, and happy reading!

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