

A banner with the words "SUMMER READING" in a green, stylized, outlined font, arched over a light blue background.

Summer Reading Program 2017 Strategy Guide

Packet Contents

Pages 3 - 5

Summer Reading for the Preschool Age

Pages 6 - 8

Summer Reading for the Elementary Age

Pages 9 - 11

Summer Reading for the Tween Age

This packet of information is also available on www.munce.com

How to Make Reading Fun For Preschoolers

By Diane Stortz

When preschoolers have fun with books, they're on their way to lifetime of reading enjoyment. Remember that reading is good for your child's development on every level—physical, mental, emotional, even spiritual. Children who love reading may be more open to Bible reading as they grow.

Here are 10 tried-and-true tips for making reading fun for preschoolers.

1. Read aloud while your child plays nearby. Comment on the pictures. Sometimes children will come over to look, then go back to playing. Even if not, they're listening.
2. Choose books with flaps to lift, touch-and-feel effects, or something to search for in the pictures. Let children turn the pages.
3. Don't insist on sitting still. Wiggles are okay.
4. Read while your child eats a snack or plays in the bathtub.
5. Be satisfied with just a few pages of a book at one sitting if need be. And if one book just isn't interesting to your child, try another.
6. Let a puppet or stuffed animal "read."
7. Keep books in the car to read during waiting times.
8. Use audio books during drive times.
9. Keep a few books in every toy bin throughout your house. Read just a little, often.
10. Include books in nap-time and bedtime snuggles.

Happy reading!

<http://christianauthorsnetwork.com/diane-stortz/>

How to Get Your Preschool to Read

by Crystal Bowman

When should I teach my child to read? It's a good question, but parents need to keep in mind that while some kids may be reading by age four, other children might not learn to read until they are six or seven. The best thing parents can do for their children is to simply read to them.

Here are a few tips:

- Young children thrive on routines, so if you incorporate book reading into your daily schedule, your kids will not let you skip!
- Books come in all shapes and sizes—just like kids! The age level of a book is not as important as the interest or comprehension level of your child. Choose books that your child will enjoy, so that he or she will be excited about reading.
- Stories that are written using rhyme and repetition are easier for a child to memorize. Once your child becomes familiar with a story, point to each word as you read the story. Your child will soon recognize some of the easier words.
- When your child is interested in learning to read, choose books specifically designed for beginning readers. There are several levels of early readers, so start with the simplest text. Read the entire book to your child. Then try reading every other page, letting your child read the alternate pages. Once your child masters the first level, you can gradually progress to more challenging levels.
- Be patient! If you or your child becomes frustrated, reading will quickly become a negative experience. Take your time when you read with your child. If you feel your child is getting tired or discouraged, put a bookmark in the book and pick it up again later—or choose an easier book.

Learning to read is a milestone in every child's life. It opens the door to knowledge and takes the reader on adventures beyond the imagination. But even when your child learns to read, do not stop your routine of reading together. Children love being read to, not only because of the story, but also because of the quality time it offers the parent and child. Your kids will not be little forever. Love them deeply, pray for them every day, and read!

<http://christianauthorsnetwork.com/crystal-bowman/>

How to Get Your Preschooler to Talk About What She's Reading

By Dr. MaryAnn Diorio

Reading is one thing, but comprehending what one reads is quite another.

An excellent way to develop your child's reading comprehension skills is to engage him in a conversation about what he is reading.

Easier said than done? Not necessarily. Here are a few tips for stimulating discussion with your child.

Ask your child specific questions, like:

- *How did this story make you feel?*
- *What did you like best about the story? Why?*
- *What did you like least about the story? Why?*
- *If you were the author, how would you write the story differently? Why?*
- *Did you learn something new from the story? If so, what?*

Engaging your child in conversation about the books she reads will not only develop her reading comprehension skills, it will develop your relationship as well. And what parent doesn't want that?

Dr. MaryAnn Diorio's latest children's book, *The Dandelion Patch*, deals with the topic of eminent domain.

<http://christianauthorsnetwork.com/mary-ann-diorio/>

Five Ways to Make Reading Fun for Elementary School Age Kids

By Michelle S. Lazurek

Some of my favorite memories of my kids are of them placing a book on my lap, fingers in their mouth, smiling as we flipped pages, created characters' voices and got lost in stories. But soon all that changed. Once my son got into school, reading was no longer fun. Perhaps it is because he was forced to read books based on his grade level that didn't interest him. Perhaps it was the pressure of taking tests and getting a certain amount of points for a grade.

Whatever it was, somewhere, somehow, the fun was taken out of reading. You can help restore your child's love of reading. Here are some tips to help you do that:

Be consistent- anything can become a habit if done long enough. Make a habit to sit down with your child every evening (or another time that is convenient) and read with them, even if it is only for twenty minutes. This creates positive memories for both you and your child. This will create a positive experience of reading, not a negative one.

Create an atmosphere- Make your child as relaxed as possible. In this technological age, many kids like to multitask, having the radio or TV on while reading. If that is what works and the comprehension is good and this helps your child to focus, then do so. Some like the "white noise" of a TV or radio in the background, while others have to have absolute quiet. Whatever works, select a comfortable chair in the same spot everyday. Make that place the "reading space."

Role play- Nothing makes a story come alive then reenacting the exact events, characters and plot of a story. Some children are visual learners, others learn by listening, but most learn by doing. Let them become the characters, recreating every plot and becoming like the characters. Drama is an art form, just like creating art with words. Being creative evokes senses and encourages creativity. Kids will want to read if they become the people they are reading about and *experience* the book.

Create stories- Books aren't created unless an author writes one. Writing doesn't have to be a chore. Encourage kids to write, creating their own stories. Similar to the role playing, writing will also spark creative juices. Give kids incentives like awards and small prizes for most original or best piece. Make it a game. Writing is good; being recognized for it is even better.

Read in their interests- Reading is the place where kids can escape to anywhere and be anything they want to be. Find out what they are interested in and inundate them with books in their areas of interest. Reading is often underestimated because TV and video games change so quickly, keeping a child's attention.

Michelle S. Lazurek latest book is *Daddy, Am I Beautiful?*
<http://christianauthorsnetwork.com/michelle-s-lazurek/>

How to Get Your Elementary School Age Child to Talk about What They're Reading

By Sarah Hamaker

Reading can be a great way to connect with your elementary school age child. Here are some ways to get them talking about the books they're reading.

Host a neighborhood or church book club. Have your kids invite other kids from the neighborhood and hold monthly or bi-monthly book club meetings.

Ask open-ended questions. How did you like the book? What did the main character do that you thought was right (or wrong)? How would you have handled the conflict differently? How did you feel when you finished the book?

Participate in summer reading programs. Librarians often ask kids what their favorite book was and why.

Re-read some of your favorite books. Revisiting some of the books you loved at that age can help spur conversations with your child.

Incorporate discussions of reading into your daily routine. Have a designated reading time each afternoon for half an hour or so, then come together to discuss what you've read.

Talk about books at dinner. One night a week, everyone (even mom and dad) comes to the table ready to share about a book they've recently read.

Read the book, watch the movie. Then dissect what the movie got right and what was left out. It's never too early to have these types of discussions, which often drives the child to re-read the book.

Check out audio books for listening while traveling. We often have books on CD for long car rides. After each disc, everyone chimes in about what they've liked so far and where they think the story is headed.

Read aloud together as a family. This is a family favorite when we're camping, as each of us takes turns reading a few pages around the campfire. Then we talk about the book together.

Listen. Take the time to be available to hear what your child wants to tell you about a book he's reading. Last night, my 10-year-old son comes up to me right before bedtime and says, "Mom, can I tell you about the book I just finished?" Of course, I said yes, and simply listened as he described the plot, his eyes aglow with wonder at the story.

Ending Sibling Rivalry: Moving Your Kids From War to Peace
<http://christianauthorsnetwork.com/sarah-hamaker/>

How to Get Your Elementary School Age Child to Read

By MaryAnn Diorio

The secret to getting someone to do something is to convince that person of the benefits of doing what you would like him to do. This is the essence of salesmanship. It is also the essence of getting your child not only to read, but also to *love* reading.

When it comes to getting your elementary school age child to read, you can apply proven sales principles to get the results you want. Here are a few of those principles:

Find out the reason your child does not like to read. Once you know the root problem, you can help your child to resolve it.

- Is he afraid of failing?
- Is he afraid of being embarrassed if he makes a mistake?
- Does he doubt his ability to read?
- Does she have a vision problem or a learning disability?
- Did someone make fun of him at school?
- Did a teacher make a negative comment about his reading ability?

Discuss with your child the benefits of being able to read. Even very young children can understand that knowing how to read will help them in the most basic areas of life, like shopping at the grocery store or counting their birthday money.

Model reading enthusiasm to your child. Enthusiasm is contagious! When your child sees you get excited about reading, she will absorb that excitement and make it her own.

Dr. MaryAnn Diorio's latest children's book, *The Dandelion Patch*, deals with the topic of eminent domain.

<http://christianauthorsnetwork.com/mary-ann-diorio/>

10 Ways to Make Reading Fun for Tweens

By Sherry Kyle

1. Pick the right books for their reading level. A good rule of thumb is to open a book to a random page and have your child start reading. If they know all the words, then the book is too easy. They can still read it, of course, but make sure they have books that are more challenging with one to five words they don't know. Beyond five words, the book is too difficult.
2. Every couple of weeks, go to the library and allow your kids to choose a stack of books to read. This is a great way to see the kind of books your children are interested in, as well as a good motivator to finish the books by the return date.
3. Create a chart to mark their progress. Have a goal and give a reward, such as a movie and pizza night or a trip to the local museum.
4. Switch it up and choose a different kind of book than what your child is used to, such as an audiobook or e-book. Remember magazines and comic books count as reading too!
5. Create a cozy reading corner with a comfortable chair, a cool light fixture, and fun wall art or string a hammock between two trees in your yard. Reading is more fun when you have a designated place to do it.
6. Read to your child every night before bed. Make it a special time for the two of you to get lost in a story. Chat about what you've read before saying goodnight.
7. Hire a tutor if your tween needs help. Nothing is more frustrating for a child than struggling to do something that is difficult. Reading is a skill they will need throughout their life, so the earlier you get them help, the better.
8. Model it. Kids like to do what adults do, so read often!
9. Start a tradition and give books as gifts. Your kids will look forward to receiving a long-anticipated book for their birthday or Christmas, and will ask for them each year.
10. Still having trouble getting your child to read? Write your own book instead! Take turns adding to the plot, or have your child create the entire story himself. Add a front and back cover, and viola! A book to treasure.

How to Get Your Tween Talking About What They Are Reading

By Doreen Hanna

As parents we want our children to be able to read and also to comprehend what they have read. Talking with them about what they just read or have read recently can be enjoyable times of engagement with them.

One approach to engage your child about what they have read is reading the same book separately. You have a copy of the book and your tween has their own copy. Set a target goal to finish the book that you will both have read by your deadline. For younger children, that might be 20 or 30 minutes. For older children it might be a day or two. Then create some questions about the book that would engage conversation between the two of you.

Books can elicit feelings that may need or want to be shared. A great way to start is to talk about what you have read recently and how it made you feel. Then, invite your child to do the same.

Ask questions like the following:

- If you could be friends with any character in the book, who would it be and why?
- What was the most exciting part of the book?
- What surprised you most about the story? Why was it surprising?
- What do you think the saddest part of the story was? Why?
- Is there anything in this story that is similar to something that has happened to? What was it and how is it similar?
- What would you do in a situation similar to that faced by a character in the story?
- What part of the story made you think it would end the way it did?
- How would you change the book's ending if you could re-write it?
- How is this book like one you read in the past? Discuss how they are alike or different.

Talking with your children about what they have read often helps you as a parent discover things they are thinking, feeling and learning or may want to learn more about. What a wonderful journey of discovery for both child and parent.

Doreen Hanna is founder and president of Modern Day Princess.

<http://christianauthorsnetwork.com/doreen-hanna/>

How to Get Your Tween to Read
By Kathy Cassel Doreen Hanna

Reading will keep your child's mind sharp this summer, but what if he doesn't like to read? What can you do? Here are some ideas.

- *Model reading.* Your child will believe reading is fun more if he sees you reading than if you lecture him about it. Let him see you reading and share the exciting parts of your book with him.
- *Read aloud to your child.* Too often we stop reading to children when they can read for themselves. Reading aloud to your child allows him to enjoy the story without struggling with unfamiliar words and sentence structure.
- *Read at bedtime.* Let your children agree on a book to read, and try to read a chapter a night. Choose a variety of books. If you start a book and no one enjoys it after two or three chapters, quit. Choose another book rather than having them sit through one they don't enjoy.
- *Set aside time for silent reading.* Call out for pizza one night a week and have everyone in the family silently read their favorite books during that time. Have a set time, usually around twenty minutes works well, and then have each child share his book.
- *Help your preteen find books they will enjoy.* Think about what excites him, any special needs he's facing, authors or series he's enjoyed in the past, and nonfiction ideas.
- *Select book that tie-in with everyday life.* If you're planning a trip, read about locations you'll visit. Find books to tie-in with holiday celebrations and special events as well as ordinary events.
- *Offer to install a reading app on his phone.* Then suggest he spend waiting time reading rather than texting or playing games.
- *Find unique places to read books,* such as at the beach, in the park, on a bench, on a swing, camping, by the fire, in a tent, in a cabin by the fireplace, by body of water, at a hotel, by the pool or on the veranda.

Getting your preteen hooked on books may seem an impossible task and it won't happen overnight, but you can make strides toward it. Learning to read for enjoyment now will give your child a lifetime of adventure through books and develop lasting skills and interests.

Katrina (Kathy) Cassel, M.Ed., is the author of ten books including The One Year Book of BibleTrivia for Kids (Tyndale). Doreen Hanna is founder and president of Modern Day Princess.

<http://christianauthorsnetwork.com/katrina-cassel/>

<http://christianauthorsnetwork.com/doreen-hanna/>