TIPS FOR WORKING WITH YOUR CHILD BY AGE

- **KINDERGARTEN–GRADE 1 (AGES 5–7)**

  Focus on sounds, letters and simple words.

  You can say:
  - "What starts with /m/?"
  - Rhyming: cat, hat, mat
  - Clap syllables: but-ter-fly
  - Build simple words (cat, sun)

- **GRADES 2–3 (AGES 7–9)**

  Your child is learning to build words, crack the code of the written word, and make meaning of words.
  - Change sounds: cat → hat → hot
  - Break words apart: sunset = sun + set
  - Read and write short sentences.

  WRITING COUNTS TOO!
  Writing is an important part of reading! Have kids practice their writing skills in the summer to help improve their reading, too!
  - Write lists together
  - Leave notes
  - Write a diary of your summer days.

  And remember, invented spelling- or a child spelling from what sounds they hear- is OK for this practice.

FUN QUESTIONS TO ASK KIDS ABOUT THEIR BOOKS:

- What would you name this book if you could?
- What questions would you ask the author about this book?
- Which character in the book are you most like?

KEEP IT POSITIVE
Practice a growth mindset, or help children feel good about practicing when you say things like:
- "When you practice words aloud, you are learning."
- "Let's try, try again!"
- "You're improving!"

FINAL THOUGHT
When you read, talk, and enjoy language together, you build skills—and a love of reading.
You've got this.

For summer programs and free resources in your area, visit www.discoversummer.org or scan this code:

nsla national summer learning association

FIRST BOOK™

SUMMER READING: A YOU-CAN-DO-IT-GUIDE FOR FAMILIES

Tips to have fun reading during the summertime and build true book joy

For Families with Summer Readers in Grades K-3



Summer is a great time for family fun and being together. This guide has easy ways to make reading fun for the whole family.

WHAT MATTERS MOST: YOU!

Reading is very important for every child. Your child learns when they see you read. Play word games, sing songs, and have fun with words together this summer!

- Spend time together with books.
- Talk and have conversations.
- Set aside time for the whole family to read.
- Model your love of books.

Doing a little bit every day helps the most. Try to read together for 10 minutes a day. Make reading a fun time you share.

BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS: EVERYWHERE BOOKS

- Grab a reading moment: Even if you have only one minute, pick up a book! Reading just one page shows your child that books are important. Every little bit helps.
- Keep a book in your car or diaper bag or somewhere surprising to your kids.
- Go to the library and have fun. Let your child pick books and find new stories. The library is free for everyone.
- Remember to use audio books as a fun family time together.



EVERYDAY WORD PLAY AND BOOK SHARING

Try this:

- Sing the Alphabet song while your child brushes their teeth.
- Reading aloud is an easy way to help your child get better at reading.
- It is good to read the same book again and again. Your child learns more each time they read.
- If the book is too hard or boring, stop reading it. There's always another book.

ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD ALONG THE WAY!

Here are some good things to say to your child as they practice reading:

- "I love how you tried that word."
- "Great reading!"
- "Let's try again now that we sounded out all the letters and sounds."
- "I love reading with you!"

BUILD BOOK JOY

Kids read more when reading feels good.

- Make reading a cozy, comfortable time.
- Let kids choose ANY books they like – visit your public library to build book choice as a treasured routine!
- Create cozy reading spaces at home – snuggle up in a comfy chair or sit under a tree in the park that has lots of cool shade.

Comics, nonfiction, and graphic novels ALL count, as do recipes, magazines, and reading street signs or signs in everyday spaces you visit.

TALK, TALK, TALK

Strong readers are strong talkers. You can build vocabulary naturally when you say things like:

- "Tell me about your day…"
- "What did you notice today?"
- "That's enormous—which means it's very big!"
- "Tell me three things that you think are fun and tell me why!"