



# Make Summertime Reading Fun for Children and Teens

## ENCOURAGE THEM TO VISIT CHILDREN'S AUTHOR'S WEB SITES.

Many authors have created their own Web sites that contain information about their books, interactive games children can play, articles, artwork, and more. Make a point to introduce some author's Web sites to your children this summer -- either at home or at the library (most public libraries have computers with Internet access) -- to get them excited about reading. Then, check out some library books by those authors to read at home together. For a listing of author Web sites, visit the Children's Literature Web Guide at: [www.ucalgary.ca/~dkbrown/authors/html](http://www.ucalgary.ca/~dkbrown/authors/html).



## GO BEYOND THE DISPLAY AREAS AT THE LIBRARY -- VISIT THE STACKS!

Children (and adults) tend to be drawn to the books on display at the library. This is fine, but parents/guardians and children should ask themselves, "Are there other books by this author?" Find out by looking in the stacks for those "hidden treasures."

## PROVIDE READING MATERIALS OTHER THAN BOOKS.

Summer is a perfect time for encouraging youth to think about other kinds of reading, such as puzzle books or magazines written for a young audience, such as *Sports Illustrated for Kids*, *National Geographic World*, *Highlights for Children*.

## LET THEM CHOOSE.

Throughout the school year, children and teens have a lot of required reading. During the summer, give them some leeway and encourage them to choose their own titles, for a change. You may be surprised at the new interests they develop!



## LINK BOOKS TO SUMMERTIME ACTIVITIES.

Children enjoy stories they can relate to; for example, a child who has a puppy at home may enjoy reading books about dogs. Similarly, if you take young children to an arboretum, they may enjoy reading a book that relates to this experience, such as a book about plants or flowers. When possible, make connections between family field trips and books.

## GOING ON A CAR TRIP? TAKE ALONG BOOKS ON TAPE!

Children of all ages and teens can benefit greatly by listening to books on tape in the car. By listening to stories, children are exposed to new words and use their imaginations to picture what is happening -- great exercise for the brain!

## HELP YOUR TEEN FIND INTERESTING BOOKS TO READ.

Encourage your teen visit the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) Web site at [www.ala.org/ala/yalsa](http://www.ala.org/ala/yalsa) to find some "popular picks" for a teen audience. Like young children, teens need to keep reading...all year long!

**Sources:** *Make Summer Reading Fun for Kids* by Laura Minnigerode at [www.folksonline.com/folks/hh/educ/sumread.htm](http://www.folksonline.com/folks/hh/educ/sumread.htm); *Summer Reading for Elementary Kids* by Kimberly K. Keith at [www.childparenting.about.com](http://www.childparenting.about.com); *Summer Reading Tips for Parents* at [www.ldonline.org](http://www.ldonline.org); and *The Children's Literature Web Guide* at [www.ucalgary.ca/~dkbrown/authors/html](http://www.ucalgary.ca/~dkbrown/authors/html)