

# Help stop the “summer slide”

School’s out for summer! Students are looking forward staying up late, sleeping in and days with friends. Those days of freedom can take their toll on the progress your children have made all year though.

Did you know:

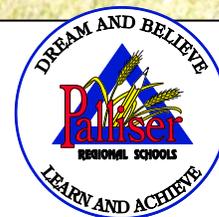
- In the summer up to two months of reading achievement can be lost.
- Up to 2/3 of the ninth grade achievement gap between students at or above grade level and those below is at least partially attributed to summer-learning loss.
- Teachers spend about one month each school year re-teaching concepts from the previous year. This takes away from time that could be spent on the new curriculum.

## What can be done?

Experts have found that for older students reading four to five books can stop the summer slide. For students in Grade 3 and below just 15 minutes a day of reading will do the trick. Making sure your children have books they choose based on their own interests and at a comfortable reading level are vital to keep them reading over the summer. The books should be ones they can successfully read on their own so that reading doesn’t turn into a chore and turn them off.

## How you can support summer reading?

- Get books into your home. Visit the public library in your area. Many libraries offer summer reading programs for children.
- Go to second hand books stores.
- Arrange a book swap with friends.
- Set aside 15-20 minutes a day when everyone stops to read.
- Have a “booknic.” Pack a lunch and bag of books to enjoy outdoors.
- Keep a variety of reading materials available including magazines, newspapers, comics, etc.
- Be a reading role model for your child. Let them see you reading.
- Talk to your child about what he or she is reading. Ask about their favourite part or what they’ve learned.
- Don’t forget to have your child write. Reading and writing go hand-in-hand. Have children keep a journal on a trip or write a letter to a family member or friend.
- Read out loud. Reading out loud to children even after they are reading independently is very important. Being read to by an adult can dramatically increase the number of words a child knows and can use.
- Pack books wherever you go.
- Have your child create a blog about their reading to share with friends and family.
- Have older children read to younger children.
- Play word games.
- Have a family game night one night a week.
- Explore your community. Your experiences will build background knowledge for your child.
- Teens may enjoy an online book club through sites like [goodreads.com](http://www.goodreads.com). The social aspect of discussing books is often motivating not to mention they will find new titles that might interest them.



## Helpful Resources

### **The Canadian Children’s Book Centre**

<http://www.bookcentre.ca/>

### **PBS Parents**

<http://www.pbs.org/parents/experts/archive/2010/07/helping-to-prevent-summer-read.html>

### **Reading is Fundamental**

<http://www.rif.org/>

### **Scholastic Canada**

<http://www.scholastic.ca/summerreadingcounts/booklist.htm>

### **For more information, please visit Palliser’s website:**

<http://www.pallisersd.ab.ca/literacy>