

21 suggestions for maintaining reading momentum during the school holidays

Please keep in mind, as you read the list, that the amount of support given, or independence allowed, in each activity will need to be adjusted to the individual child's age and reading ability. Even young children who are not yet reading independently can be included in most activities.



Read to and with your child every day – continue the practice established throughout the year with special sharing times during the day or at bed-time — or both!



Demonstrate that you value reading by making time for your own reading, or setting aside a special quiet time when everyone in the family reads.



Visit the library and borrow to read, read, read!



Read poetry books, song books, picture books, joke and riddle books, crossword books, information books, chapter books (these can be read **to** younger children, or **with** older children – taking turns to read a page or a chapter each) — what are your favourites?



Trade books, no longer read, for others at a second-hand book store.



When dining out, have your children read the menu and choose their own meal.



Include your children in holiday cooking and have them read the recipe – ingredients and method. Perhaps they could read the recipe book to select the meal for the day.



Suggest your children read the TV guide to find when favourite programs are showing and establish a timetable for viewing, rather than haphazard watching with random flicking through channels.



Provide your children with bookstore catalogues and encourage them to read book descriptions to guide their next selection.



Bestow upon your children the title of 'Family weather watchers' and have them consult weather forecasts in the newspaper or online to select the most suitable days for planned outings and activities.



Include your children in making decisions about holiday activities. Give them the guide, or read the guide together and jointly choose the activities.



Make the library, museums and art galleries high on the list of must-dos. Many of these offer a wonderful assortment of free holiday entertainment for children, and reading is an essential part of getting the most from each visit!



Engage your children in craft activities which require them to follow written instructions. The ability to understand and follow procedures is empowering and requires the ability to read written, as well as visual, instructions.



Encourage your children to ask questions about every day events and phenomena. Help them to research in books at home, in the library or on the internet.



Provide eBooks as well as books in print. Good ones bring a new dimension to the reading experience.



When going out for the day, or journeying further away on a holiday, support your child in locating destinations on a map and in selecting an appropriate route. Engage your children in giving directions while en route.



Include your children when reading bus or train timetables.



When doing the family grocery shop, give your children their own list of items to look for.



Listen to recorded books on long car journeys, or have books for listening to or reading along with in bed.



Make the most of every reading opportunity that occurs throughout the day!



Give books as gifts!

Read! Read! Read!