

Three Ways to Prevent Summer Slide



Many children, especially struggling readers, forget some of what they've learned, or slip out of practice during the summer holidays. Try these strategies to help your reader improve their reading during the school break:

1. **Six books to summer success:** Research shows that reading just six books during the summer may keep a struggling reader from regressing. When choosing the six, be sure that they are just right—not too hard and not too easy. Take advantage of your local library. Ask for help selecting books that match your child's age, interests, and abilities. Participate in a summer reading challenge that motivates kids to read, also check our book lists at [scholastic.com.au/summer](https://www.scholastic.com.au/summer) for recommendations.
2. **Read something every day:** Encourage your child to take advantage of every opportunity to read. Find these throughout the day:
 - *Morning:* The newspaper—even if it is just the comics or today's weather.
 - *Daytime:* Schedules, TV guides, magazines, online resources, etc. For example, if your child likes the Food Channel, help them look for a recipe on the network's web site—then cook it together for more reading practice.
 - *Evening:* End the day by having your child read to you from the book they are currently reading (one of the six books, above). Have them rehearse a paragraph, page, or chapter before reading to you. Rereading will help them be more fluent—able to read at an appropriate speed, correctly, and with nice expression.
3. **Keep reading aloud:** Reading aloud benefits all children and teens, especially those who struggle. One benefit is that you can read books your child can't, so they will build listening comprehension skills with grade-level and above books. This will increase their knowledge and expand their experience with text, so that they will do better when they read on their own.

It's hard to keep up a reading routine in a season packed with distractions and diversions. These suggestions will fit into a busy schedule and make reading fun!