

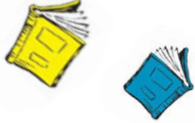


Supporting Your Reader at Home-Tips for Parents with Children in Grades K-3

JUNE READING-RELATED ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND PARENTS

<p>Make a summer calendar with your child. List special things you want to do.</p>	<p>Take your child to the local library and sign up for the summer reading program.</p>	<p>Have a summer birthday? Write the party invitations. Include both words and pictures.</p>	<p>Read a book with an author's name that begins with the letter <i>A</i>, tomorrow with the letter <i>B</i>, the next day with the letter <i>C</i>, and so on.</p>	<p>Play Tic-Tac-Toe with letters or words. Younger children can use letters other than <i>X</i> and <i>O</i>, such as <i>b</i> and <i>d</i>. Older children can use summer words.</p>	<p>Have a family campfire outside and tell stories. Or gather together inside around a large bowl of popcorn.</p>	
<p>Visit the library today. Find an alphabet book that is more than just "A is for Apple."</p>	<p>Sing the alphabet song one time each hour throughout the day. Stop other activities for a moment and simply sing.</p>	<p>Does your newspaper have a special children's page? Encourage your child to read it and complete the activities.</p>	<p>Ask each person to bring a Mother Goose rhyme to lunch. Share the rhyme.</p>	<p>Help your child make a puppet from a paper bag, an old sock, or a stick. Put on a show.</p>	<p>Challenge everyone to learn a new word today. Use it at least three times. For more challenge use some of the words again tomorrow.</p>	
<p>Read under the stars. Take a blanket and book outside and read by flashlight.</p>	<p>Play Memory. Use pictures, letters, letter sounds, sight words, or even a traditional deck of playing cards.</p>	<p>Set up a scavenger hunt. Leave notes around the house leading to other notes. The final note leads to something special.</p>	<p>Visit the library. Check out a fiction book. Check out a book to read together and a book to read alone.</p>	<p>Have a No TV or No Screens Night. Read, tell stories, maybe do arts and crafts, or play other games instead.</p>	<p>Start with magnet letters on the refrigerator today. Older children can start with magnet words.</p>	<p>Write your child's name in a vertical column. Use each letter to begin each line in a poem.</p>
<p>Play word games such as Boggle Jr., Scrabble Jr., or Word Yahtzee today. Set up a family tournament.</p>	<p>Encourage your child to start a new hobby. Check out the library for information about the hobby.</p>	<p>Pick a letter out of a bag. Find who can name the most things that begin with that letter.</p>	<p>Make a model together. Remember to read the directions together first.</p>	<p>Bake fortune cookies today. Write short messages on small pieces of paper and bake into the cookies.</p>	<p>Turn your child into a pet detective. Observe an animal closely and describe with as many details and adjectives as possible.</p>	<p>Plan a book swap party. Admission is one book. Each child arrives with one book to donate and leaves with another book to read.</p>
<p>Choose a famous person. Go to the library and find out more about him or her.</p>	<p>Visit a used bookstore. Let your child buy a cheap favorite or two. Treat yourself to favorite, also.</p>	<p>See how many places in your home, not in books, your child can find words to read.</p>	<p>Choose a letter at random. Have your child find items around the house that begin with that letter sound. Challenge older children to write more words than you that begin with that letter.</p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">   </div> <p style="text-align: center;">Supporting Your Reader at Home is a project of Raising Readers in Story County and the Ames Public Library.</p>		



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JULY READING-RELATED ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND PARENTS

Let your child read to you tonight, too. Sit back and enjoy the moment.	Create your own Memory game. Play with pictures of animals, letters, or summer words.	If you have a busy summer and don't have time to read at night, then read in the morning.	Visit the public library. Check out some nonfiction books. Consider a variety of books on similar topics.	Stuck in traffic? Make up a story using the characters, actions, and setting you see.	Visit an author's website. Read about the author and check out the activities.	
Cut out a story from the newspaper. Have your child read it and create a headline. Compare to the original.	Add to the Memory game. Make more pictures. Match upper- and lowercase letters, beginning sounds, or rhyming words.	Lie on the grass and look at the clouds. Make up stories about the shapes.	Going to the mall? Stop by the library along the way. Pick up a pile of books for the next rainy day.	A rebus is a story that replaces some words with pictures. Make a simple rebus with your child. Older children can create more challenging stories.	Play a game of "I Spy." Start with "I spy something red" or "round" or "beginning with /b/." Give additional clues after each guess.	Start a jigsaw puzzle. Offer age appropriate puzzles. Or make your own jigsaw puzzle. Cut up a summer picture. Mix the pieces. Put back together.
Ask your child to design an advertisement poster for the favorite book. Encourage other people to purchase.	Make alphabet soup. Print names on paper, cut out the letters, put into a pot, stir well, pull letters from the pot one at a time, and try to spell the names.	Write messages in mirror image. You can write a message for your child, and your child can try to write a message for you. Hold to a mirror and read.	Can you name an animal that starts with every letter of the alphabet? The letter X can be positioned in the middle or the end of the word.	Watch something on PBS or the Science channel or the History channel. Talk about it. Do some research for more information.	Play the Trip Game. "I am taking a trip with a cat. What else can I take along that rhymes with <i>cat</i> ?"	Visit the library today. Ask the children's librarian what seem to be the most popular books for the summer. Check out those books.
Do a crossword puzzle with your child. The older the child, the more difficult the puzzle can be.	Everybody bring a joke to dinner. No jokes? Do some research. Find something funny. Practice first.	Use the Memory cards and play Go Fish instead.	Buy a sports magazine for reluctant teen readers. Not into sports? Try hobbies.	Bake cookies with your child. Double the recipe. Ask your child to do the additional math.	Purchase something from the back of a cereal box today. Make sure your child does all of the work.	Make words that relate to summer. Play Memory, Old Maid, or 20 Questions with the words.
Find a simple science experiment to do with your child today. Read the instructions together and complete together	Rainy day? Have an indoor "camp-out." Make a tent from a blanket. Eat s'mores and read stories. Maybe try some storytelling.	Have only a few minutes? Play some simple games. Use words from a story being read, or use some summer words.	Choose a word, cut out the letters, rearrange the letters in alphabetical order, and re-create the word. Older children can choose a sentence, cut out the words, shuffle the words, and re-create the sentence. Still older children can choose a paragraph, cut out the sentences, shuffle the sentences, and re-create the paragraph.	  <p>Supporting Your Reader at Home is a project of Raising Readers in Story County and the Ames Public Library.</p>		

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AUGUST READING-RELATED ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND PARENTS

Play a board game today. Let your child read all of the cards. Help out when needed.	Write menus for dinner. Add candles. Make an in-home restaurant.	Play a basketball game of Horse. Use other animal names or summer words too. Play tag. Answer questions when tagged.	Going to the mall again? Stop at the bookstore at the mall.	Ask the librarian for a book of tongue twisters. Practice one or two to share with others at dinner.	Play some Dominoes. Use the traditional tiles or create your own tiles for matching letters.	Research time capsules. Have your child make one. Put it away for a summer or two.
Connect the Dots today. Create pictures, letters, or names. Start with just dots, then graduate to traditional numbers, and then to letters that follow the alphabet.	Ask your preschooler to sort socks by color; silverware by utensil; and reading material by book, magazine, or newspaper.	Have a reading contest with your child. See who can read the longest without taking a break.	Taking a trip? Play the alphabet sign game. Find signs that contain words that start with the letters of the alphabet. Start with the letter <i>A</i> and go in order.	Buy something with words on it, such as a hat, t-shirt, or ball. Encourage younger children to talk about the letters. Encourage older children to talk about the message.	Write a secret message in lemon juice. Have your child hold it over a light bulb to read. Or help your child invent a secret code for sending messages. Then leave notes for each other.	Time for alphabet soup. Print the child's name on separate letters. Put the letters into a pot. Ask the child to reach into the pot, pick out the letters, and complete his or her name.
Each person brings a poem to read before dinner. Practice reading out loud beforehand.	Go online to find computer games that everyone in the family can enjoy.	Play Dominoes. Make your own set with pictures, letters, or words.	Say a word, let the child say the opposite. Say <i>up</i> and the child says <i>down</i> .	Ask an older sibling to read to a younger sibling. No siblings? Grab a cousin, a neighbor, or a friend. Sometimes even a pet will work out.	Start the day with sticky notes in the bathroom. Write something for every member of the family.	Label sheets of paper for members of the family. Draw a picture for each. Include as many details as possible.
Make a shopping list today. Add a special treat. Ask your child to help out at the store.	Research time capsules. Have your child make one. Put it away for a summer or two.	Spend the day asking only open-ended questions that begin with <i>why</i> or <i>how</i> . Good luck.	Visit an author website. Most can be found through simple searches.	Play word games with summer words. Try to recall words that bring back the best memories.	Make connections. Talk about how this summer is similar to last summer.	Visit the library today. Choose an adventure or fantasy story. Read, relax, and enjoy.
Write a sentence on a strip of a paper. Cut out the words. Try to use the words to make the silliest sentences possible.	Hug your child and tell them 3 things you love about him.	Talk with your child about what she is looking forward to in her new grade.	Make a family video or scrapbook about your summer activities. Share it with a loved-one.	End the summer with a family field trip. Remember to talk about what you see.	  <p>Supporting Your Reader at Home is a project of Raising Readers in Story County and the Ames Public Library.</p>	