

SUMMER READING PARENT WORKSHOP

Program Overview

This no-cost workshop helps prevent the summer reading slide attributed to the lack of reading over the summer.

Use this program to enhance parents' understanding of the importance of summer reading and things they can do to support, monitor, and motivate their children to continue to read throughout the summer. This program aligns with Title 1 parent involvement requirements and supports the tenets of both the Common Core State (CCSS) and your state-specific standards.

The Program:

- Comes with a **Facilitator's Guide** that helps you plan each step of the program.
- Includes a **PowerPoint presentation** with talking points and a **reproducible invitation**.
- Gives parents a proven, research-based approach to promoting summer reading.
- Includes parent handouts:
 - How Can I Motivate My Child to Continue to Read Over the Summer?
 - How Can I Help My Child Achieve Reading Goals This Summer?
 - How Does My Child Log Reading Minutes?



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HELPFUL TIPS TO *Organize Your Program*

6 Weeks Before Your Workshop

Note: The Summer Reading Parent Program can be a stand-alone activity or combined with other activities – an orientation or registration, a kindergarten round-up, parent literacy events, or an open house – to boost attendance.

- Read through the Facilitator’s Guide handout to familiarize yourself with the flow of the program.
- Choose a date and time for the event.
- Choose a location for the event.
- Coordinate the event with your Book Fair chairperson if you are hosting your workshop during Book Fair week.
- Advertise the event in your parent newsletter and on the school website.
- Arrange for a translator for non-English-speaking parents if possible.
- Plan for light refreshments.
- Recruit staff and volunteers who will be involved in supervision so they can mark their calendars and understand their roles.

4 Weeks Before Your Workshop

- Meet with the staff and volunteers involved to:
 - ✓ Review the program agenda.
 - ✓ Assign and discuss roles and responsibilities.
- Download your workshop invitation and fill in the information needed.
- Make sure the date and time are correct on the invitation.
- Copy and send invitations to your parents, other schools and preschools, and Head Start programs in your community.

2 Weeks Before Your Workshop

- Confirm attendance for your workshop.
- Send invitation reminders.
- Select the handouts you plan to share during your workshop presentation.
- Practice your presentation.

1 Week Before Your Workshop

- Confirm attendance for your workshop.
- Send another invitation reminder.
- Practice your presentation.
- Make copies and organize your handouts.
- Have pencils and paper available with which students can create their summer reading booklists.
- Make sure audio equipment is available and in good condition.
- Personally confirm any needed A/V support.
- Personally confirm that the custodian is aware of the date, time, and room setup needs.
- Meet with staff and volunteers to confirm their assignments and responsibilities.
- Confirm any refreshments.
- If necessary, confirm your translator.

Day of Your Program

- Set up your program and materials.
- Ensure staff and volunteers are in place and understand their roles.
- Greet participants as they arrive.
- Above all, enjoy your program.

WORKSHOP PRESENTATION

Facilitator's Guide

Use this companion tool with the PowerPoint presentation.
These talking points are suggestions. Feel free to use your own words.

Tips to Create a Positive and Welcoming Learning Environment for Families

- Welcome participants one-by-one as they walk in and take their seats.
- Be cheerful. Ask them individually about their children.
- Say something that shows participants you value their attendance.
- Make sure participants feel respected and comfortable.
- Listen attentively when participants express themselves.
- Encourage families to share their ideas, experiences, and questions with you.
- If you are under time constraints, let participants know that you value their contributions and you will be happy to stay and continue the discussion at the end of the meeting or follow up with them.
- Use positive body language and words.
- Make compliments when participants share stories. For example, "Thank you for that example," or "Thank you for sharing," or "That was a wonderful example."
- Thank them at the beginning and end of your presentation for coming. Let them know you commend them for their commitment to helping their children continue to read over the summer.

Facilitator Greeting: (2 minutes)

(Turn on lively music of your choice a few minutes before the session is to begin. When the song ends, turn off the music and welcome participants. Introduce yourself as the host for this event.)

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- PowerPoint presentation
- Invitation
- One copy per student of *How Does My Child Log Reading Minutes?* handout
- One copy per student of the *My Summer Reading Goal* handout

Preparation:

- Review notes from *Facilitator's Guide* and rehearse for presentations.
- Make copies of handouts.
- Determine where *My Summer Reading Goal* cards will be placed that evening and where they will be displayed in the school.

Optional Handouts:

- Five-Finger Test bookmark
- *How Can I Motivate My Child to Continue to Read Over the Summer?* handout
- *How Can I Help My Child Achieve Reading Goals This Summer?* handout
- *How Does My Child Log Reading Minutes?* handout

The FIVE-FINGER TEST

for
*Right-fit
Books*

Open the book and ask your child to read a page or two (100 words). Hold up a finger for each unknown or misunderstood word, and say:

1 FINGER

You know all but one word! This book will be pretty easy for you.



2 FINGERS

"L" stands for learning. This will be a good learning book for you.



3 or 4 FINGERS

"W" is for "warning." This book may frustrate you, and you may not enjoy it.



5 FINGERS

This means **STOP**. Time to look for another book you can enjoy by yourself.



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YOU'RE INVITED!


Summer Reading Success Workshop

School is almost out, but that doesn't mean students should take a break from reading! Find out how you and your child can continue reading all summer! We'll share tips on how to motivate independent reading in a way that makes reading fun, and help your child meet important summer reading goals.

Date: [Insert Date Here] _____

Time: [Insert Time Here] _____

Place: [Insert Place Here] _____

 Cut and return bottom portion to your child's school.

Yes, I will attend the Summer Reading Success Workshop!

Parent's Name: _____

Child's Name: _____

Child's Teacher: _____

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MY SUMMER *Reading Goal*

_____ from [School Name]
Student's Name

commits to _____ minutes of summer reading.
Number of Minutes

Student's Signature

Parent's Signature

Grade



scholastic.com/summer



HOW TO *Log Reading Minutes*

After initial setup has been completed, students use the following directions to log minutes on a daily or weekly basis:

1. Go to **scholastic.com/summer**
2. Select KIDS **GET STARTED! >>** button and enter screen name and password.
3. This takes you right to your personal home page to log minutes.
4. After logging your minutes, you should see a "Your minutes were successfully logged" message. For students ages 8 and up, there is an optional choice to enter a sweepstakes – this requires some additional information. To just log minutes, choose **NO** when viewing this message.



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HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD ACHIEVE *Reading Goals This Summer?*

Did you know that children lose reading achievement when they don't read over the summer? In fact, a lack of summer reading accounts for 85 percent of the reading achievement gap among children. We can put books in front of our children, but how do we motivate them to read?

The answer: The Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge. Students compete to represent their schools or districts but also to meet or beat their own personal reading goals. Your children will log their reading minutes, participate in a weekly reading challenge, earn digital rewards, find great books to read, and more! Most of all, they will enjoy reading – and comparing their reading minutes with those of their peers at their school and around the world!



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Here are a few ways you can help your child set and achieve reading goals this summer:

- Attend a Book Fair with your child and help him/her find books he/she will want to read.
- Start a family book club and enjoy the same book together.
- Encourage reading at least 20 minutes every day with library visits, storytime at home, and conversations about books.
- Let your child see you reading. Children who observe their parents reading become better readers themselves.
- Help your child log reading minutes on the Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge website.
- Stock up on books they choose for themselves from a library, the school Book Fair, or a local bookstore when preparing for trips. (It's okay to let your child occasionally choose books that are below his/her reading level. It's variety that counts.)
- Keep books and appropriate periodicals everywhere – bedrooms, bathrooms, living rooms, and in backpacks.
- Read aloud to all your children – your established readers as well as your babies and toddlers.



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HOW DOES MY CHILD *Log Reading Minutes?*

After initial setup has been completed, students use the following directions to log minutes on a daily or weekly basis:

1. Go to **scholastic.com/summer**.
2. Select **KIDS** **GET STARTED! >>** button and enter screen name and password.
3. This takes you right to your personal home page to log minutes.
4. After logging your minutes, you should see a “Your minutes were successfully logged” message. For students ages 8 and up, there is a choice to enter a sweepstakes – this is optional and requires some additional information. To just log minutes, choose **NO** .

Use these directions if students do not sign up prior to the parent meeting and you wish to have parents enroll their children in the Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge.

1. Go to **scholastic.com/summer**.
2. In the purple **KIDS** square, click on the **GET STARTED! >>** button.
3. In the pop-up box that appears, click **Just Now** .
4. Create a **Screen Name** by choosing from the **categories** and click **Continue** .
5. Create a **password** that is easy to remember. *(Do not include any personal information in your password, such as your name, address, or email address.)*
6. Select a **security question** and provide an answer; click **Continue** .
7. Select **Gender**, **Country**, and **State**; click **Submit** .
8. To tie your minutes to your school, choose **YES** .
9. Get permission to participate by providing either a parent or teacher email address. Click **Submit** . *NOTE: Students can begin logging minutes immediately, however the minutes won't count toward your school unless your parent or teacher approves.*
10. Print or write down your screen name and password so you have them the next time you sign in..



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HOW CAN I MOTIVATE MY CHILD TO CONTINUE TO *Read Over the Summer?*

Before summer break, parents often ask, *“How do I get my child motivated to read over the summer, especially when he spends more and more time online and with mobile devices in hand?”*

The Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge relates with students in this new electronic age. They are invited to join their school team in a global effort to set a world record for most minutes read during the summer. Students sign up, choose books to read, then log their reading minutes online. They can continue to track their school's progress throughout the summer by checking in online.

How do parents turn their struggling, novice children readers into adults who enjoy reading for pleasure? There are several rules of thumb that the experts agree are building blocks to raising enthusiastic readers.

- **It all starts with reading aloud.** And reading aloud should start from birth. The more words your child hears from the beginning of her life, the bigger her vocabulary will be — which will pave the way when she learns to read herself.
- **Have plenty of books in the house.** Keep books in the bathroom, on the bedside table, in a backpack. Get your child a library card as soon as she is old enough, then take weekly or biweekly trips to the library.
- **Model reading for your children by being a reader yourself.** Make a point of reading a book or the newspaper while your children are in the room. As your child gets older, look for areas of common interest and read together. If your preteen son is an athlete, read the sports section together or get him a subscription to a sports magazine.
- **Let your children be in charge of what they read.** Allow your children to select their own books, even if they're too easy. Parents who try to exert too much control over the content of their childrens' reading risk fueling the perception that reading is a chore.

Another effective tactic for children who are struggling with reading (or just beginning to get the hang of it) is to give small rewards. For frustrated or new readers, the intrinsic pleasure in reading just isn't there yet, so it's OK to offer rewards, such as movie tickets, family outings, or privileges, in exchange for concentrated reading time.



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