

We have big dreams for our children.

We want them to grow up to be happy and successful adults—to be the best that they can be. School plays a big part in helping our children achieve these dreams—and so does summer!

Our children work hard during the school year and they learn a lot. But if we are not careful, they can lose what they learn over the summer. When that happens, they start the next school year behind and it's hard to catch up. We can keep this from happening, and it's as simple as reading, talking, listening and writing.



Reading

How can you make reading fun for your child?

- **Read with your child.** The more parents read to children, the more children enjoy reading.
- **Let your child select books on topics that interest him or her.** To check if the book is the right reading level for your child, you can:
 - + Ask a librarian for help.
 - + Use the five-finger rule. Ask your child to read 100 words from a book and have him raise one finger for each word that is too difficult to figure out. If he gets to five fingers, the book is probably too hard.
- **Grab a book from the library for you too.** Let your child see you reading.

Talking & Listening

It's about more than books.

- **Ask your child questions about what he or she is reading.**
 - + What do you think will happen next?
 - + Why do you think she did that?
 - + What was the story or chapter about?
- **Talk on the go.** When you are out and about with your child, talk together about what you see, hear, think, and feel.
- **Rhyming teaches children how language works.** Take turns listing words that rhyme—cool/pool, coat/boat, sun/fun. Make it into a game!

Writing

Writing helps children learn to express their ideas and feelings.

- **Have pencils, crayons, markers and paper out at home.**
- **Make writing fun.**
- **Write your child a short note** and ask them to write you back.
- **Make your family's shopping list with your child.** Ask your child to check the items off the list as you find them. Talk with children about what you'll do with each item.