



Does Your Child Hate to Read?

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For whatever reason, some kids just don't like to read. With summer vacation just around the corner, it's time to come up with a few sure-fire strategies so that all the hard-earned reading skills your child has acquired throughout the school year are not lost.

Did you save all those little books your child made in school this year? Those little books are a great source of practice reading material. Not only are they fun to read, but they will reinforce instant recognition of sight words, practice vocabulary, and build fluency.

Does your child have a favorite series, author, or subject? Make it a special event to go to the bookstore or library to find books your child can get excited about. There are many series out there suitable for even the youngest reader. If your child is into sports, look for sports-related biographies or technique books. Capitalize on your child's special interests by looking for books about bugs, space, dinosaurs, etc. Some children are more motivated to read non-fiction books. On outings to theme parks, encourage your child to read the user-friendly maps to locate rides, shows, or eating places. Play board games that require reading, like Monopoly Jr., Brainquest or Cadoo. Opportunities for reading are everywhere!

Does your local library or bookstore offer a summer program? If so, run, don't walk to sign up your child. They usually offer prizes and invite motivational guest speakers.

Does your child still refuse to read?

Try these ideas for engaging your child in reading activities.

"Buddy read" with your child. Take turns reading a line, paragraph, or

page. Find books of funny poems or joke books. Look for high interest books such as *Guinness World Records to the Extreme*, *Oh Yikes! History's Grossest Wackiest Moments*, *Book of World Records*, etc. Read aloud books like *James and the Giant Peach*, where every chapter ends in a "cliffhanger." Chances are your child may not want to wait until your next read-aloud session and will continue reading on his/her own. "Yay" when that happens!!

Try Reader's Theatre. This is a reading activity in which stories are written as scripts. These scripts are little plays, but kids are not asked to memorize lines or come up with costumes or props. This activity provides a great deal of reading practice and kids usually love it. Go to this link for more info and sample scripts:

<http://literacyconnections.com/ReadersTheater.html>.

You'll find downloadable scripts and coordinated headbands at www.teachersrapbook.com.

Also, you can visit my website for scripts suitable for beginning readers as well as a list of great series that kids love.

Have a great summer! Read a lot!