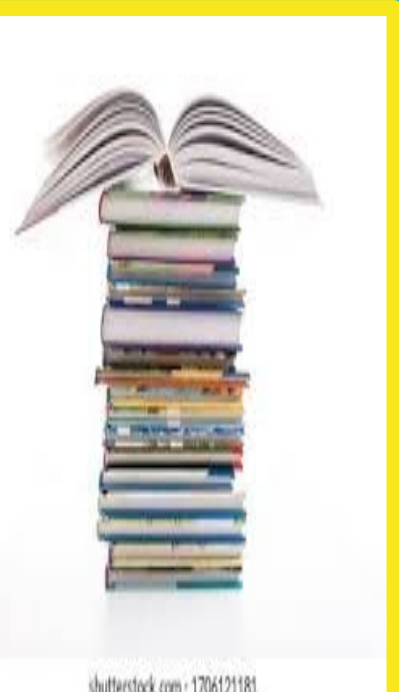


# NCPS K-4 Summer Reading Suggestions



**Read on to discover how we  
encourage our  
students & families to keep  
their reading lives  
thriving throughout the  
summer~**

WHY SHOULD NCPS  
STUDENTS READ OVER  
THE SUMMER? READ ON  
FOR THE MANY INVITING  
TIPS TO FOSTERING  
SUCCESS IN YOUR  
CHILD'S READING LIFE.

START A MEANINGFUL  
DISCUSSION AND SHOW  
YOUR CHILDREN THAT  
YOU VALUE WHAT THEY  
ARE READING.

NCPS WISHES YOU A WONDERFUL SUMMER  
BRIMMING WITH  
READING & CONVERSATION!

**HAPPY SUMMER READING!**

BUILD A  
**FAMILY ROUTINE**  
AROUND READING  
~LET READING FIT NATURALLY INTO  
YOUR SUMMER PLANS~

STRIKE A HEALTHY READING  
DIET THIS SUMMER

BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS &  
MORE BOOKS!

*A few examples of  
what sketchnoting  
might look like*

More Tips on Ways to fit  
reading into your Summer

## Summer Has Arrived!

The days are growing longer, summer plans are taking flight, and families are re-imagining daily routines. Even though leisurely activities tend to take precedence over academic endeavors, we would like to encourage you to keep the act of reading high on your child's list of summer activities and build a routine around reading.

### Skills & Strategies

### WHY IS SUMMER READING OF UNWAVERING IMPORTANCE?

THERE IS GREAT TRUTH TO THE FACT THAT READERS ARE LEADERS! JUST LIKE OTHER SKILLS YOUR CHILDREN ARE LEARNING, SUCH AS HOW TO PLAY THE PIANO WITHOUT LOOKING AT YOUR FINGERS, RIDE A 2-WHEELER AND PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT'S IN FRONT OF YOU, OR HOW TO GET THAT MITT DOWN AND GET IN FRONT OF THE BALL BEFORE IT GETS YOU, READING NEEDS TO BE PRACTICED EVERY DAY TO MAINTAIN AND STRENGTHEN ALL OF THE SKILLS AND STRATEGIES PRACTICED ALL YEAR WITH THEIR TEACHERS AND CLASSMATES.

### Let Research guides us...

THERE IS AN EXTENSIVE BODY OF RESEARCH THAT TELLS US THAT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT IS DIRECTLY RELATED TO HOW MUCH TIME CHILDREN SPEND READING OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL. MAINLY, THIS IS DUE TO THE FACT THAT READING BUILDS VOCABULARY AND BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE. AS WE ALL KNOW, ENGLISH IS NOT THE EASIEST LANGUAGE TO MASTER DUE TO THE MULTIPLE MEANINGS AND NUANCES OF WORDS, AND THE VAST RANGE OF SPELLING PATTERNS AND IRREGULAR SPELLINGS OF WORDS THAT ONE HAS TO NAVIGATE IN ORDER TO MAKE MEANING OF TEXT.

Here are more really great reasons: improve Self-esteem, concentration, critical & analytical thinking skills, stronger memory skills, expanded vocabulary.

# Build a Family Routine Around Reading ~ Let Reading Fit Naturally into Your Summer Plans~

## \*MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD READS EVERY DAY.

(EASIER SAID THAN DONE? ...PLEASE READ ON!)

### \*MAKE READING A PART OF YOUR DAILY ROUTINE.

FIND THAT QUIET SPACE AND SET ASIDE A SPECIFIC TIME THAT ENABLES YOUR CHILD TO ENJOY BUILDING H/HER SUMMER READING LIFE, WHICH MAY CONSIST OF AN ORGANIZED BASKET OR BIN(S) OF BOOKS PERSONALIZED BY THEM, PAPER, PENS/PENCILS TO JOT A NOTE HERE AND THERE, AND TO SKETCHNOTE THEIR THINKING ABOUT THE TEXT. SEE EXAMPLES BELOW).

### ● \*READ TO YOUR CHILD.

- KIDS OF ALL AGES ARE NOT TOO OLD TO BE READ TO!  
GET COMFY AND SETTLE INTO A BOOK THAT MAY BE ABOVE YOUR CHILD'S READING LEVEL, BUT WHICH YOU CAN READ, DISCUSS, AND ENJOY TOGETHER.

### \*FAMILY READ ALOUD CAN BE THE PINNACLE OF YOUR SUMMER!

*Wise words and research by **Jim Trelease** remains first and foremost in the thoughts of families and educators:*

"THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT ACTIVITY FOR BUILDING THE  
KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED FOR  
EVENTUAL SUCCESS IN READING IS READING ALOUD TO CHILDREN....  
WE READ ALOUD TO CHILDREN FOR THE SAME REASONS  
WE TALK WITH THEM:

# STRIKE A HEALTHY READING DIET THIS SUMMER!

**A HEALTHY READING DIET** IS BALANCED WITH 'JUST RIGHT' TEXTS IN ALL GENRES AND INCLUDES:

–HIGH INTEREST TEXTS THAT ARE BEYOND YOUR CHILD'S READING LEVEL

–A RANGE OF TOPICS AND GENRES

–SHORTER TEXTS AND LONGER TEXTS, EVEN ONE-PAGE TEXTS

–TEXTS IN DIFFERENT FORMATS: CHAPTER BOOKS, SERIES BOOKS, PICTURE BOOKS,  
POETRY BOOKS, JOKE BOOKS, MAGAZINES, INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS, TRAVEL MATERIALS,  
GRAPHIC NOVELS, AND OF COURSE, CHAPTER BOOKS FOR READ ALOUD WITH YOU.

## ~A NOTE ABOUT TEXTS THAT FEEL "JUST RIGHT"~

RESEARCH HAS SHOWN THAT CHILDREN MAKE THE MOST PROGRESS IN READING WHEN THEY READ BOOKS THAT ARE AT THEIR ABILITY AND READ EVERY DAY (ALLINGTON, MCGILL-FRANZEN).

A BOOK THAT FEELS 'JUST RIGHT' PROVIDES WORK FOR THE READER, BUT NOT SO MUCH WORK THAT THE READER LOSES THE ABILITY TO MAINTAIN COMPREHENSION. BY READING 'JUST RIGHT' BOOKS, READERS LEARN WHAT COMPREHENSION FEELS LIKE AND WILL THEN SEEK THAT LEVEL OF UNDERSTANDING WHENEVER H/SHE READS.

ON THAT NOTE, PLEASE DO NOT BE OVERLY CONCERNED THAT A BOOK IS "TOO EASY" OR "TOO DIFFICULT".

IF IT IS TOO DIFFICULT, JUMP IN AND READ ALONG MAKING IT A PLEASURABLE EXPERIENCE FOR YOUR CHILD.

SUMMER READING CHOICES SHOULD BE DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE READING ENJOYMENT.

Reading is like Eating, you  
Need a Balanced Diet!



Are YOU balanced?

## POINTERS CONTINUED...

o HELP YOUR CHILD FIND BOOKS ABOUT THINGS THEY ARE INTERESTED IN—SOMETIMES THE KEY TO GETTING A CHILD TO LOVE READING IS SIMPLY TO FIND THE RIGHT GENRE OR AUTHOR.

o HOW ABOUT SOME OF THOSE CLASSICS? TITLES THAT WE CHERISHED, WHERE GOOD MEETS EVIL, WHERE WE REMEMBER BEING THROWN OFF BY THE RED HERRING TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHODUNNIT, AND WHEN WE REMEMBER CRYING WHEN CHARLOTTE LEAVES HER BABIES AND WILBUR.

o FIND A SERIES YOUR CHILD ENJOYS; THEY'LL WANT TO KEEP READING THE NEXT BOOK IN THE SERIES, VERY MUCH LIKE A TV OR MOVIE SERIES.

---

**START A MEANINGFUL DISCUSSION AND SHOW YOUR CHILDREN THAT YOU VALUE WHAT THEY ARE READING.**

### OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS:

- WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE IF YOU WERE THAT CHARACTER?
- WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT THIS BOOK?
- THIS PART OF THE STORY FEELS MORE IMPORTANT BECAUSE...
- THIS STORY IS REALLY REMINDING ME OF..
- THE CHARACTERS JUST MADE THE PROBLEMS WORSE...
- IF I COULD SPEND TIME WITH THESE CHARACTERS....
- I BET I KNOW WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN NEXT....
- INTERESTING! AMAZING! I NEVER KNEW THAT.....I THOUGHT I KNEW ABOUT \_\_\_\_\_ BUT NOW I KNOW\_\_\_\_\_.

IF I COULD ASK THE AUTHOR A QUESTION, I WOULD ASK.... (SOMETIMES, YOUR CHILD CAN ASK THE AUTHOR A QUESTION- CHECK OUT AUTHOR WEBSITES. THEY ARE USUALLY JAZZED UP WITH FUN THINGS TO DO AND READ! FOR EX, [JERRY PAILOTTA'S WEBSITE](#) OR [JARRETT LERNER'S WEBSITE](#))



## And There Are Still More Pointers to Making Summer Reading All That!

- Turn on the closed captioning on your TV! This is especially good for children whose second language is English. And there is always, **CONTROL** the amount of television watched & video games played in comparison to the amount of time spent reading.
- Play word games with your children (rhyming, synonyms, opposites, etc.). Google “word games for children” and you’ll find many free websites with fun word games.

- Look for print everywhere—on cereal boxes, on signs, in store windows. Let kids read the words to you when you see print around you.
- When your child reads to you, be supportive by giving them clues when they need them. It’s not a great time for anyone involved to ask your child to read aloud to you when they are tired.

- Bring books everywhere you go. Become a traveling library.
- Remember that once is not enough! Re-read favorite books and poems, and let children re-read them to you. Chant, skip, jump, and dance to favorite songs and poems. It’s all about the sound of language.
- When children are ready to start reading on their own, make sure that the books they read are not too difficult. Save the difficult ones to read aloud to your child.

We can’t overstate the importance of being a reader yourself and letting your children see you in your reading routine.

- When you read aloud, *read with expression*. You are the role model for your child as a reader. Make a mistake and self-correct, reread...let them tell you what strategy could help you figure out an unknown word or tricky passage. It’s inspiring to be the teacher:).



# Books, Books, Books & more Books!



## New Canaan Library Summer Reading Program



Book Stores

Audiobooks

Magazines

*Book swaps with friends*

RazKids



## A few examples of what sketchnoting might look like

for an informational text~Sketchnotes



The setting of one scene from Grandmother Oak by Rosi Dagit~



Reading a self-care book?



We wish you a wonderful summer  
filled with fantastic books and rich  
conversations!



East School



South School



West School



Step 5: One will lead the activity.