



# Summer Reading Fast Facts for Parents

## Reading over the summer really does make a difference!

Many students and families regard the summer break as just that – a break from school and other “requirements.” However, research shows that kids who never open a book during the summer fall behind in reading, while kids who do read maintain or even excel in their reading skills.

## What do researchers have to say about the importance of summer reading?

“... the best predictor of summer loss or summer gain is whether or not a child reads during the summer. And the best predictor of whether a child reads is whether or not he or she has access to books.”

- Allington, Richard L. and McGill-Franzen, Anne. “Bridging the Summer Reading Gap,” *Scholastic Instructor* (2003, May/June).

“Regardless of ethnicity, socioeconomic level, or previous achievement, children who read four or more books over the summer fare better on reading comprehension tests in the fall than their peers who read one or no books over the summer.”

- Kim, Jimmy. “Summer Reading and the Ethnic Achievement Gap,” *The Journal of Education for Students Placed at Risk* (2004).

“Students with access to books and other reading material over the summer have a significantly higher level of reading achievement than those without access. In fact, students in our study continued to reap the benefits of summertime reading throughout the following school year, when they showed a 35 to 40 percent grade-level increase in reading achievement.”

- Allington, Richard L., & McGill-Franzen, Anne (2013). *Summer reading: Closing the rich/poor reading achievement gap*. New York: Teachers College Press.

