

NebraskaREADS:
2026 Summer Reading Adventure

education.ne.gov/nebraskareads

Dear Families and Caregivers,

Summer break is a whirlwind of sun-soaked adventures, cherished moments with family, and unforgettable fun with friends. Although summer is filled with the excitement of time off, some educational side effects may occur if not targeted. The "summer slide" is a term used to describe the learning loss that happens when students are not in school. In 2021, **School's Out: The Role of Summers in Understanding Achievement Disparities**, a published article in the American Educational Research Journal, reported on a study that found students in "grades 1-8 on average lost 17-34% of the prior year's learning gains during summer break".

The NebraskaREADS: Summer Reading Adventure packet equips caregivers and families with literary resources to combat this slide.

Objectives:

1. Help your child keep growing as a reader while school is out.
2. Make reading a fun part of your daily routine.
3. Encourage exploring different kinds of books and topics your child enjoys.
4. Build vocabulary, understanding, and confidence through everyday reading.
5. Support connections with your local library and community resources.

School's Out: The Role of Summers in Understanding Achievement Disparities: bit.ly/SchoolOut24

NebraskaREADS provides a wealth of tools and information to help families engage with their child's literacy development. From strategies for reading together to tips on fostering strong literacy skills, NebraskaREADS is an excellent companion to the Summer Reading Adventure packet.

Early Literacy Matters offers family-friendly activities, printable resources, and helpful tips to foster a love of reading at home. You'll find easy-to-use ideas that promote vocabulary building, phonics, and reading comprehension, all designed to fit into your daily routines.

NebraskaREADS (bit.ly/NeREADSfamilyresources)
Family and Early Literacy Resources (bit.ly/NeFamilyResources)
Early Literacy Matters (earlyliteracymatters.org/resources)

Summer Reading BINGO

How many spaces can you fill?

Read a library book	Read a book by your favorite author	Read a magazine	Read for 20 minutes	Read at night
Read and find a new word	Read a book about animals	Have someone read to you	Make up a new ending to a book you read	Read for 30 minutes
Read a book about science or nature	Read for 20 minutes	Free Space	Read in your pajamas	Read a nonfiction book
Read for 30 minutes	Read with a flashlight	Read a book with an odd number of pages	Read using a whisper voice	Read to a pet or stuffed animal
Read and retell a story to someone in your family	Read outside	Read for 20 minutes	Read out loud	Read a chapter book

What Are the Components of Early Literacy?

Phonological Awareness • Rhyming • Alliteration • Sentence Segmentation • Syllable • Onset and Rime • Phoneme Manipulation	Ability to recognize and work with sounds in spoken language. It is the foundation for learning to read.
Phonics • Letter-Sound Recognition • Word Blending • Multisyllable Words	Ability to understand the relationship between letters and the sounds they represent.
Fluency • Everyday Words • Sight Words • Fluent Phrase Reading • Fluent Passage Reading	Ability to read with sufficient speed to support understanding.
Vocabulary • Everyday Vocabulary • Learning Word Meaning • Synonym and Antonym • Word Connection • Affixes	Students' knowledge of and memory for word meanings.
Comprehension • Before Reading • During Reading • After Reading	Ability to understand and draw meaning from text.

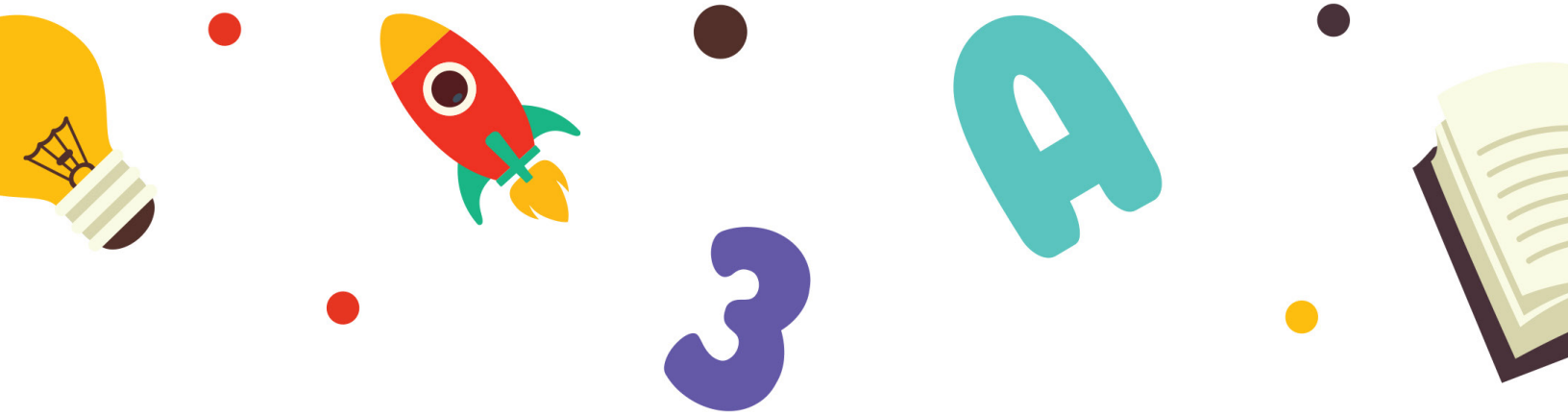


education.ne.gov/nebraskareads/structured-literacy

What Are Some Questions I Should Ask My Child's Teacher About Their Reading Progress?

- Is my child reading on grade level? What does "reading on grade level" look like?
- What test does my child take to find out if they are reading on grade level?
- How far below grade level is my child reading?
- What specific areas of reading is my child struggling with? What activities can I do with my child at home to help?

For more information on asking the right questions, please visit earlyliteracymatters.org/resources.



Literacy Activities

Activities and Games to Support Early Literacy Skills
This resource of activities and games was created to support the development of the foundational skills needed to become a skilled reader. Also included are video links demonstrating how common household materials can be used to practice these reading skills. These engaging games and activities can be adapted and changed as a child's reading ability grows.

bit.ly/NeREADSGames

Read at Home Plan
This resource was created to assist you in understanding how to support your child's reading development and progress. Using materials found around your home, you will be able to practice the skills necessary to help your child become a fluent reader. You will also find links to videos that show families engaging their child in some of the activities that are listed.

bit.ly/NEReadAtHome

UFLI Resource Hub
Research-based reading resources organized by grade level, with practical activities families can use to support phonics, fluency, and comprehension at home.

bit.ly/UFLIparent

The Reading League - Reading Buddies YouTube Series
Dott, Alphabott, and the Alphabotteers are teaching Dusty the Dog to read. That's what makes them Reading Buddies! Combining the science of reading with lots of laughs, Reading Buddies is the fun way to teach aspiring readers the foundational components of reading.

trlreadingbuddies.org

10 Ways to Support Your Child's Literacy at Home
Simple, research-based ideas families can use at home to build reading, language, and comprehension skills. This resource highlights everyday activities like reading together, talking about books, and using language during daily routines to support your child's literacy development.

bit.ly/NCILsupport

PBS Summer Learning
PBS shares simple, fun ideas to keep kids learning all summer through reading, play, and everyday activities. The goal is to build skills and curiosity in a way that feels natural and enjoyable for families.

pbs.org/parents/summer

Library & Book Resources



Digital Books

Unite for Literacy
Check out their free digital library that offers the option to narrate books in over 50 languages.

uniteforliteracy.com/ngr/library

BookSmart
With the free BookSmart app, children have the required tools to build their reading skills through high-quality books, activities that reinforce reading skills in fun and interactive ways, and where they are celebrated for their reading success.

booksmart.worldreader.org

Tandem
Tandem offers a variety of storytime videos and activity guides in multiple languages, including English and Spanish. They also provide culturally responsive book lists and activities.

bit.ly/TandemStorytime

Storyline Online
Storyline Online (K-5) is an award-winning children's literacy website which streams videos featuring celebrated actors reading children's books aloud alongside illustrations. The website also includes activity guides for parents and caregivers to complete lessons with students at home.

storylineonline.net

How to Listen and Learn with Audiobooks - Parent Resource
Audiobooks are a wonderful way to expose your child to complex language, expressive reading, and fantastic stories. Listening to audiobooks also gives kids the valuable and enjoyable experience of using their own imaginations to visualize the people and places they're hearing about. Here, you'll find guidance on what to look for in choosing audiobooks as well as listening tips."

bit.ly/HowToAudiobooks

Dialogic Reading
Dialogic reading involves an adult and child having a dialogue around the text they are reading aloud together. Learn how to use this strategy effectively to help kids build vocabulary and verbal fluency skills and understand story structure and meaning.

bit.ly/DialogicRead

Overdrive
OverDrive is a company that provides digital content (like ebooks and audiobooks) for free to public library patrons and students. All you need to get started is a library card or student ID.

overdrive.com

Book Recommendations

Nebraska Libraries
Many Nebraska public libraries hold summer reading programs. Find your local library and see what events they are hosting this summer!

bit.ly/NebraskaPublicLibraries

Wide Open School
This site includes lessons, videos, apps, and tools, along with a limited set of resources that can be used offline. These resources are carefully curated and sourced from the site's education partners. The website is easy to navigate, and the resource descriptions clearly explain how each resource can be used

bit.ly/WideOpenS

Start with a Book
The Start with a Book Program offers families and caregivers lots of engaging books and activities for getting kids hooked on reading, exploring and learning science, social studies and arts & literature all summer long — and beyond. Each free topic toolkit from Start with a Book builds on what young children already like — dinosaurs, building, animals, sports, superheroes and music — so that families and caregivers can have fun and interact meaningfully with children while helping to strengthen their reading skills.

startwithabook.org

Decodable Story Generator
The Simple View of Reading conveys how reading comprehension is the product of decoding and language comprehension. Project Read's AI Decodable Generator provides students with practice and support to improve their decoding ability.

bit.ly/DecodableReader

Other

Book It
During the summer months of June, July, and August, any child that meets their parent-set reading goals can earn a free Pizza Hut® single topping Personal Pan Pizza®* from participating locations. Use the BOOK IT!® Mobile App to set goals, track progress, and redeem rewards.

bookitprogram.com

Creating a Home Library
Having a dedicated space for your child's books isn't just about organization; it's about nurturing a love for reading! To create a book box or shelf, consider designating a corner in your child's room or common area in your home. Decorations are a fun way to let the child use their creativity!

bit.ly/CreateHomeLibrary