

Dear Parents and Families,

This has been quite a year! The children I have worked with this year have grown tremendously. It makes my heart swell with pride to know where they started when we first met and to see the end result is so AMAZING! I pray that you all have a wonderful, safe, and adventurous summer. **AND REMEMBER TO PICK UP A GREAT BOOK TO TAKE ALONG WITH YOU!** ☺

Although leisure time activities start to take precedence over academic endeavors, I would like to encourage you to keep reading high on your child's list of summer activities. It really is true that readers are leaders. Just like other skills your children are learning, such as how to hit a baseball or play the piano, reading needs to be practiced every day to maintain and strengthen skills.

Most educators are concerned about summer reading loss or "summer slide" that takes place when children don't read over the summer. It may take a month or two for students who did not read over the summer months to get back to the level at which they were reading at the end of the previous year. While missing out on reading for one or two months may not seem like much, when it happens year after year, the effect can be very detrimental. Please make sure your children keep up their reading! So how can you make reading a natural fit for your summer? Here are some pointers:

- Take your child to the library to find books **THEY** are **INTERESTED** in.
- Start a book club with your child and his/her friends. (Find a series they will enjoy; they'll want to keep reading the next book in the series.)
- **Make sure they are reading books that are on their level—not too easy and not too hard!**
- 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.
- Talk to your children about what they are reading and ask open-ended questions (What would you have done if you were the character? What do you like about this book?)



HAVE AN AWESOME SUMMER!!!!

Love,

Ms. Stewart