



NebraskaREADS:

2025 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. Ensure universal access to books for ALL students!
2. Establish a solid foundation for lifelong reading habits.
3. Foster family exploration and engagement with literature.
4. Promote the exploration of diverse genres and types of texts. Use books to learn about more about yourself and other cultures, languages and experiences.
5. Enhance vocabulary, comprehension, and language skills.
6. Sustain and grow literacy levels by providing ongoing literary education during the summer months.
7. Facilitate connections between caregivers, schools, and local libraries to support literacy initiatives.

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 (education.ne.gov/nebraskareads)

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
Share a book with a friend	Read a book about animals	Have someone read to you	Read a picture book	Read for 30 minutes
Read a book about science or nature	Read for 20 minutes	Free Space	Read a book while eating a snack	Read a nonfiction book
Read for 30 minutes	Read a book that makes you laugh	Read a book with an odd number of pages	Read using a whisper voice	Read on a rainy day
Read 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.

Nebraska Public Libraries Literacy Programs and Resources

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

The Nebraska Library Commission has a statewide theme for the **2025 Summer Reading Program: Color Our World**. Sally Snyder, Coordinator of Children and Young Adult Library Services at the Nebraska Library Commission, created a list of great summer reads for all ages!

bit.ly/25SummerRead

Nebraska Bookmobile

A bookmobile is a library on wheels that allows communities to receive new books. For location schedules, please visit your local library website.

- Hastings Public Library
- Kearney Public Library
- Lincoln City Libraries
- Omaha Public Library
- Sidney Public Library
- Thomas County Library (Thedford)
- Valentine Public Library

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

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

REACH

REACH is a self-paced interactive reading program to engage parents and children as at-home reading partners. Designed by classroom reading specialists and aligned with kindergarten through third grade standards, these self-paced interactive lessons are enjoyable for all ages.

bit.ly/REACHne

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

Heggerty's Summer Support- Phonemic Awareness

6 weeks of phonemic awareness lessons reinforce students' knowledge while preparing them for the next step in their reading journey. Students will revisit key weeks from the grade they've just completed, providing them the opportunity to hear and work with the sounds in language and strengthen the connections they've made between letters and sounds. Lessons also include access to our daily lesson videos - so any child, anywhere, can receive quality instruction from a literacy specialist!

bit.ly/HeggertySummer

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/ngl/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

Book Recommendations

“Find a Book” for Summer Reading!

Use “Find a Book” to build custom book lists for readers at all ability levels, and then locate your selections at your local public library.

English Flyer: bit.ly/SummerInfoEnglish

Spanish Flyer: bit.ly/SummerInfoSpanish

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

To help increase reading time during the summer months, BOOK IT! sends weekly emails with summer reading activities for kids. Sign up for their summer emails!

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

Color Our World

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bit.ly/25SummerRead