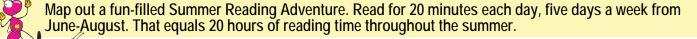
Soutch the Reading Bug this Summer!



Help children you love, love books. Reading aloud is *ALLOWED*. Learn to read, read to learn.



Post this calendar in an accessible place for the entire family. Choose a few activities to spark your imagination, and let the adventure begin.

Keep track of your reading by coloring in the bug jars on the bookmarks located on the last page of this calendar.

Place books throughout your home. Your local library is a great resource to keep an ever-changing collection of great reading materials in your home. Investigate your library as a family. Take a tour and check out their summer reading program.

Stay on track. Help your child set challenging, reading goals. Appreciate the books your child reads, even those that look too easy or don't interest you.

Read everyday things such as traffic signs, billboards, cooking recipes, cereal boxes, magazines, and newspapers. Sing songs together, memorize a poem, or tell a fun story.

Research new words. Keep a notebook to record the words and exciting things you discover and learn during your summer reading.

Reading Time is Important Time!

Next to loving your children, reading aloud with them is one of the most positive things that you can do. It offers a wealth of benefits and there is no downside. What parents do with their children when they are not in school has a powerful effect on learning. Parental involvement improves a child's academic achievement regardless of socioeconomic status, or the parents' education level. The average child entering kindergarten has a vocabulary of approximately 5,000 - 6,000 words. Some children enter kindergarten with a vocabulary of only 1,200 -1,400 words. A child's vocabulary is based upon dialogue with parents and others, everyday experiences, and books that parents read with their children.

Instructions: Everyone is encouraged to read as often as they can, silent reading counts too! Color in the bug jar bookmarks on the last page of the calendar to keep track of reading. When you have read at least 20 hours throughout the summertime, fill out the Family Progress Card found in the center of the calendar. Share your summer success stories with us. Mail the pre-addressed, postage-paid card. You will receive a Certificate of Achievement for your accomplishment from the Governor and First Lady.

