



Smart Summer Fun

3 Genius Ways to Keep Kids Learning (and Connected!) All Break Long

Summer vacation is always packed with exciting experiences, but between camp, family trips, and other obligations, kids can start to miss their best school buds. Help your child stay in touch with friends (and keep learning!) with these fun ideas:

1. Start a Book Club

Getting to talk about books with friends can give kids (especially resistant readers) an easy reason to read—and starting one can be easier than you think. Round up a handful of pals and plan to meet once or every other week for an hour or so. Jumpstart the conversation by asking a few key questions like *Who was your favorite character and why?* and *How would you change the ending?* Then wrap up with a little craft or activity related to the book. Want to make it extra exciting for kids? Hold your club at night! Throw a blanket on the lawn, grab some flashlights and lanterns, then dig into the story under the stars. Check out Scholastic.com/readingunderthestars for a printable bookmark and other ideas and tools!

2. Find a Challenge

Many towns offer summer reading challenges for children—and there's nothing like a dose of healthy competition to give your little readers a boost. Encourage your child to sign up with a friend; as they hit their goals they can meet up at the library to redeem their prizes (and, of course, grab more books). You can also check out Scholastic's Summer Reading Challenge at Scholastic.com/summer for loads of activities and tips.

3. Send Postcards

Kids love mail—and sending notes back and forth with far-flung friends is an easy way to keep up their writing skills. Older kids will get a kick out of sending their own version of Mad Libs™ back and forth, while younger ones may prefer to draw a picture and write a short caption. Doesn't really matter what form it takes—the benefits are all the same!



This summer, EVEREADY®, maker of batteries and flashlights, is powering the Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge and encouraging kids everywhere to Read Under the Stars. From May 5 – September 5, 2014, students can read books, log minutes, earn rewards, and unlock star constellations along the way. Learn how to keep your kids reading all summer long (and outside under the stars) with a fun Reading Under the Stars Guide, videos, themed book lists, and other free family resources available at Scholastic.com/summer. You can also learn how to enter for a chance to win a Reading Under the Stars Kit for your family with EVEREADY® products to create your own outdoor reading adventures!