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Help Your Kids' Literacy Skills Shine All Summer Long

ABC Life Literacy Canada offers fun tips and activities to keep the whole family reading and learning

Monday marked the first official day of summer, and parents and children are excited to start their summer vacation. But a summer break doesn't mean that kids should stop reading and learning. Research has shown that children who don't read over the summer lose some of the literacy skills they learned during the year, and have a difficult time adjusting to school in the fall.



"Reading is like a muscle – if you don't use it, you lose it," says Margaret Eaton, President, ABC Life Literacy Canada. "It's important for parents to encourage children to read over the summer to keep their minds sharp. All it takes is 15 minutes a day of reading or engaging in a fun literacy activity to keep the mind active."

The following tips will encourage literacy and learning over the summer:

1. Be a reading role model! Children learn from their parents, so let them catch you reading.
2. Have your children create a map for your summer road trip and have them navigate by reading signs and billboards.

3. Hunt for words! Throughout your trip, have the family go through the alphabet, finding words on signs and displays that start with the letter they are given. Discover new words!

4. Don't forget to write! Send friends and relatives postcards from different places on your road trip, or better yet, send one to yourself as a visual reminder of your trip.

5. Zoo outings and visits to museums and galleries can be fun and educational. Be sure to read all the descriptions on exhibits and displays.

6. Head to the beach with a good book! Check out this summer reading list for children of all ages: <http://www.hbook.com/resources/books/summer.asp> <<http://www.hbook.com/resources/books/summer.asp>> .

7. Have a family picnic and make a delicious meal together! Following a recipe improves reading, math and comprehension.

8. Bring some board games up to the cottage for a family game night. Board games are a fun way to improve literacy skills!

9. On a rainy day, surf the Internet for information on your hobbies, or the latest summer movies.

For more fun literacy tips and activities, please visit www.abclifeliteracy.ca <<http://www.abclifeliteracy.ca>> .

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