

# Summer Reading Activities: K-8 Families

We've collected a few resources from reputable sources to practice reading skills this summer. Even a little time can help! **Not sure where to start? [Learn more about what children should know and be able to do.](#)**

## Support a beginning reader

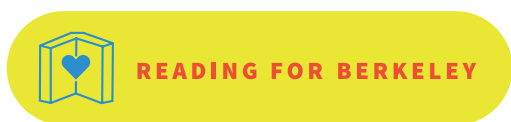
ACTIVITIES & SHOWS	APPS, GAMES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <a href="#">A child becomes a reader</a> (K-3) National Institute for Literacy</li> <li>– <a href="#">Words are here, there and everywhere</a> + <a href="#">Family Activity Cards</a>, Sesame Workshop</li> <li>– <a href="#">Read Not Guess 30-day programs</a> Receive short email lessons five days a week.</li> <li>– <a href="#">Reading Buddies</a>, show for early readers, PK - 2nd</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <a href="#">Sounder &amp; Friends</a> (app, free, recommended for preschool &amp; kinder)</li> <li>– <a href="#">Lalilo</a> (web browser only, free)</li> <li>– <a href="#">EBLI Island</a> (tablet app only, \$5)</li> <li>– <a href="#">Hairy Phonics</a> (app, \$3)</li> <li>– <a href="#">Montessori Crosswords</a> (app, \$3)</li> <li>– <a href="#">Teach Your Monster to Read</a> (web browser, free)</li> </ul>
WORKBOOKS TO TEACH READING	HIGH-INTEREST DECODABLE BOOKS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <a href="#">Teach Your Child to Read in 100 Easy Lessons</a>, by Zig Engelmann</li> <li>– <a href="#">Explode the Code</a> series of workbooks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <a href="#">Meg and Greg</a> decodable book series, for adult &amp; child to read together</li> <li>– <a href="#">The Yak Pack Phonics Comics</a> decodable series</li> <li>– <a href="#">Phonic Books</a> for older struggling readers</li> </ul>

## More practice reading, writing, and understanding what's read

ACTIVITIES	BOOKS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <a href="#">10 week reading comprehension topics</a>, This Reading Mama and The Measured Mom</li> <li>– <a href="#">10 Weeks of Summer Reading Adventures for You and Your Kids</a>, Reading Is Fundamental</li> <li>– <a href="#">Reading Adventure Packs</a>, Reading Rockets</li> <li>– <a href="#">Summer Reading Packets</a>, ReadWorks</li> <li>– <a href="#">Taking Time for Summer Fun</a>, Yale Center for Dyslexia and Creativity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <a href="#">Reading List</a>, Yale Center for Dyslexia and Creativity</li> <li>– <a href="#">2024 Summer Reading List</a>, The Horn Book</li> <li>– <a href="#">Reading List</a>, Berkeley Unified School District</li> <li>– <a href="#">Reading List</a>, Berkeley Public Library</li> </ul>

## Support a struggling reader

RESOURCES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <a href="#">Reading and Writing SOS</a>, from Reading Rockets</li> <li>– <a href="#">My child is struggling with reading; what do I do?</a>, Matrix Parents Network</li> <li>– <a href="#">Actions for Reading Success</a>, Reading for Berkeley</li> </ul>



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# Simple ways to keep on reading and writing this summer!

Build regular practice into your summer routine, and help keep ‘summer slump’ away. Celebrate your family’s passions and find strengths and interests to build upon. Try to make reading enjoyable at home — read together daily, and use technology like [Hoopla](#) and [Bookshare](#) to help!

## Seize opportunities for your student to read out loud and write by hand

These two practices strengthen the “reading circuit” in the brain and improve automaticity and fluency. So:

- Read street signs! Menus! Google Maps directions.
- Write a card to an elderly neighbor.
- Write a grocery list.
- Write a list of birthday present ideas.

Students get better at reading and writing by reading and writing. Writing by hand builds neural circuitry much more effectively than typing or texting.

## Build strong decoding skills

Take a few minutes to read aloud together every day. Use a notecard, ruler, or other straight edge below a line of text to help a student focus on only the words being read. When a word is challenging, help them to read one syllable (chunk) at a time, building the word step by step. Encourage reading every sound, not just guessing based on the first letter or few letters.

## Build vocabulary and knowledge

Find out what your student is interested in and go deep. Find books in the library about the subject. Embrace their interests and use it as an avenue for building deep knowledge and advanced vocabulary. Talk about the books you read, or podcasts you’ve listened to, and what you’ve learned as a family.

### BONUS:

Curious to know more about what is challenging for your student, beyond the information provided by the school assessments?

Dig deeper. You can give an at-home assessment like <https://tinyurl.com/SD-Quick-A> or <https://tinyurl.com/assess-phonics> (if your student is willing!) to get a better sense of how well they can read simple and complex words, and particularly what phonics patterns they may still need to practice.



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★ This guide is part of a series. Download our other resources at [www.ReadingforBerkeley.org](http://www.ReadingforBerkeley.org)