

Summer Literacy Activities Guide

Simple ways to keep reading skills growing all summer

Summer is a great time to build reading confidence without the pressure of school. Small, playful literacy moments can help children maintain skills, strengthen vocabulary, and keep reading feeling positive.

Read every day — in any format

Books, graphic novels, magazines, audiobooks, recipes, signs, maps, and library books all count. Aim for 10–20 minutes a day when possible.

Visit your local library

Ontario libraries offer free summer programs, book recommendations, events, and reading challenges. The TD Summer Reading Club is also a great free option for families.

Play with sounds and words

Try rhyming games, sound hunts, word building with magnetic letters, sidewalk chalk words, or spotting word patterns in books and signs.

Write for real reasons

Make a summer bucket list, write postcards, create a grocery list, keep a nature journal, or write a quick review of a book, movie, or outing.



Talk about books and experiences

Ask simple questions like:

“What happened first?”

“What was your favourite part?”

“What did that word mean?”

“What does this remind you of?”

Build vocabulary through summer adventures

Talk about new words during hikes, beach days, cooking, sports, road trips, and visits to new places. Real experiences help words stick.

Use helpful Ontario resources

Explore your local public library, TD Summer Reading Club, and TVO Learn for free literacy activities connected to Ontario learning.

Keep it simple

Summer literacy does not need to look like homework. A few minutes of reading, writing, talking, and word play each day can help children stay connected to literacy and return to school with more confidence

