

Empower Kids for Reading and Learning Success this Summer

As schools across our community prepare to head into what we all hope is a sunshine-filled summer, SMART (Start Making A Reader Today) is celebrating the end of our 26th year of bringing a love of books and reading to local kids.

656 SMART volunteers in Marion, Polk, Lincoln, Tillamook and Yamhill counties spent time each week reading one-on-one with 1,559 local PreK through third-grade students, providing a fun, child-guided and culturally affirming experience with books. And, students picked out nearly 20,000 books to keep for their very own.

Our logic is simple: when kids think reading is fun, they want to do it and they're more likely to develop and hone the skill. Encouraging kids to have fun with reading isn't just limited to the school year. While summer days are perfect for playing outside, swimming and relaxing with friends, they are also a critical time in a child's literacy development. Students can lose up to one-fourth of their reading skills over the summer and those losses can add up over the years.

This phenomenon is commonly called the "summer reading slide" and it can have negative long-term impacts on student learning, especially when it comes to reaching the third-grade

reading benchmark – a critical benchmark for academic success. According to state statistics, over half of Oregon’s third-graders are not currently meeting state reading standards.

The good news for parents and families is that the summer slide can be avoided by simply building in some time to read together and enjoy books throughout the summer.

Here are five tips for making reading fun and counteracting the summer slide:

1. Have books on hand during trips and errands – keep a stash in the car or in a backpack so they’re always within reach. If you’re going on a road trip, consider bringing along an audiobook or two.

2. Set a bedtime routine focused on giving kids time with books they enjoy. You can even choose a new book to read aloud as a family.

3. Use favorite summertime activities as opportunities to read and learn about new topics. If you’re going to the coast, bring along some books about the ocean. Headed to a baseball game? Suggest that your child read about a favorite player beforehand.

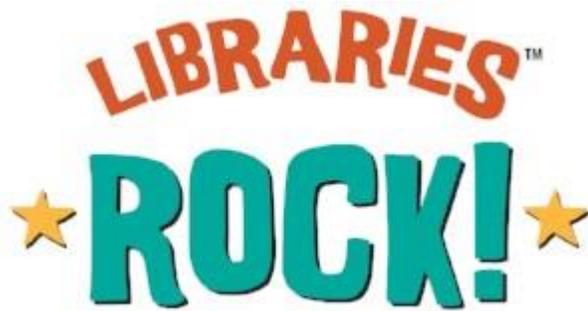
4. Switch it up! Explore a range of reading materials such as kid’s magazines, comic books, or even kid-friendly cookbooks.

5. Let your kids see you reading. Sharing your enthusiasm for books helps get kids excited about reading, too.

The most important thing is to help kids build reading motivation and enjoy books. It’s not about setting a minute or page requirement, but rather, encouraging children to read every day so that when fall rolls around, they’re ready and excited for another year of reading and learning.

To learn more about SMART or sign up to volunteer in a local SMART program this fall, visit www.getSMARToregon.org or call 503-391-8423

By Michael Finlay, SMART Northwest Senior Program Manager



Local Libraries

To help prevent the "summer reading slide" visit your local library! For a list of all libraries in Marion and Polk counties [click here](#).

For a list of Salem-Keizer elementary school summer openings [click here](#).



Do you have a newborn or a child up between the ages of 1 and 2 on September 1?

Ready! for Kindergarten provides take-home materials (toys) and tools, to empower parents and caregivers to help young children develop strong brain connections and kindergarten readiness.

Join the Marion & Polk Early Learning Hub and the Salem Clinic Medical Foundation at the Salem Family YMCA for a fun-filled workshop for you and your baby to gain new abilities related to the wonderful changes that happen so fast at this age. Free dinner, take home toys, and childcare.

Session 1: Thursday, July 26th 6:30-8:00pm
Session 2: Thursday, August 2nd 6:30-8:00pm
Session 3: Thursday, August 9th 6:30-8:00pm

Register soon as class space is limited to 20 spots for English and 20 spots for Spanish

To register: call Tiffany Miller at (503) 485-3219 or Veronica Mendoza at (503) 602-2703



Blog of the Month

Quick! How many hours of sleep are recommended for infants? Toddlers? Preschoolers? The [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) recommends the following hours of sleep, during a 24 hour period: 12 to 16 hours for infants (4 – 12 months old) including naps

- 11 to 14 hours for toddlers (1 – 2 years old)
- 10 to 13 hours for preschoolers (3 – 5 years old)
- 9 to 12 hours for school agers (6 – 12 years old)
- 8 to 10 hours for teenagers (13 – 18 years)

-- Read More --



Kindergarten & Preschool Registration is OPEN NOW!

By enrolling your child early, your school is able to prepare the best possible education for your child. Many schools offer a kinder jumpstart program to assist with transition into kindergarten. Find your local [elementary school](#) on our website.

Vroom

Brain building moments

Do you want fun easy activities that help your child learn? Download the **FREE** Vroom smartphone app for activities and learn the science behind early brain development. Available in English and Spanish.

Search for the Daily Vroom app in the iTunes, Google Play or Amazon Fire stores.

OR

Sign up for weekly brain building text message by texting CHILD to 48258.

Vroom Tip

Give your child two plastic jars or old boxes and ask him to choose safe things like pens or spoons to put inside. Ask questions about more and less, empty and full. You can say, "I wonder which bottle has more spoons? How can we find out?" See what ideas they come up with!

More Vroom Tips

