Entering Kindergarten

Students entering kindergarten in September have a wide range of knowledge, abilities, and development. To prepare your child for success in learning to read we have some suggested reading activities for summertime fun.

The most meaningful summertime activity is to read to your child every day. Choose any book that will be of interest to your child both fiction and non-fiction.

- Check out books or books on CD/tape from the library. Your child can read along with the story independently or you can read/listen together.
- Have a designated reading time to look forward to each day, for example, quiet time after lunch or before bedtime.
- After reading, have a “book talk” with your child by talking about the things you both liked, disliked, the illustrations (how do they help you figure out what is happening?), the ending (could you think of a different ending?).
- Read books by the same author and discuss how the stories are the same and different, which one is your child’s favorite? Suggested authors: Dr. Seuss, Kevin Henkes, Cynthia Rylant, Eric Carle, Bill Martin, Jr., Robert McCloskey, Bernard Weber, Mo Willems.
- Discuss connections with the story or characters. Does the story remind your child of something that happened to her/him? If not, how would she/he react or behave if the same thing did happen?
- Have your child summarize the story by telling you what happened at the beginning, middle, and end.
- Have your child draw a picture of his/her favorite part of the story.
- Rhyming stories, such as Dr. Seuss books, are a fun way to learn about language. In these books, point to each word as you read to develop an understanding of one-to-one correspondence.

Make sure to keep reading time fun time. Reading should be an enjoyable activity, not a chore. If your child seems to be losing interest in story time, get him/her more actively involved in the choice of books, switch from fiction to non-fiction, or try a different time of day for reading.

In addition to reading to your child, your child will benefit from family outings to the zoo, aquarium, nature center, museums, plays, and concerts. The more experiences your child has, the more prior knowledge he/she will have to activate connections and interest in reading.