Reading *in* Summer

The Power of Summer Reading

Sunscreen: Blocks the sun's rays.

Bike helmet: Guards against injuries.

Summer Reading: Protects against summer learning loss.

Parent Power

Summer is the perfect time to help students hone their reading skills. In fact, research shows that encouraging reading during summer vacation may help struggling readers acquire the skills needed to succeed in school. Parents, it is time to enjoy the summer with your children and get them reading.

The Iowa Department of Education encourages parents to help their children with summer reading activities.

Research shows that students experience some level of learning loss when they don't participate in summer education-related activities. This is particularly true with reading.

"...my parents had a great influence on my ability and desire to read. (They) encouraged literacy by having me read to them frequently before bedtime."

— Laura, an Iowa high school student.

Help protect your child(ren) against summer learning loss by:

1. Establishing a daily routine that includes reading. Read to your children or guide their reading by helping them with difficult words or providing positive feedback. Discuss and ask questions about what's been read.
2. Modeling reading in front of your children.
3. Making sure plenty of books are available for your children to read. (Tip: Use the five-finger rule to determine if the book matches the reader's ability. As your child reads, count the number of words he or she cannot read per page. If your child has trouble with five or more words, have the child try another book.)
4. Participating in the school's or local library's free summer reading program.