

8. Holiday scrapbook

During holiday time, collect items of interest and stick them all in a scrapbook or write a simple holiday diary. As you stick these items in, chat about your child's choices and favourite things to do. You will have created a book full of happy memories that your child can read again and again. Your child's teacher would also love to share this book with the class when term begins.

9. Cooking your favourite dish

Does your child enjoy cooking? Find a recipe, read the list of ingredients together, visit the shops and read the food labels, and then support your child to read the instructions as you make your favourite recipe.

10. Playing outside

All children love to play outside on large play equipment. When you're in your garden or at the local park don't forget to play some fun games too. As your child comes down the slide or is swinging on a swing ask: What does slide begin with? What is a word beginning with t? Spell your name! Give me a word that rhymes with den!

The list of things to do could be endless and you're bound to have lots more ideas on how to have holiday reading fun.

[Click here for more age-related fun ideas for your child.](#)

Reading in the holidays for 7-11 year olds

I am Dawn Hallybone, senior teacher and ICT co-ordinator at Oakdale Junior School in Redbridge, and I'd like to share with you my top tips for keeping up with reading in the holidays for older children.

1. Visit your local library

Encourage your child to choose books relating to a topic that they're really interested in. Librarians are a good source of information for popular books and most libraries also run schemes and competitions during the holidays as well as having a range of activities that your child can join in with - so use them!

2. Internet fun

Use the internet to search out author blogs and sites, book previews and trailers as well as general articles or reports on books. Many websites have great ideas and links to suitable topics to engage and encourage older readers. Try [CBBC](#) or [YouTube](#) for a preview of a Horrible Histories book. Visit the [Oxford Owl Library](#) for a range of free eBooks that will appeal to older children.

3. Out and about

When travelling, encourage your child to help when reading directions, looking out for road signs and talking about how long they have to travel or how far they have left. Reading timetables is also a great skill for them to develop - bus, train and tube - and will encourage their independence as well. [Boys](#) often particularly enjoy this.

4. Cooking

If your child likes to cook, encourage them to read the instructions in recipes and plan for what is needed. Some fun ones include Roald Dahl's *Revolting Recipes* (Puffin), *The Silver Spoon for Children*, Jamie Oliver and school dinner lady Nora Sands' *Nora's Kitchen* (Collins), or *Grow it, Eat it* (RHS and Dorling Kindersley). But if you don't know these, any will do.

5. Shopping

When doing your weekly shop, encourage your child to help with the shopping by writing and reading the list as well as finding products in store or online. If they need new school shoes or new school uniform, get them to do some research online first to make the trip to the shops more efficient. [Boys](#) may respond particularly well to this idea and it's all good reading practice.

6. In the news

Encourage your child to read newspapers and find out what is going on in the world. Try [First News](#), a children's paper aimed at 7-14 year olds, or [CBBC Newsround online](#), as a change from television. You may want to be around if stories are of a sensitive nature, but talk to your child about what they have read. Use local papers to read about local events.

7. Holiday online scrapbook

Suggest making an up-to-date scrapbook online, using a blog [www.blogger.com](#) that enables your child to upload pictures of their holiday and write about their experiences which can then be shared with family and friends and even the wider world. You may want to check the site your child is using for safety.

8. Creating

If your child enjoys making up their own stories, encourage this by using [www.storybird.com](#) to help them design their own picture book. The site was started for families so is well monitored and very safe. The professional-looking end product can be printed in a proper hardback book for your child to keep and share with others.

9. Sharing

If your child is reading a chapter book, consider reading the same book at the same time - this gives you the chance to compare your impressions of the book and talk about the plot. Ask your child questions, e.g. Which character they liked best, who would they like to be? Ask them to write you a short quiz about the book to check you've read it properly!

10. Relaxing

Help your child create a 'reading and dreaming' place in your home. This could be a window seat with comfy cushions, an indoor pop-up tent with a cosy blanket, or even a corner in a garden shed with a seat. Let the rest of the family know that if your child is in her/his special place they should try not to disturb them. You may even get some peace then too!

Summer reading

The long summer holidays can really make a difference to children's reading levels. Use the links below for more ideas on how to avoid the summer slump, and book recommendations listed by age group.

[How to beat the summer slump](#) - expert advice from James Clements

[Recommended summer reads](#)

And what do the children say?

When Dawn asked the children in her Y5/6 class what they felt was important to them about reading in the holidays, this is what they said:

I need a space to read – a bedroom or garden, somewhere of my own choosing. **Lia 9**

I want to choose my own books not have them chosen for me. **Ben 9**

I want to read all sorts of things including comics and graphic novels, information about Gaming. **Connor 9**

I like reading series of books like *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*. **Faye 9**

I like reading to my younger brothers. **Aqila 9**

The blurb and illustrations catch my eye first. **Mohammad 9**

I like taking part in summer challenges at the library. **Jordan 9**

I like reading magazines and websites about my favourite authors so I can find out more about them and why they write. **Jasmine 9**

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Key Issues:

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- [Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling made easy](#)
- [Encouraging writing](#)
- [Helping struggling readers](#)
- [Encouraging reading](#)
- [Encouraging boys](#)
- [Reading in the holidays](#)
- [E-safety, tablets and apps](#)

General questions:

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