



Dear Families,

As summer approaches, we want to remind you of the incredible value of reading during the break. While summer is a time for fun, sunshine, and relaxation, it's also the perfect opportunity to keep young minds active and growing through reading.

Reading just 20 minutes a day can make a huge difference in your child's vocabulary, comprehension, and confidence. Studies show that children who read regularly over the summer are better prepared when school starts again—and they avoid the "summer slide," a common loss of academic skills during long breaks.

Here are a few ways to make summer reading enjoyable:

- Participate in Sunnyside's Summer Reading Challenge by reading at least 50 steps over the summer. Use the attached pages to log your steps. Return your completed and signed log sheets on the first day of school to earn extra recess!

Remember: 1 step = 15 minutes of reading!

- Practice reading skills using the colored skills card for your child's reading level. We have also included the skills card for the next reading level.
- Utilize summer reading resources:
 - Free Little Lending Library
 - SORA digital books
 - Smyrna School District Bookmobile
 - NEW Duck Creek Regional Library
- Start a family reading time, where everyone reads together or shares stories.
- Encourage reading anywhere—in the car, at the beach, or before bed.

Whether it's a comic book, a mystery, or a nonfiction book about dinosaurs—reading helps your child grow. Let's work together to make this summer full of imagination, learning, and fun through books.

Have a great summer and happy reading!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Mitchell

Reading Specialist, Sunnyside Elementary

