**Action Steps for Parents:**

Feed your child a diet of rich language experiences throughout the day. Talk with your infants and young children frequently in short, simple sentences. Tell stories, sing songs, recite nursery rhymes or poems, and describe the world around them to expose them to words. Name things. Make connections. Encourage your child’s efforts to talk with you.

It will be extremely important that your child reads over the summer to avoid the summer slide. Try to read aloud to your children for 30 minutes daily beginning when they are infants. Ask caring adults to be your children’s daily reader when you are unavailable. We want to continue to develop our children into *LIFE LONG READERS*!

Visit the public library often to spark your child’s interest in books. Help your children obtain their own library cards and pick out their own books. Talk to a librarian, teacher, school reading specialist, or bookstore owner for guidance about what books are appropriate for children at different ages and reading levels.

Limit the amount and kind of television your children watch. Seek out educational television or videos from the library that you can watch and discuss with your children.

Set up a special place for reading and writing in your home. A well-lit reading corner filled with lots of good books can become a child’s favorite place. Keep writing materials such as non-toxic crayons, washable markers, paints and brushes, and different kinds of paper in a place where children can reach them.

**Five for Families!**

Researchers have identified five areas where the home and family can influence reading development in children:

1. **Value Placed on Literacy:**
   Parents show their own interest in reading by reading in front of their children and encouraging them to read, too.

2. **Press for Achievement:**
   Parents let children know that they are expected to achieve and help them develop reading skills.

3. **Availability and Use of Reading Material:**
   Homes with reading and writing materials for children—such as books, newspapers, writing paper, pencils, and crayons—create more opportunities to develop literacy.

4. **Reading with Children:**
   Parents who read to preschoolers and listen as older children read aloud help children become readers.

5. **Opportunities for Verbal Interaction:**
   The quantity and content of conversation between parents and children influence language and vocabulary development, both building blocks for later reading success.
Feed Me a Story!
What difference can reading aloud to a child for 30 minutes per day make?

If daily reading begins in infancy, by the time the child is 5 years old, he or she has been fed roughly 900 hours of brain food! Reduce that experience to just 30 minutes a week and the child’s hungry mind loses 770 hours of nursery rhymes, fairy tales, and stories. A kindergarten student who has not been read to could enter school with less than 60 hours of literacy nutrition. No teacher, no matter how talented, can make up for those lost hours of mental nourishment.

**Hours of reading books by age 5**
- 30 minutes daily: 900 Hours
- 30 minutes weekly: 130 Hours
- Less than 30 minutes weekly: 60 Hours

**Check Out these Valuable Resources!**

The town library has some great literacy events happening this summer! We will be having a presentation from the Rodgers Memorial Library in June. For more information please contact them at [www.rogerslibrary.org](http://www.rogerslibrary.org)

Check out [www.read.gov/kids](http://www.read.gov/kids) for some great books and resources.

Students getting ready to enter grades 3, 4 & 5 - check out this website for some extra reading materials: [www.textproject.org](http://www.textproject.org) and look for Summer Reads. These materials are a great resource and will keep you motivated over the summer!

**Kindergarten and Grade 1 students:** Don’t forget to access your RAZ account over the summer. This is a great reading resource!!

Check Out these websites!!!
- [www.sheppardsoftware.com](http://www.sheppardsoftware.com)
- [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org)
- [www.curry.virginia.edu/wil/home.html](http://www.curry.virginia.edu/wil/home.html)
- [www.scholastic.com](http://www.scholastic.com)
- [https://newseelaam.com](https://newseelaam.com)
- [www.readwritethink.org/parents](http://www.readwritethink.org/parents)
- [http://www2.ed.gov/parents](http://www2.ed.gov/parents)
- [http://southernnewhampshirekids.org](http://southernnewhampshirekids.org)

**Reading Tip for Parents: Map it Out** It’s important to provide your child with a variety of fiction and non-fiction reading. A fun way to do this is to get a map and show them the way from your house to the grocery store or another familiar destination. Have your child write out the directions, street by street, and then read them to you as you walk or drive to the store – like a living GPS! (Scholastic, 2014)

**Reading Tip for Parents: Card Tricks** Do you think effective reading only takes place at libraries and book stores? Think again! There are reading opportunities everywhere. Go to a greeting card store with your child and read the greeting cards together. Later, vote for the ones whose words convey the best birthday wish or get-well sentiment. (Scholastic, 2014)

**Don’t forget about writing****** Keep a journal this summer of the things you do and/or read about. These are always great treasures to share with your family and friends.

Send postcards to family and friends of the places you visit this summer or even to your teacher!!

*Source: U.S. Department of Education, America Reads Challenge*