

DON'T SEND LITERACY ON VACATION, TOO!

Parents often wonder how to keep the enthusiasm for reading going during holidays. Kids (and parents) are often so ready for a break that they want to put anything that resembles school-work aside.

This is really too bad - for several reasons. First, by avoiding reading, kids are denying themselves a pleasurable, relaxing activity. There is a reason why so many "beach reads" hit the best-seller lists; books help us escape our everyday reality. But also, reading is like a muscle - kids' reading muscles will atrophy if they aren't 'flexed'! We don't want our kids to lose valuable reading skills during the holidays.

Here are a few interesting, fun, and creative ways to keep your child reading during a school holiday:

- 1) Libraries are free and have great activities. Go with the kids!
- 2) Let your kids read the mail: ads, brochures, sales, coupons, letters.
- 3) Subscribe to the newspaper. Share and discuss articles, cartoons, or columns.
- 4) Bus, train, or plane trips are for reading too. Put a bag of books and comics on board.
- 5) Notice *life print* around you - ads, signs, menus - and point out examples of word play.
- 6) Kids love to collect things. Help them arrange and label each artifact they collect during their holiday.
- 7) Play board games - at the kitchen table, on holidays, in the evening.
- 8) Sing songs with your kids. Share the lyrics.
- 9) Have kids check the internet to answer questions that arise.
- 10) Let kids plan for and read maps on an excursion.

Activities from *Reading Doesn't Matter Anymore...Shattering the Myths of Literacy* by David Booth, 2006