

# **Entering Kindergarten**

Students entering kindergarten in September have a wide range of knowledge, abilities, and development. The most meaningful summertime activity is to read to your child every day. We encourage you to join the Fairfield Public Library's (FPL) Online Summer Reading Program. All reading can be logged online by signing up through their website <a href="https://fairfieldpubliclibrary.org/">https://fairfieldpubliclibrary.org/</a>. Anyone from ANY town can join the FPL Summer reading program, it is NOT limited to Fairfield residents. You have the ability to print out that online log and bring it in at the beginning of the school year. In the fall, if your child returns proof of their summer reading (either printed from the public library online reading program or using one of the book log options below) your child's name will be added to our summer reading display which recognizes the meaningful reading our students did this summer.

To prepare your child for success in learning to read we have some *suggested* reading activities for summertime fun.

- Choose any book that will be of interest to your child both fiction and non-fiction. A few of our favorites are listed separately on the following sheet.
- Check out books or books on CD/tape from the library. Your child can read along with the story independently or you can read/listen together.
- Have a designated reading time to look forward to each day, for example, quiet time after lunch or before bedtime.
- After reading, have a "book talk" with your child by talking about the things you both liked, disliked, the
  illustrations (how do they help you figure out what is happening?), the ending (could you think of a
  different ending?).
- Read books by the same author and discuss how the stories are the same and different, which one is your child's favorite? Suggested authors: Kevin Henkes, Cynthia Rylant, Eric Carle, Bill Martin Jr., Robert McCloskey, Mo Willems, Karma Wilson, Jon Agee.
- Discuss connections with the story or characters. Does the story remind your child of something that happened to her/him? If not, how would she/he react or behave if the same thing did happen?
- Have your child summarize the story by telling you what happened at the beginning, middle, and end.
- Have your child draw a picture of his/her favorite part of the story.
- Rhyming stories are a fun way to learn about language. In these books, point to each word as you read
  to develop an understanding of one-to-one correspondence.

Make sure to keep reading time fun. Reading should be an enjoyable activity, not a chore. If your child seems to be losing interest in story time, get him/her more actively involved in the choice of books, switch from fiction to nonfiction, or try a different time of day for reading.

In addition to reading to your child, your child will benefit from family outings to the zoo, aquarium, nature center, museums, plays, and concerts. The more experiences your child has, the more prior knowledge he/she will have to activate connections and interest in reading.

## Some of our Favorite Books

#### **Picture Books**

Dad and the Dinosaur by Choldenko
Jabari Jumps by Cornwall
The Day the Crayons Quit by Daywalt
Henry the Dog with No Tail by Feiffer
We Don't Eat Our Classmates by Higgins
Alan's Big Scary Teeth by Jarvis
Goldfish on Vacation by Lloyd-Jones
The Book with No Pictures by Novak
I Wanna Iguana by Orloff
The Creepy Carrots by Reynolds
Dragons Love Tacos by Rubin
Memoirs of a Goldfish by Scillian
Jangles by Shannon
Interrupting Chicken by Stein
Nanette's Baguette by Willems

#### **Nonfiction Books**

Seeds Move by Robin Page
An Egg is Quiet by Diana Aston
Moth by Isabelle Thomas
If Sharks Disappeared by Williams
Eat Your Rocks Croc by Keating
Good Trick Walking Stick by Bestor
Glow by Beck
Hippos are Huge by Jonathan London
I'm Trying to Love Spiders by Barton

### **Easy Reader Series**

Henry and Mudge by Rylant
Mr. Putter and Tabby by Rylant
Biscuit by Capucilli
Little Bear by Minarik
Frog and Toad by Lobel
Adventures of Otto by Milgrim
Piggie and Elephant by Willems





