

# HOW CAN I MOTIVATE MY CHILD TO CONTINUE TO **read over the summer?**

**Before summer break parents often ask, “How do I get my child motivated to read over the summer, especially when he/she already spends so much time online and on his/her phone?”**

The Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge resonates with students in this digital age offering fun activities and exciting rewards in a mobile-friendly website. They are invited to join their school team in a global effort to set a world record for most minutes read during the summer. Students sign up, choose books to read, and then log their reading minutes online. They can continue to track their school’s progress throughout the summer by checking in online.

How do parents turn their new or struggling readers into adults who enjoy reading? Here are several building blocks to help raise enthusiastic readers.

- **It all starts with reading aloud.** The more words your child hears from the beginning of her life, the bigger her vocabulary will be, which will pave the way when she learns to read herself.
- **Have plenty of books in the house.** Keep books in the car, on the bedside table, or in a backpack. Get your child a library card as soon as she is old enough, then take weekly or bi-weekly trips to the library.
- **Be a role model of reading for your children.** Make a point of reading while your children are in the room, whether it's a book, newspaper, or magazine. As your children get older, look for areas of common interest and read together. If your preteen son is an athlete, read the sports section together or get him a subscription to a sports magazine.
- **Let your children be in charge of what they read.** Allow your children to select their own books, even if they're too easy. Parents who exert too much control over their children's reading choices risk making them feel like reading is a chore.

Another effective tactic for children who are struggling with reading (or just beginning to get the hang of it) is to give small rewards. For frustrated or new readers, the intrinsic pleasure in reading just isn't there yet, so it's OK to offer extrinsic rewards, such as movie tickets, family outings, or privileges, in exchange for concentrated reading time.