



## Summer Reading Tips for Educators

Research has shown that students who do not have access to quality reading material over the summer are more likely to lose valuable literacy skills while they are away from the classroom. That is why State Superintendent June Atkinson has launched the *Give Five – Read Five* campaign to encourage parents, business leaders and community members to donate at least five books to their local elementary school. For more information about this campaign, visit [www.ncpublicschools.org/give5read5](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/give5read5).

Another reason that children do not read enough over the summer is that they cannot find books at their reading level that really interest them. Young people have to want to read a book and they have to be able to read it. Through more than a decade of research, Harvard University professor Dr. James Kim found that children’s reading abilities can actually grow over the summer when they read at least five high-interest books in their Lexile® range. To find out more about Lexile measures and how you can use them to help students find books well-matched to their interests and reading abilities, visit [www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/lexiles](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/lexiles).

Following are some additional tips principals, teachers and school librarians can use to encourage students to keep the pages turning all summer long:

- Check with your principal to see if your school is signed up to provide a FREE three-month myON Reader account for every student. This account offers unlimited access to thousands of digital books in addition to special features to track reading growth. Visit <http://thefutureinreading.myon.com/NCGiveFive-ReadFive> to learn more.
- Hold summer reading hours and special reading programs in your school’s library. You can open the school library one afternoon a week and make an event of it. Hold a read-aloud, have parents conduct a story time or dramatize a book, or hire a storyteller or band.
- Let children check out school library books over the summer.
- Read along with an audio book. Books on CD help struggling and reluctant readers to engage with literature. Reading in and along with other media—ebooks, online databases, podcasts—is great too. Ask your tech-savvy children to recommend the latest and greatest online content so that you can spread the word.
- Sponsor a competition to see which student and/or class can pledge to read the most books.
- Have your students bring in a book or two to swap with a classmate or conduct a school-wide book swap.
- Work with local libraries; have a librarian come in and talk about their summer reading promotion and urge parents to get library cards for their kids.
- Use “Find a Book” at [www.Lexile.com/fab/NC/](http://www.Lexile.com/fab/NC/) to help students generate their own reading list.
- On a nice day at the end of the school year, have your students bring a book and blankets and spend some time reading outside.
- Encourage students to keep summer reading journals.

