



Summer Reading Elementary Schools

Reading is a simple and enjoyable way for students to boost their brainpower, so Chesterfield County Public Schools encourages students to read during summer vacation.

Research shows that what students read is less important than how much they read. A study by Barbara Heyns found that children who read at least six books during the summer maintained or improved their reading skills, while kids who did not read saw their skills slip by as much as an entire grade level.

Summer reading is more about practicing the enjoyable habit of reading than it is about challenging students academically.

Many organizations compile lists to make it easy for students and their parents to self-select books for summer reading. Chesterfield County Public Schools does not endorse any specific titles on the lists. Not all parents may consider all of the books on these sites to be appropriate, so parents are encouraged to review the books to determine which books are appropriate for their children or visit a county library to speak with a librarian. Check out the links below for summer reading resources and lists.

Association for Library Service to Children

Birth to Preschool

- Around the World: A Follow-the-Trail Book by Katie Haworth, illustrated by Craig Shuttlewood
- Sidewalk Flowers by JonArno Lawson, illustrated by Sydney Smith

Kindergarten to Second Grade

- Fly Guy Presents: Castles by Todd Arnold
- Surf's Up by Kwame Alexander

Third through fifth Grade

- Fort by Cynthia DeFelice
- Garvey's Choice by Nikki Grimes

Scholastic

Scholastic Book Challenge

Birth to 2 Years

- Peek-a-Boo Farm by Joyce Wan
- Five Stinky Socks by Jim Benton

Preschool

- Curious George series by Margaret and H.A. Rey
- Books by Mo Willems

First and second Grade

- Emma and Julia Love Ballet by Barbara McClintock
- A Sick Day for Amos McGee by Philip Stead, illustrated by Erin E. Stead

Third through fifth Grade

- I Survived Series by various authors
- A Dog's Life: The Autobiography of a Stray by Ann M. Martin

Read Kiddo Read

PreK- 1st Grade

- My Crocodile Does Not Bite by Joe Kulka
- Cat the Cat series by Mo Willems

First and second Grade

- Aggie and Ben series by Lori Ries
- The Buddy Files series by Dori Hillestad Butler

Third through fifth Grade

- Angel in My Pocket by Ilene Cooper
- Astronaut Academy: Zero Gravity by Dave Roman

Teachers First Book Lists

Kindergarten through third grade

Fourth grade

Fifth grade

To learn more about summer reading and book choices, check out the links below:

- [National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Favorites](#)
- [What's on Your Summer Reading List? Authors Tell All](#)
- [Virginia Reader's Choice](#)
- [Reviews — School Library Journal](#)
- [ReadWriteThink After-School Resources](#)
- [Summer Reading Tips From Librarians](#)
- [Get Ready for Summer Reading](#)
- [Summer Reading Activities](#)
- [Consejos Para Padres: Programas de Lectura de Verano](#)
- [Parent Tips: Summer Reading | En Español](#)
- [13 Ideas for how Parents can Encourage Summer Reading](#)
- [Key Facts about Summer Reading](#)
- [Summer Learning Loss Study: Can 'Summer Slide' Be Prevented?](#)
- [Summer Reading and the Rich/Poor Achievement Gap: An Educator Responds to Questions](#)
- [How to Plan for Summer Reading Success](#)