**Fun Ways to Read This Summer**

Reading with your child every day is the best way to help them develop a love of reading and books. Here are suggestions to add enjoyment to the time you spend reading, writing, and talking together - important ways to help your child become a better reader.

1. **Visit the Milwaukee Public Library this summer and sign up for the Super Reader Program** - Read and earn prizes!
2. **Establish a daily “Stop, Drop and Read” habit** - Everyone in the family stops what they are doing and reads for 15-20 minutes.
3. **Identify a special spot in your home** where you will read together every day.
4. **Arts & Crafts** - Find a topic you want to know about (baking, building a kite, etc.). Find a book about that topic and make something.
5. **Go on a scavenger hunt!** Find items in your home or neighborhood that begin with every letter of the alphabet.
6. **Find a recipe online or in a cookbook** - Work together to make a dish from the book. Create a fancy menu for your meal.
7. **Bon Voyage** - Design a postcard of a place you would like to visit. Write a message to yourself.
8. **Ball Tales** - Tell a story by tossing a ball - each person adds a sentence every time they have the ball.
9. **Family Play Date** - Act out your favorite book or fairy tale.
10. **Word Game** - Invent a code (A=1, B=2). Send a message in code to a friend. Practice spelling by filling a water bottle with water, then “squirt” the words onto the sidewalk.
11. **Photo Story** - Go for a walk and take photos with your phone. Write captions or make up a story with the pictures you take.
12. **Use sidewalk chalk to write messages** to passers by.
13. **Create a recipe for a summer treat**. Write it on a recipe card. Make it and serve it to family and friends.
14. **Take a trip to the library**. Get a library card if you don’t have one and pick up some great books!
15. **Plan a “book picnic”** at your favorite outdoor spot such as the beach, park, or woods. Pack a lunch and plenty to read.
16. **Family Poetry Slam** - Take turns reading Mother Goose or other nursery rhymes. Use a pretend microphone to add to the fun!
17. **Tell a story about a childhood memory**. Who was your best friend? What did you do for fun? What was your favorite book?
18. **Cut out pictures** from an old magazine or catalog. Write or tell a story about them. **Design a bookmark** to use in your favorite book.
19. **Family Game Night** - Play a board or card game together.
20. **Watch TV with the sound off and closed captioning on**.
21. **Check out an audio book** from the library and listen to a good book.
22. **Make a list of the supplies you need for school**.

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**Challenge**:

- See who can come up with the most words that start with the first letter of their name. **Challenge**: come up with a rhyme for the words.
- Look through the online news and find an interesting story. Read it together and talk about the article.
- Go on a scavenger hunt! Find items in your home or neighborhood that begin with every letter of the alphabet.
- Find a topic you want to know about (baking, building a kite, etc.). Find a book about that topic and make something.
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