In an average year a child spends about 1,000 hours in school, and that same child spends about 7,500 hours outside of school. How many of those 7,500 hours are spent building a love of literacy?

You are your child’s greatest role model and teacher. As your child observes you reading to yourself, you are demonstrating your own love of reading. Show your child exactly how reading and writing helps you get things done every day (i.e., cooking, shopping, following recipes, etc.).

**DID YOU KNOW...?**

- Children who do not read during the summer lose 2 or 3 months of reading growth every summer.
- If children lose 2 to 3 months every year from kindergarten through grade five, when they enter middle school they are reading on average 2 years and 7 months behind grade level.
- If children are reading during the summer they can make 3 months of reading growth during that time (Allington & McGill-Franzen, 2013).
- Children who grow up in homes with lots of books are nearly 20% more likely to finish college.
- Children are exposed to more unique words through books than prime time television. This helps build their vocabulary.

**WHAT CAN I DO?**

- Schedule a special time daily for your child to read.
- Schedule a special time daily for you to listen to your child read.
- Hold conversations about what has been read (see Bookmark).
- Encourage your child to tell what the story/article was about in his/her own words.
- Take your child to the library, bookstore, or yard sale for book shopping.
- Build language and vocabulary by having conversations with your child about experiences, events, etc.
- Read favorite books again and again and allow your child to join in on predictable phrases.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT**

- http://www.palmbeachschools.org/Students/SummerLearning.asp

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**How Do You Get Better At Reading?**

The more you read, the better you get at it; the better you get at it, the more you like it; and the more you like it, the more you do it.

The more you read, the more you know; and the more you know, the smarter you grow.

*(Taken from The Read-Aloud Handbook, Jim Trelease)*