



## Summer Literacy Activities

### **Summer Reading Bingo Board:**

See the link on our webpage for a sample. Allow your child to read in all sorts of formats — from books to magazines, audiobooks to [graphic novels](#). With your child, determine how much of the bingo board to complete and by when. For instance, your child might try to complete one row in a month. Another child may try to get in two or more rows, or fill out the whole board by summer's end. Kids should be able to choose the books they want for independent reading. Allow kids to read books they might not otherwise read in school. Don't worry about the reading level being too hard or too easy. If your child wants to read a book that is too challenging, read it together.

### **Summer Writing/Journaling Bingo Board:**

Suggestions for writing prompts, book reviews, letters, and movie reviews. See how many your child can complete this summer! See the link on our website for sample Bingo Boards.

### **Reading Logs:**

Consider keeping a summer reading (attached) log and thinking of fun ways to celebrate reading streaks and finishing books.

### **Sign up for a Summer Reading Program**

- The Free Library's [Summer of Wonder](#) is a summer reading challenge for all ages. Participants can attend library programs, find new books to read, and explore activities to keep your mind growing throughout the summer. Visit your neighborhood library or participate in an online challenge. Wherever you are, the Free Library has an experience just for you.
- Montgomery County Public Libraries' [Summer Reading Challenge!](#) offers kids and teens a chance to fill their summer with great books and fun activities. This year, we are partnering with local organizations that embody kindness, friendship, and unity within our community.

### **Family Reading Time:**

Scheduling Family Reading time for 20-30 minutes a day

### **Journaling:**

If you're traveling, consider keeping travel journals with your children. Take a few minutes at the end of each day to journal together while reflecting on the day.

### **Letter Writing:**

Write and mail letters to friends and family.

### **Be an Author/Illustrator**

Write and illustrate your own graphic novel or picture book.

### **Try an audiobook or podcast**

If you have a library card, your family already has free access to thousands of popular audiobooks — no in-person visits required. You can also buy favorite audiobooks and download them on your devices to listen to again and again. There are so many great podcasts. A few we recommend are: Smash Boom Best, Story Seeds, Story Pirates, Circle Round, Greeking Out, and Live From Mt. Olympus.

### **Learning Ally**

If your child has an account set-up through Miquon, Learning Ally is a great way to listen to books while reading along with them.

### **Fun Educational Apps to Explore:**

#### **Toontastic 3D**

Kids who love stories or cartoons will enjoy [Toontastic 3D](#). This app makes it easy for grade-schoolers to create animated films, record their own dialogue, and set it all to music. Audio instructions guide kids through the process, step by step. Toontastic 3D also teaches about the main elements of a story, getting young filmmakers to create an arc that includes establishing conflict and coming up with a resolution. This is a fun app that helps kids tell stories—and learn how stories are told.

#### **Design Squad**

Here's a fun summer activity: Gather a few household objects and build a two-wheeled car that's powered by a rubber band. Or build a four-wheeler

powered by a balloon. These are some of the projects you'll find on [Design Squad](#). This website was developed by PBS Kids and uses games and videos to introduce kids to science and engineering. Younger kids may need an adult to help them through the activities. Kids in third grade and up may be able to do them on their own.

### **Barefoot World Atlas**

Children who like geography will love this beautiful, interactive world atlas. Kids can rotate the globe using their fingers. They can zoom into each continent and click on land features, countries, animals, and people. (They can explore bodies of water this way too.) Each entry in [Barefoot World Atlas](#) comes with a description, which the app can read aloud. There's music, too, that changes depending on which part of the world kids are exploring.

### **BrainPop**

Take a dip this summer in the Harlem Renaissance, DNA, and a gazillion other topics that come with animated lessons on [BrainPop](#). Each video is narrated by a robot named Moby and his friends, Tim and Annie. Videos come with a quiz, writing activity and graphic organizer kids can fill out. The lessons mainly cover academics. But there are some real-world topics, too, like bullying. BrainPop is for kids in fourth grade and up, and BrainPop Jr. is for kids in kindergarten through third grade.

### **Project Noah**

Project Noah is an online platform for submitting nature photos to help global wildlife research. To use the platform, kids must create an account, so it's important to have adult supervision. Kids can take photos of anything in nature, like insects, flowers, or animals. Then they can upload the photos. There's an option for kids to join missions to support scientific research—for example, finding a certain species of ladybug. [Project Noah](#) is best for kids in fourth grade and up.

### **One Globe Kids—Children's Stories From Around the World**

Exploring world cultures is a great way to [make summer learning fun](#). Want to know what it's like to be a kid growing up in Indonesia? Burundi? This app uses photos to help tell "a day in my life" stories in interesting places around the globe. Each story is read aloud. The app asks questions, then lets kids record their responses and play back the conversation. [One Globe Kids](#) is a lively way to engage reluctant readers and think about numbers and words in foreign languages.

### **Arcademic Skill Builders**

Looking for a way to avoid summer brain drain? This website has dozens of free, no-frills games for practicing academic skills like spelling, math, and word recognition. The games can be sorted by grade and subject. [Arcademic Skill Builders](#) also gives kids the option of competing against one another. The games are best for reviewing material. For kids who are struggling to master a concept, video lessons are available for a fee.

### **Middle School Age:**

#### **Pixton**

With the right tools, summer can be a great time for getting tweens and teens to flex their creative writing muscles. [Pixton](#) is a free site for kids to make comics they can print or share online. Some of the comics posted on Pixton have been viewed thousands of times! The site has a wide range of tools for choosing settings and creating characters and dialogue. Pixton is easy to use and also offers how-to videos and support. For a subscription fee, kids can access even more features.

#### **Middle School Confidential 1: Be Confident in Who You Are**

This app is the first part of an award-winning series called [Middle School Confidential](#). Presented as a graphic novel, it helps kids understand and navigate the social world of middle school. It takes on common issues like self-esteem and fitting in. There's no read-aloud function, but users can zoom in to each frame to isolate the text. After each chapter, there are quizzes to help kids work on social skills. There are also tips and quotes throughout the app to reinforce the lessons.

#### **Instructables:**

Want to learn how to bake doughnuts filled with chocolate-hazelnut spread? Or make a hammock out of duct tape? [Instructables](#) is full of do-it-yourself projects, including many that are great for summer. Some projects are good for organizing and managing life. There are also a few projects that may help with attention. Parents may need to supervise or pre-select projects because the site has some content about alcohol and other adult topics.