



The goal of the Families and Literacy Committee of the WSRA is to develop and carry out plans which convey to parents the value of involvement in reading activities with children.

Members:

Amy Sippert – chair

Nicole Cilley

Teresa Prus

B Whalen

Deb Stensen

Mary Pohlman

Nina Ruskey

Jen Garty

Rachel Huntzicker

Kelsey Guenther



Family Reading Fun

Have you heard your child's teacher or school talk about the "summer slide"? No, it is not a ride at the playground. Children who do not read over the summer lose some of the reading proficiency gained during the school year, hence the "summer slide". So, how do you keep your child from going down the summer slide? It is not as hard as you might think.

- Check with your child's school. Some school libraries offer summer hours where children can come in and check out books for summer reading. Take advance of school libraries that allow your child to check out multiple books for the summer. Research has shown that reading as few as 10 books over the summer can prevent the summer slide.
- Little Free Libraries are popping up in communities across the country. Go to littlefreelibrary.org to find free libraries in your community. Enter your zip code and print a map of where the Little Free Libraries are in your neighborhood. Take a book from one library, read it and return it to a different one in your community.
- Taking a vacation this summer? Gather travel brochures or books about your destination. Read about the things you can see or do to build background knowledge on the area.
- Be sure to stop in at your local public library. Check into any summer events or reading programs the library has happening.

Take advantage of any opportunities you can find to promote reading over the summer. Let your children go on the merry-go-round or the swings but keep them off the "summer slide".

Family Tips

Looking for more ways to stop the summer slide? Try these additional ideas.

- Help your child create a reading log. Keep track of the number of books read and/or the amount of minutes spent reading this summer. Set a goal for your child, or check with your public library to see if they have an incentive program for summer reading.
- Have your child investigate a topic he or she is interested in (such as World War II). Encourage your child to keep a journal of all the facts and information he or she has learned.

Wisconsin State Reading Association www.wsra.org



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Series Spotlight



Does your child have an interest in historical fiction? Then check out the [Dear America](#) or the [My Name Is America](#) book series from Scholastic.

Set during important events or time periods in American history, the books tell the story from the perspective of a fictional character alive at the time. The [Dear America](#) series books are written in a diary format as told by a young woman. The [My Name Is America](#) series is written by a young man in the form of a journal.

Topics covered in the series span the settling of American and the Mayflower, to the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, Westward Expansion and even the sinking of the Titanic. History buffs will be sure to find some books on their time period of interest.

With 36 books in the original [Dear America](#) series and 19 books in the original [My Name Is America](#) series, there are plenty of books to keep your middle grade readers engaged and reading all summer long.



Website Spotlight

Find online reading challenges like the one at www.scholastic.com/ups/campaigns/src-2017/kids

Log minutes read, win virtual prizes, play games and find recommended book lists for kids of all ages.