

Your *Firefly* Reader Now

Preschool

June 2007

Get
Your Firefly Reader Now
Every Month
at www.scholastic.com/read.

Editors' Picks of the Month

Look for these titles in your Firefly June Book Club flyer.

Hooray for Fish by Lucy Cousins

Who it's for:

Pre-readers fascinated with the life aquatic

Why we chose it:

Rolling rhymes and darling illustrations

Parents say:

"A perfect pick for after visiting an aquarium."



Kevin and His Dad by Irene Smalls

Who it's for:

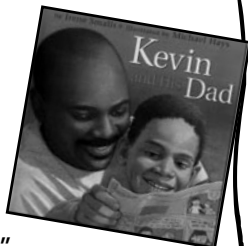
Fathers reading aloud to their little ones, of course!

Why we chose it:

A heart-warming Father's Day story

Parents say:

"One of those great additions to the bookshelf."



The Deep Blue Sea: A Counting Book by Audrey Wood

Who it's for:

Families vacationing at the beach

Why we chose it:

Awesome introduction to numbers

Parents say:

"Loved the bright colors in the illustrations."



Keep Literacy Skills Sharp this Summer

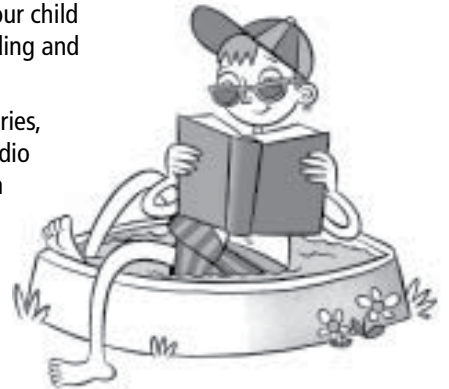
When preschool's out, it's important to provide plenty of learning opportunities at home to assure that your child continues developing vocabulary, plus early reading and writing skills. Try these literacy-building tips:

- **Fill your home with reading.** Favorite stories, nonfiction picture books, posters with words, audio recordings with follow-along books — put them in your child's reach! Then read aloud together every day.

- **Practice writing outdoors.** With a stick acting as a pencil, the beach, sandbox, or soft earth becomes your preschooler's writing pad. Have him trace or copy something you write out. For a fun twist, use colored chalk on the sidewalk or driveway.

- **Pack a traveler's reading kit.** Before you go on vacation, give your child illustrated books about your destination and a journal in which he can glue photographs, drawings, ticket stubs, and other paper mementos from the trip. Add short sentences on each page so you can read it as a book together later, drawing on memories to fill in details.

- **Turn off the TV.** Unplug at least one night a week and share other types of literacy-boosting entertainment — playing board games, telling stories, or simply reading together.



Parent to Parent

Check and see if any of your child's favorite books come in a bath or board book edition. Those are perfect to bring along to the beach or pool during the summer, and it saved some of my son's dearest books from splashes. —Melissa F.

Ask an Expert

How can I make sure my child sees enough books this summer, especially without the structure of preschool?

It may not be as difficult as you think. Whereas older children can't wait for that last school bell, younger children can be seen crying at the door! Not surprisingly, preschoolers make a deep connection to their classroom "family" and can have difficulty at this time of year. Some children will even appear to regress to an old behavior, such as separation anxiety or misbehavior. This is all quite normal and should be treated with compassion and sensitivity. The regressive behavior can arise because children are beginning to realize that they will be graduating to a new class and they are supposed to be more "grown-up." So what do they do? They try being little again just to be sure that they will always be your little one! Therefore, it's the perfect time to cuddle together and read him favorite school-themed books, or other great picks from story hour at preschool.

Meet Our Expert: *Ellen Booth Church is a columnist and consultant for Scholastic's Early Childhood Today and Parent & Child magazines.*

Find more expert advice for your reader at www.scholastic.com/read.

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15 Weeks of Fun in the Sun and Cool Reading Ideas

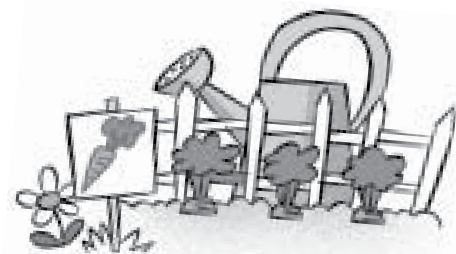
Keep your child's brain from melting with our Memorial Day to Labor Day activity guide.

May 25—June 3

Catch the summer reading buzz with cool activities and must-read picks at <http://www.scholastic.com/summerreading/>.

June 4—June 10

Plant a garden together. Find inspiration in books like *I'm a Seed and The Garden*.



June 11—June 17

Celebrate our nation's symbols for Flag Day with *America the Beautiful: A Pop-Up Book* by Robert Sabuda.

June 18—June 24

Make Dad a super-sized poster card for Father's Day with a list of things you love about him.

June 25—July 1

Celebrate Superman's birthday on June 30. Make up a story about his latest adventure, or choose a comic book to read.

July 2—July 8

Enjoy a week-long Independence Day celebration with great books about America. Ask your local librarian for top choices.

July 9—July 15

Go outside and play catch, and then sit in the shade with a great biography, history, or fiction book. The All-Star game is this week, so make your pick baseball-themed.

July 16—July 22

Fly a kite! If you're motivated, get a do-it-yourself book and build the kite together.

July 23—July 29

Send a letter to a relative. Begin with the line: "What I love about summertime..."

July 30—August 5

Use a magician's guide to learn a wizard's trick to perform on July 31, which is Harry Potter's birthday!

August 6—August 12

Throw a luau to commemorate the day Hawaii became part of the USA — August 12, 1898.

August 13—August 19

If it's just too hot outside, mark your favorite funnies in a joke book and provide laughs for everyone indoors.

August 20—August 26

Walk through a park with a nature guidebook and identify the creatures you see.

August 27—September 2

Kick off Library Sign-Up Month this September by getting your own card and checking out the latest fall books.

September 3—September 9

Keep the summer fun alive with a journal. Draw pictures and copy down words that remind you of favorite summer adventures.



Don't Forget!

June is Aquarium Month. Take a trip to the one closest to you, and check out the sea creatures. Point out new aquatic words to your pre-reader, and pick up a couple of "fishy" books on the way home.

Beyond Books

Encourage your child to make her own postcards. Even a day trip in your hometown can inspire cool ideas for drawings. Set her up with colored stencils, blank postcards (available at stationery stores) and a roll of stamps. She can dictate messages for you to write when she's done with her masterpieces, and then you can send them off to friends and family!

Bringing the Best Books to You

From the tons of titles published each year, Scholastic Book Club editors choose the best ones to fill your monthly flyer — a mix of award winners, bestsellers, new picks, and favorites you loved as a kid. Choose from fiction, nonfiction, humor, fantasy, and reference books to find the perfect fit for your child.

Did You Know?

When you order, your child's class gets FREE books and resources!

Find out more about leveled reading at www.scholastic.com/yourreader.

About Your Firefly Reader Now

Your Arrow Reader Now is produced by the editorial staff at Scholastic.com/parents. For information on how to foster reading at home, age-appropriate booklists, and more, visit All About Reading at www.scholastic.com/read.