



FUN SUMMER IDEAS FOR YOUR RISING SECOND GRADER!

Tip #1: Your son made a LOT of progress with his reading during first grade, and you certainly don't want those gains to be lost over the summer! When choosing books that are just right, have your son read aloud the first 2 pages. On those first 2 pages, he should be able to read all but about 3 of the words. If there are more than 3 tricky words on these two pages, this is a good indication that the book is too hard, and it will frustrate him. You'll want to choose a variety of books, of course - some that are too hard but that you can read aloud to him, and some that are just right for your son to read independently. Series books are always great. I also recommend checking out some nonfiction books as it's important for your son to spend time reading informational texts. Here are some fun books:

Cam Jansen Mystery books or Young Cam Jansen (David Adler)
Aunt Eater Loves a Mystery (Doug Cushman)
Fox and His Friends (Edward Marshall)
Poppleton Has Fun (Cynthia Rylant)
Shoo, Fly Guy! (Ted Arnold)
Will It Float or Sink? (Melissa Stewart)
The Sun (Melanie Chrismer)
Sea Turtles (Carol Lindeen)
Hammerhead Shark (Deborah Nuzzolo)
Neil Armstrong (Dana Rau)
Mr. Popper's Penguins (Florence and Richard Atwater)
The Chocolate Touch (Patrick Skene Catling)
Stewart Little (E.B.White)
Five True Dog Stories (Margaret Davidson)
The Boxcar Children (Gertrude Chandler Warner)
The Mouse and the Motorcycle (Beverly Cleary)

Tip #2: Integrate learning into everyday activities. For example, your son can easily practice writing by helping you make a grocery list. You can dictate the list, and your son can write down the words. Don't focus too much on correct spelling. What is most important is having him practice listening for the sounds in words and then writing them down. Other fun summer writing ideas: writing in a weekly journal, write a postcard to a friend or relative, or write about a trip.

When going out of town, have them write the list of what to pack. They can have you check over and add to it but allow them to pack the suitcase. You just check over it when done.

Tip #3: Cook up something in the kitchen! Choose a simple recipe and have your son help you make it. You can incorporate reading skills (to read the recipe), math skills (measuring), and practical life skills. Here are some links to child-friendly recipes:

<http://www.kraftrecipes.com/YourKids/main.aspx> (Kids' Recipes from Kraft)

http://www.childrensrecipes.com/childrens_recipes_index.htm (childrensrecipes.com)

Tip #4: Play car games! Here are some ideas:

- Play "Make My Sum." Choose a number from 2 to 20. Tell your son, "Can you make the number ____? Look for numbers on license plates or on signs that add up to make the number ____." For example, you might choose the number 14 as your sum. Your son might find the numbers 8 and 6, which make 14 when added together. Encourage your son to look for other ways to make that same number. Play it again with a different sum!

- Have a sight word search. Have your son shout out any sight words he sees on billboards and recognizes instantly.

Tip #5: Practice simple math addition and subtraction facts! All boys coming into 2nd grade should be fluent with their addition and subtraction math facts to 20. They need to have the ability to quickly recall addition/subtraction facts to help in being successful in math.

Tip #6: Last but not least...don't forget to take time to relax! Summer camps, vacations, sports games, and summer homework are great, but don't forget to leave your son some "down time." When he has free time, he has the opportunity to use his imagination, be creative, and get to know himself better. Even if your family has a busy schedule, be sure to build in some down time before the new school year begins. Enjoy the summer!!

***If you are concerned that your son might suffer from "summer learning loss" or the disconnect from the last quarter, we suggest summer workbooks offered through the website: <https://www.summerskills.com> or www.summersolutions.net. These offer programs using proven strategy that help ensures long-term retention. You will purchase the 1st Grade level materials as it is a review of the skills they should be proficient in when starting 2nd Grade.