

Avoiding The Summer Slide

The summer slide is the knowledge that learners lose during the summer months when not attending school, and it applies to both school-aged children and adults. Teachers, on average, spend up to *four weeks* reteaching materials from the previous year after the summer holidays to get students back to their pre-summer vacation level.



How can families avoid this slide when it comes to reading? For both adults and children, the key is to engage in reading. Here are a few tips to help curb the reading slide during the summer break:

- Make books available everywhere; at home, in the beach bag, in the car, and anywhere you might be able to grab a few moments to read!
- Visit your local library or small, independent book stores in your area.
- Join a community book club, or create one! This might be an especially fun activity for children.
- Put aside 20 minutes in your daily routine for reading time, either for yourself or by reading to others.
- Read different kinds of things to stay engaged: comic books, blogs, newspapers, magazines, and so on.
- Listen to audiobooks or podcasts while you do physical activities.
- Prioritize social or family activities that incorporate reading, such as cooking (reading recipes) or have a family/friends game night with Scrabble or Boggle.
- Explore new things – did you know that many local attractions require reading? Some ideas for the GLC area: the Dorbel-Roberts House in Parc Forillon, the Bioparc in Bonaventure, the Kempffer Cultural Interpretation Centre in New Carlisle, the Micmac Interpretation Site in Gaspé, and the Garden of Glaciers in Baie-Comeau to name a few!