



COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

201 East Colfax Avenue [Central Office 303.866.6600]
Denver, Colorado 80203-1704 • www.cde.state.co.us

William J. Moloney
Commissioner of Education

Roscoe Davidson
Deputy Commissioner

COLORADO STATE LIBRARY
JANUARY 2005



Prevent Summer Set-Back!



- Keep children reading all summer long -

CONTRARY TO POPULAR OPINION—INCLUDING MANY EDUCATORS'—MOST STUDENTS, EVEN THOSE "AT-RISK," MAKE DECENT PROGRESS DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR! IT'S SUMMER WHEN THEY FALL BEHIND¹.

Surprised?

Scientific-based research shows that "On average, children from low-income families lose nearly three months of grade-level equivalency during the summer months each year, compared to an average of one month lost by middle-income children."²

Want more information about summer learning?

Visit the Center for Summer Learning at www.summerlearning.org/index.html. Based at Johns Hopkins University, the Center develops, evaluates, and disseminates model summer learning programs, stimulates research, and builds public support to ensure that no child takes a vacation from learning during the summer months.

How can you EASILY prevent Summer Set-Back?

Libraries across this state, both public and school, urge parents and educators to team up and eliminate this phenomenon. Encourage families, parents, care providers, summer camps, and others to get youngsters reading this summer. Nearly every public library in Colorado sponsors a Summer Reading Program.

Why Summer Reading?

Summer reading programs are an efficient, fun way to incorporate reading and related activities into summer family time. Note these findings from Stephen Krashen³, nationally known reading expert.

- Reading gets better when you practice it.
- Reading helps improve writing style.
- Having a school librarian makes a difference in the amount children read.
- Children read more when they listen to and discuss stories.

Help your children improve their reading!

- Check with your nearest local public library to see how staff can help you involve your students in summer reading!
- If your school works with children in the summer, adapt Colorado State Library resources to your summer activities. The statewide reading program has a manual and CD with graphics, ideas, ready-made graphics, and materials to encourage reading. O

Where can you get more information about Summer Reading?

- CSL's web site for additional tips <www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/SummerReading/>
- NY State Library research compilation <www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/summer/research.htm>
- *Fiore's Summer Library Reading Program Handbook*, Carole D. Fiore, Neal-Schuman Publishers, 2005.

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For more information, please contact:

Nance Nassar
School Library Senior Consultant
Colorado State Library
nassar_n@cde.state.co.us
303-866-6772



Patricia Froehlich
Public Library Senior Consultant
Colorado State Library
froehlich_p@cde.state.co.us
303-866-6908

¹ Johnson, Peter. *Building Effective Programs for Summer Learning*. U.S. Department of Education, 2000.

² McGill-Franzen, Anne and Richard Allington. "Bridging the Summer Reading Gap" *Instructor*, May/June, 2003.

³ Stephen D. Krashen. *The Power of Reading: Insights from the Research*, Second Edition. Libraries Unlimited. Westport, Connecticut. ©2004.