

## Summer Literacy Challenge

Article By: Reading Rockets

*Summertime is a chance for kids to relax and unwind from a busy school year. The following article from Reading Rockets offers parents some good advice on how to encourage learning over the summer months.*

For most parents, it's a challenge to keep kids reading and writing all summer. Suddenly 10 weeks of summer can feel like a very long time! We've got a summer literacy challenge for you and your child. It's modest enough to be manageable — pick just one thing a week to kick start your week's literacy adventures. But it's also challenging enough to include a wide range of literacy fun for the whole family.

- **Investigate your public library's summer reading program.** Most libraries offer a special program or two during the summer, including puppet shows, book authors and children's storytellers. Most are free of charge.
- **Extend your reading circle.** We often find ourselves checking out the same types of books over and over again. This week's challenge is to bring a new type of book into the house. Consider fantasy or science fiction, historical fiction, poetry, biography, or an informational book.
- **Listen up!** Audiobooks are a great way to engage readers and can introduce students to books above their reading level. Many libraries have audiobooks available for check out, and an Internet search can turn up several sites, including Speakaboos.com, that offer free audio books for children.
- **Make your own audio book!** Most phones and computers have simple recording apps on them which are perfect for making homemade audio books! Have your child make up a story, or reread a favorite loved book. The recordings will be priceless!
- **Go wordless.** Wordless picture books are told entirely through their illustrations — they are books without words, or sometimes just a few words. Grab a few wordless books the next time you're at the library and have fun "reading" different versions of the same story. The language and the conversation will inspire you!



## Summer Literacy Challenge...cont.

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- **Visit a museum, online!** You'll be surprised by how much you can explore without leaving your house. One example is the [Smithsonian Institution Kids](#) site. It's complete with offerings from Art to Zoo, for kids and students of all ages.
- **Pack in a whole adventure!** Find FREE themed reading adventure packs that encourage hands-on fun and learning, centered on paired fiction and nonfiction books. Visit the Reading Rockets [Adventure Pack](#) page.
- **Point, shoot, and write.** Most families have access to a digital camera, iPad or camera phone. Snap some photos and then encourage your child to write a silly caption for each photo. Not feeling that ambitious? Cut out some pictures from a magazine or the newspaper and have your child write original captions for those.
- **Mix up the media.** Your child has read every Clifford book on the shelf. But has she heard Clifford author Normal Bridwell talk about writing? Explore author interviews from over 100 authors on Reading Rockets [Author Interview page](#). We'll bet you can't watch just one.
- **Write it down.** Encourage your child to keep a simple journal or summer diary. Track interesting things like the number of fireflies seen in one minute, the number of mosquito bites on a leg, or the different types of food that can go on the grill. Each entry is a chance to be creative!

*Reference: Summer Literacy Challenge (2013). Retrieved on June 9, 2017, from: <http://www.readingrockets.org/article/summer-literacy-challenge>*

## Local Ideas for Learning over the Summer

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Below are some great local ideas for you to try over the summer!

- Eldon House Museum ([www.eldonhouse.ca](http://www.eldonhouse.ca)). A trip to Eldon House would be a great opportunity to explore local history. First built in 1834, Eldon House is one of the oldest houses in London.
- London Children's Museum ([www.londonchildrensmuseum.ca](http://www.londonchildrensmuseum.ca)). The London Children's Museum is offers children and family hands-on learning opportunities. A longstanding fixture in London, the London Children's Museum has been enjoyed by children of all ages for 40 years.
- Take a day-trip! There are many great day trip locations a car-ride from London. A day-trip will create good family memories but will also provide a great learning opportunity for children of all ages. Visit the historic town of Stratford and see a play. Or, before a beach day-trip, research marine habitats.
- Canada 150 Celebrations – This year Canada is celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> birthday! There are many activities planned all around the city. Learn about the history of our country and have fun at the same time.
- Try out an Escape Room – Escape rooms are fairly new to London and are a great way to work together as a family, problem solve, and use logic to solve a puzzle. Groups work together to solve a puzzle, find clues and try to “escape”.

# Be A Reading Role Model

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Your child walks like you, talks like you, and absorbs everything you do. So set the right example when it comes to reading. If you want your child to be a good reader, be one yourself!

## **Surround yourself with reading material**

Books don't belong only in libraries and classrooms. Make the written word a part of your living space, with books, magazines, and newspapers readily available throughout your home.

## **Draw attention to all the things you read**

Provide a bibliography for the things you talk about: When you explain why the sky is blue or who the first president of the United States was, tell your child which book helps you know these facts. You'll show him how knowledge is largely shaped by the things we read and how reading connects us to the world.

## **Buy or borrow books together**

Whenever you're going to the library or bookstore, let your child come along. Even if you aren't looking for anything in particular, practice the art of book browsing and admiring. Make an event out of it and she'll learn to be exhilarated by the sight of books.

## **Don't be a solo reader**

Open up conversations through reading by pausing to read an interesting fact aloud or wonder what an unfamiliar word means. Knowing that the reading experience is not a solitary activity will motivate reluctant readers.

## **Read for leisure**

Show that reading isn't work. Cuddle up with a good book and you'll model how reading can be just the thing to make your day.

## **Bring something to read everywhere you go**

From the office to home, or even the living room to the bedroom, make sure you're equipped with reading material — for yourself and your child. You never know when you'll have some downtime. Show him that reading is a constructive (and fun!) way to pass the time.

## **Emphasize the universal importance of reading**

Librarians, teachers, students, mechanics, lawyers, doctors, architects, athletes... everyone reads. Show your child that reading is part of everyone's life by reading diverse works that serve different purposes. Consider cookbooks, television manuals, online magazines, and cereal boxes. Make a habit out of living through reading.

*Reference: Being a reading role model (2007). Retrieved on June 5, 2017, from: <http://www.readingrockets.org/article/be-reading-role-model>*

# Inspirational Quotes – Issue # 68

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Edited by: Vicary Parkin

Throughout history, society has been influenced and shaped by the many great contributions made by individuals with learning disabilities. These people demonstrate the strength and perseverance to be true to themselves and strive for their full potential. We hope their words inspire and motivate you to reach for your true potential.

“What I was bad at was spelling. Still am. Anything over six letters and that’s me gone... School didn’t really hold anything for me. I knew from a very early age what I wanted to be. I wanted to be a musician.”— *Noel Gallagher, musician*

Noel Gallagher grew up in Manchester, England in the 1970's. Widely regarded as one of the best songwriters of modern times, Gallagher first rose to fame in the 1990's when he joined his younger brother's band, Oasis. From the early 1990's to 2009, Oasis was the UK's most well-known rock band. Over the course of his career, Gallagher has been a prolific song-writer, and was the driving force behind the band's success. Diagnosed with a learning disability at a young age, Gallagher struggled to read and write. Since Oasis split up in 2009, Gallagher has had a successful career in the music industry in other bands and as a solo artist.

*Reference: Famous Dyslexics: Noel Gallagher. (2013) Retrieved Online: June 8, 2017. <https://dm-ed.com/news/famous-dyslexics-noel-gallagher/>*

## Volunteer Opportunities

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ATN is looking for individuals that are willing to volunteer a few hours a week to help make a difference in someone's life. Opportunities exist in our academic upgrading lab, assistive technology lab, employment services, class room assistance and drop-in computer lab.

For more information and to get involved, please call us at

519 - 433-7950 ext. 372.  
or visit our website at [www.atn.on.ca](http://www.atn.on.ca)



## Contact Us:



LD Edge Newsletter  
c/o ATN Access Inc.  
504-141 Dundas Street  
London, ON Canada N6A 1G3

If you have any information, articles or submissions to share with us, please contact us at any time.

Phone: 519-433-7950 ext. 372  
Fax: 519-433-0282  
E-mail: [info@atn.on.ca](mailto:info@atn.on.ca)  
Web: [www.atn.on.ca](http://www.atn.on.ca)

We hope you have enjoyed this month's issue of the LD Edge Newsletter and that you are looking forward to the next issue.



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If we give them an edge...  
They may give us one!