

Tips for supporting your child over summer

1. Use as much English as possible!

- **Speak** to your child **in English** as often as possible.
- If you speak other languages, draw comparisons between this one and English. You could ask them how to say a word you've just mentioned in English, or point out that the word in English starts with the same sound.
- Teens could download a **Word of the Day** app, or use the [New York Times site](#).
- Visit [Words for Life](#) for inspiration on how to integrate reading, writing and oral language into fun activities for all ages.

2. Read for pleasure

- Let your child **pick** books, including 'easier' books (like comics) if that's what they want.
- Children should **concentrate on meaning**: it doesn't matter if they don't understand each word, or if they can't decode something perfectly.
- **Let them read as they wish** – at their own pace, returning to pages or pictures they liked. They might read alone and then reread to you a page they particularly liked.
- Younger students could set up a 'booknic' (book picnic) or create a reading den.
- **Keep up with the news**. [Here](#) are some suggestions on videos & articles that are appropriate for kids and teens. [National Geographic](#) is aimed at adults but is often appropriate for teens too.

Talk to your child about their reading.

- **Discuss what they've read**. Ask questions about the characters, plot and more, e.g.
 - Who was your (least) favourite character?
 - What would you have done in that situation?
 - Would you read another book by this author? Why/why not?
- Find more suggested questions [here](#).

Get your hands on some books.

- Check out our **summer reading list** under 'Book lists' on [this page](#):
- [Oxford Owl](#) provides **free e-books** for students aged 3-11.
- Towards the end of this document, you can find out where to get books in Paris.

3. Write something fun!

- Writing over summer should be **fun** and **purposeful**.
- Keeping a **daily diary** encourages younger students to practise their writing skills.
- Write **letters, postcards** or **emails** to people you know.
- Write **recipes** or **instructions**, for example for a science experiment.
- Story prompts, such as [this gamified one](#), helps younger learners feel stories are fun.
- Teenagers might prefer to write **bullet journals** or **travel journals**. A dedicated book (such as a mindfulness journal or gratitude journal) could help provide prompts.
- Suggestions for writing prompts for teens can be found [here](#).

4. What about the work done in class this year?

- It's important for the children to take a break over summer. We don't ask for any work to be completed. However, if you wish, your child can complete blank pages from this year's course book (except IGCSE students, who use the same course book next year).
- Multisensory approaches can help your child review spelling words in new ways!
<https://specialedresource.com/multisensory-spelling-activities>

Useful websites for reading

www.puffin.co.uk shows books published by this publishing house.

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/book-recommendations/bookfinder/> asks for your age and interests, then offers a personalised selection of recommendations.

<https://storiesfromtheweb.org/> offers short stories written by children, book recommendations and authentic book reviews. Mainly for primary children.

www.dk.com offers a range of non-fiction books

<https://www.booksfortopics.com/> allows you to filter by age and topic of interest

<https://www.lovereadng4kids.co.uk/> lets you sort by age and topic and preview most books!

<http://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/> helps you find books to read and track your reading.

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/free-ebooks/> offers free e-books for ages 3-11.

Other useful websites

<http://www.worldbookday.com>

www.roalddahl.com

www.storiesfromtheweb.org is dedicated to reading skills and storytelling.

www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/ is the BBC's site for young children offering e-cards, fun, games, parents' section and lots more. www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/ is for older children.

The sites below are aimed at learners of English as a Foreign Language but might also be useful.

www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/index.shtml - BBC Learning English.

<http://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/>

<http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/>

www.primaryresources.co.uk

Bookshops, libraries and more...

American Library in Paris, 10 Rue du Général Camou, 75007 Paris (tel. 01 53 59 12 60)

<http://www.americanlibraryinparis.org/> Remember that British Council students get a 10% discount off membership at the American Library in Paris. An individual account allows you to borrow up to 30 books a month. The library also runs events for children (and adults).

Smith & Son, 248 rue de Rivoli, 75001 Paris (tel. 01 53 45 84 40)

<https://www.smithandson.com/>

Shakespeare & Co, 37 Rue de la Bûcherie, 75005 Paris (tel. 01 43 25 40 93)

<http://www.shakespeareandcompany.com/>

The Abbey Bookshop, 29 Rue de la Parcheminerie, 75005 (tel. 01 46 33 16 24)

<https://www.abbeybookshop.org/>

Websites and books on language learning and bilingualism:

http://www.multilingual-matters.com/notes_for_parents

<http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/life-bilingual>

Baker, Colin (1993) A Parents' and Teachers' Guide to Bilingualism, Multilingual Matters

De Jong, Eveline (1986) The Bilingual Experience, Cambridge University Press

Donaldson, Margaret (1978) Children's Minds, Fontana

Foster-Cohen, Susan (1999) An Introduction to Child Language Development, Longman

Grosjean, François (1982) Life with two languages: An Introduction to Bilingualism, Harvard University Press

Grosjean, François (2010) Bilingual: Life and Reality, Harvard University Press

Harding, Edith and Riley, Philip (1986) The Bilingual Family – A Handbook for Parents, Cambridge University Press

Steiner, Naomi and Hayes, Susan (2008) 7 Steps to Raising a Bilingual Child, Amacom

Zurer, Barbara (2008) Raising a Bilingual Child, Living Languages, Pearson