Hello Parents!

Welcome to our Summer Reading Program! We started this program because, as summer approaches, sharing high-quality children's books is especially important. Reading over the summer is critical for maintaining and expanding the intellectual development of children of all ages.

Research shows that school-age children lose an average of one month of school learning over the summer, with some children losing up to three months of school learning! Teachers of all grade levels often need to spend the first several weeks of each school year reteaching what students learned the year before. What a waste of time!

It’s equally important to keep infants, toddlers and preschool-age children intellectually engaged over the summer. Our program has something to offer for children in a wide age range, from birth to 10 years and older.

Why do children lose learning over the summer? Simply put: they don’t read enough! According to studies, limited access to books and a lack of positive reading experiences are two of the main causes of summer learning loss.

The good news is that there are some simple, research-based steps you can take to keep your child’s mind sharp over the summer:

• **Read at least 6 books.** According to studies, reading 6 books or more over the summer can help children retain learning from the preceding year.

• **Build your home library.** Have a diverse selection of books on hand from which your children can choose — children are more engaged when they select the books they read!

• **Add concept books to the mix.** Include books that reinforce basic learning concepts, especially math.

• **Bring the books to life.** “Unpack” the books through discussion and activities.

The tools we will provide in our literacy-focused 12-week email program will give you everything you need to follow these steps and keep your child’s mind active and engaged. By participating in our program, you will also spend quality time with your child, strengthening his or her reading comprehension, vocabulary, critical thinking and conversation skills. You can get started right away with this reading log and pirate-themed scavenger hunt! I can’t wait to share more with you over the coming weeks. Please join me!

Sincerely,

Stefanie Paige Grossman, M.S.Ed
Early Childhood Education/Infant & Parent Development Expert
Global Program Director, Barefoot Books

About Barefoot Books:
For over 20 years we have opened the hearts and the minds of children from all walks of life with our exquisitely crafted, independently published books. Take a peek at our collection, and you will discover themes that encourage independence of spirit, respect for the world’s diversity and enthusiasm for learning.
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Ask your child to explain why — it’s great practice with verbal skills!
Are ye ready for a swashbuckling treasure hunt, mateys? Navigate to the hidden treasure by reading the type of book you find on each island!

Color in (or place a sticker on) each island to mark your progress:

Rhyming Book Reef
Sing-a-Long Island
Folk or Fairytales Retreat
Wordless Book Haven
Picture Storybook Key
Non-Fiction Book Peninsula
Science Book Shelter
Math or Counting Book Enclave
Anthology (Story Collection) Isle
World Culture Sanctuary

Treasure!

Go to www.barefootbooks.com for more reading resources!