

The summer holidays have arrived! Whatever the weather, we have lots of fun activities for you to do with your child to keep them entertained and boost their literacy skills.

Finding inspiration out and about

- **Your local park:** head to the park for drawing, writing and reading inspiration. Grab a notebook and get your child to draw pictures of some of the animals and plants they see. When you get home, you can look them up in books or online to identify them and find out more.
- **The garden:** use a garden or any outdoor space to create a treasure hunt, writing riddles and clues for your child to solve. How about having a picnic and asking your child to help you write a shopping list for all the food you'll need. You could even ask your child to help with growing plants and vegetables by keeping a diary of how they are growing.
- **A trip to a farm or the zoo:** as you walk around, ask your child questions about the animals you see, and see if they have a favourite animal. Read out loud any information that you see on posters and talk about it together. Chat and discussion will help to improve your child's confidence and speaking skills.
- **Exploring the beach:** children are fascinated by the ocean and sea creatures. You could help your child make a seaside scrapbook as they explore the seashore! They can make a list of all the creatures they find, detailing where they live and how they move. Either take photos to print out and stick in later or get your child to draw pictures. When you're back from the beach, your child might want to find out more about the sea creatures, so help them do some research.

Activities for a rainy day

- **A day at the museum:** a cultural trip can give your child lots of inspiration for their reading and writing – and it's often free! Take a notebook with you and get your child to draw pictures of their favourite objects or displays. Back at home, can they write a story about the things they've seen? Encourage them to do some research if they want to find out more.
- **Visiting an art gallery:** many are child-friendly and have guides and worksheets to fill in as you go round. After your visit, give your child pens, crayons, paints or collage materials and challenge them to create their own piece of art, inspired by what they have seen at the gallery.

- **Arts and crafts:** get the colouring pencils, crayons, paints, stickers and scrap material out and encourage your child to create a summer-inspired artwork. Perhaps they might like to create a seaside scene with real sand, or maybe a park using sticks and leaves from the garden. If it's raining outside, get some glitter ready to stick on!
- **'A day in the life':** spark your child's imagination and keep them entertained by getting them to create their very own 'a day in the life' storybook. Let the character they choose be inspired by the summer holidays – what's it like to be a pilot? A zoo keeper? Or maybe even a starfish? What would you have to eat, what would you wear and who might you meet?
- **Cooking up a feast:** getting your child involved with making a summer-themed snack is a great way to practice their reading and writing skills. How about making a refreshing fruit smoothie, watermelon ice lollies or homemade granola bars? Write a shopping list together and tick off the ingredients as you find them in the shop. When you get home, follow the recipe together, measuring out ingredients and following the instructions. Then enjoy your treats together!
- **Writing a film review:** over the summer holidays, you and your child might get the chance to watch a film or two together – at home, at the cinema or maybe even on a plane. Ask your child questions about the plot; *Why did the character do that? Do you like that character? What do you think will happen next?* Once the film is over, could your child write a film review? Start with the title of the film and what they would rate it out of five stars. Then ask them to write about what happened in the film, whether they enjoyed it, who their favourite and least favourite characters were, and if they'd recommend the film to any friends.
- **Read a book together:** reading a book with your child is a great way to relax and spend some time together. It's also a great way for your child to learn new words and ideas. Did you know that reading with your child for as little as 10 minutes a day can make a significant difference to their development and how well they do at school? Head to the [wordsforlife.org.uk](https://www.wordsforlife.org.uk) website for great book recommendations.

Here are some top tips for getting your child excited about reading:

- Make time to read together every day; little and often works best.
- Join your local library and help your child explore books, comics and magazines on everything from animals and sports to cooking and wizards!
- Get grandparents, older siblings, aunties and uncles to share stories with your child, too.

Visit [wordsforlife.org.uk](https://www.wordsforlife.org.uk) for more summer literacy activities!