

# Summer

## EAL tips

SUPPORT YOUR CHILDREN  
WHILE THEY LEARN  
ENGLISH

KEEP THEM MOTIVATED

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During the summer vacation, you will want your child to continue to develop English language skills. That can be a challenge sometimes! You may be traveling back to your home country, or you may be staying in the area. We know that maintaining your home language is very important and do not encourage you to switch to English in the home. Here are some tips that may help your child practice English. Choose the ones that are best for your family. As your child spends time on the activities suggested, talk to your child in your home language about the activity. For example, if your child watches a cartoon or reads a book in English, have him/her explain it to you in the home language.

**Keep your children motivated! If you show enthusiasm and actively participate in the activities, they will enjoy both the time spent with you and the activities. Do these activities with them, until they are at a high enough level to be independently motivated and engaged.**

- I. **Independent Reading** - set aside 30+ minutes per day for your child to read English materials
  - a. Jarir's has many English language books and magazines. Let your child select books that are interesting for him/her.
  - b. Many students prefer non-fiction books and will spend hours reading about a particular interest (dinosaurs, space travel, history).
  - c. Graphic novels and comics may keep a child's attention and still promote learning of English. The Bone series by Jeff Smith is popular with young people.
- II. **Hire a tutor or an older child** (a high school student) who has a strong command of English to play with your child and use English in a fun, but helpful learning environment.
- III. Have your child practice English a little bit each day on the **computer**. On the back of this brochure are some websites to start exploring. It is important that it keep the interest of the student, but also be rich in language content. Many of these sites also have listening and viewing activities.
- IV. Make a list of challenging words and **play hangman or I Spy** with your kids. Play taking turns; they love when they think of a word that you cannot guess! This game can be played while you are travelling or waiting at a restaurant to be served.
- V. Play **board games** that are language rich (Monopoly, Scrabble, Boggle, etc)
- VI. Encourage HS students to **write a blog** about a topic of their interest or even about their summer activities and post it for their friends to read and comment. Teenagers love to tell their friends what they are doing!
- VII. Allow your child to watch **age appropriate TV shows** and films in English.

## 15 SITES TO TRY WITH YOUR CHILD

1. There are different type of activities here organized by listening, grammar, spelling, reading, vocabulary, and writing. Students love this site because they have fun and learn at the same time. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/>
2. Quizzes and puzzles specially created for English as a Second Language Students. <http://a4esl.org/>
3. Proofreading for Grade 5 students. [http://www.harcourtschool.com/activity/language\\_arts/pmp/interactive\\_guide/g05/g05home.htm](http://www.harcourtschool.com/activity/language_arts/pmp/interactive_guide/g05/g05home.htm)
4. Wacky Web Tales – a fun way to write stories and practice English expressions and parts of speech <http://www.eduplace.com/tales/>
5. This is ideal for P1 students. This site offers different stories with cartoons which you can listen to and read at the same time. Many stories are interactive. [www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/)
6. These online learning games and songs teach important skills for preschool and elementary school kids. They are related to the elementary school curriculum in math, language, science, social studies, and more. <http://www.learninggamesforkids.com/>
7. British Council – The website below has many appealing reading, writing, and listening activities and games. There is also a word of the week and worksheets. <http://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/>
8. Vocabulary site for younger students. <http://www.vocabulary.co.il/>
9. Power Proofreading, Houghton Mifflin – practice English grammar by editing work. Begin at a lower grade level and move up for more challenge. [http://www.eduplace.com/kids/hme/6\\_8/proofread/proof.htm](http://www.eduplace.com/kids/hme/6_8/proofread/proof.htm)
10. Robert Munsch – write poems and complete other activities <http://www.scholastic.ca/titles/munsch/activities/poems.htm>
11. Read books online and create wacky stories... <http://www.funbrain.com/brain/ReadingBrain/ReadingBrain.html>
12. Clifford interactive books... Four books with fun activities <http://teacher.scholastic.com/clifford1/>
13. Free Rice – vocabulary and grammar activities – every ten grains of rice earned is donated through the World Food Program to help end hunger <http://www.freerice.com/>
14. Practice a variety of spelling words based on phonics, common words, and academic words <http://www.amblesideprimary.com/ambleweb/lookcover/lookcover.html>
15. All kinds of activities at different levels – vocabulary, reading, grammar, listening, speaking... Also, many video clips and songs <http://www.manythings.org/>