Third-Grade Summer Reading Family Guide

Summer is an important time to build reading skills in fun, everyday ways. This guide is filled with **simple activities you can do together** — from daily calendars and book lists to easy at-home practice and games that support reading.

Try to aim for about **20–30 minutes a day practicing reading and writing skills.** You can break it up in ways that work best for your family — for example, 10 minutes of a simple activity or game at breakfast and 20 minutes of reading later in the day.

Summer Calendars |
Daily Activities for Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening

- ★ June
- ★ July
- ★ August

Summer Reading Book List

Excellent Core 3rd Grade Books

These are commonly recommended for grades **2–4** and work well for independent reading or read-alouds.

- **Charlotte's Web** by E. B. White – Beautiful themes of friendship, kindness, and sacrifice. A classic for this age.
- **Ramona the Brave** by Beverly Cleary – Relatable school and family experiences that 3rd graders love.
- **Because of Winn-Dixie** by Kate DiCamillo – Strong character development and emotional themes. Excellent for discussion.
- **James and the Giant Peach** by Roald Dahl – Imaginative and funny adventure with memorable characters.

- **The World According to Humphrey** by Betty G. Birney – Very accessible and popular with 2nd–4th graders.

Good Transitional / Early Chapter Books

Great for students still **building stamina with longer books**.

- **Magic Tree House** by Mary Pope Osborne – Short chapters, exciting history adventures.
- **Cam Jansen** by David A. Adler – Fun mysteries with repetitive structure that supports comprehension.
- **Encyclopedia Brown** by Donald J. Sobol – Encourages problem solving and inference skills.

Slightly More Challenging / Great Read-Alouds

These work well **with teacher or parent support**.

- **Stuart Little** by E. B. White – Vocabulary is a little older, but the story is engaging.
- **The Indian in the Cupboard** by Lynne Reid Banks – Exciting story with themes about responsibility and empathy.
- **The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane** by Kate DiCamillo – Beautiful but emotionally deeper. Great read-aloud.

High-Interest / Graphic Options

Good for **reluctant readers**.

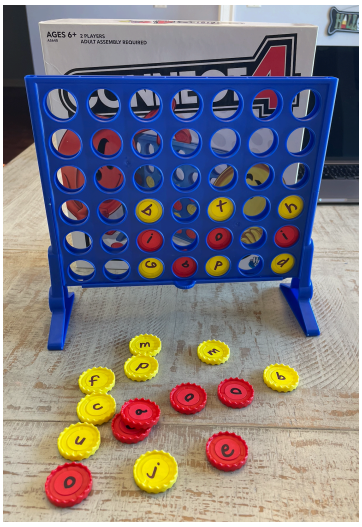
- **Lunch Lady and the Cyborg Substitute** by Jarrett J. Krosocska **–** Fast-paced graphic novel humor.
- **Stephen Curry Sports Superheroes** by Blake Hoena **–** Appeals to sports-focused readers.

Simple Materials for Everyday Activities to Support Reading

Materials	Ways to Use The Materials
Whiteboard and Dry Erase Marker	• Sentence building Say a simple sentence (The dog barks). Ask your child to say the sentence, write the sentence and build a longer, more detailed sentence. • Sentence editing: Your child rereads their writing and corrects errors. • Write and read words • Practice spelling patterns with letter/sound mapping Parent says a word Student repeats the word Student draws one line for each sound Student puts a letter or letters in each line that stands for the sound • Give the student a base word (pack) and ask them to practice spelling with common prefixes (un, re) and suffixes (ing, ed)
Plastic letters	Word Building • Play Guess My Word Parent builds a word with plastic letters. Child reads it. Parent gives clues about meaning. Example Word: **planet** Word Chaining • Parent says a word (cat) • Child builds the word using plastic letters. • Parent asks the child to change one letter (mat) • Continue with more difficult patterns, changing just one letter in each round. Example: tap tape cape cap clap clop
Spiral Notebook and pencil	• Keep a reading log that shows the books read and the number of minutes each day as a record to look back and celebrate

	• As you work through the summer writing prompts from the calendars, keep writing in the notebook.
Post-it Notes	• Hold place in a book • Student writes bulleted notes after reading a section • Build stamina - when reading a chapter book, begin by placing a post-it note about 3 pages into the first chapter as the target for the first day. As students continue to read, move the post-it note target so that the target number of pages grows as they become more confident.
Pop it board with letters 	Build spelling words, spelling fluency practice

Commercial games that support literacy



Connect Four and Yard Sale price stickers
Consonants = yellow; Vowels = red
Build words and connect



Duplo blocks- write letters with a marker



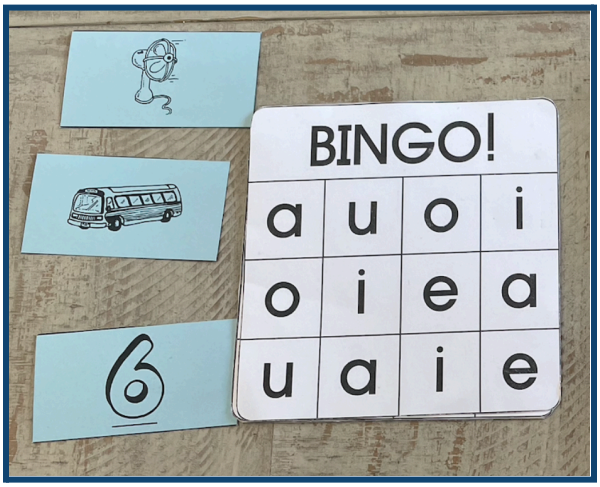
Headbanz - vocabulary building game;
Apples to Apples - oral language building game



Scrabble Junior, Boggle Junior or Bananagrams- word building games

Games families can make to help with literacy

[Florida Center For Reading Research Games](#) for each skill



Pool noodles with letters written on them for word building and spelling practice



Letter cubes for roll a word

