Garfield School District
Summer Reading Program 2026
Students Entering Kindergarten

"Prevent the summer slide and read!"

Unearth a Story™ underscores the joy of discovery that reading brings and that every person and every community have stories waiting to be found and shared – through books, programs, and local knowledge.

Garfield Public Schools **34 Outwater Lane, Garfield, NJ 07026**

Dawn Rotio **973-340-5000**
Curriculum Supervisor

May 7, 2026

Dear Parents and Students,

I want to thank you for the consistent effort you put forth this school year. Your child has worked so hard and maintaining the skills he/she has acquired is extremely important. Enclosed in this packet are the required reading assignments for the upcoming school year. This should be done throughout the summer to make reading a part of your daily routine.

In addition to summer reading, Dr. Tomko is thrilled to launch the **1st Annual Superintendent's Reading Challenge** for students entering grades 2–8! Students who complete this summer packet will earn credit toward the Superintendent's Challenge while enjoying an exciting opportunity to stay engaged, inspired, and motivated all summer long. It's a fun and rewarding way to encourage reading at home, spark imagination, and celebrate a love of learning beyond the classroom! Stay tuned!!

Upon returning to school, students will hand in their completed activities to their teacher. The elementary schools will recognize those students for their extra hard work and dedication to reading by bestowing upon them a reward for their participation in the program as well as giving credit towards their reading grade.

All information can be accessed on www.gboe.org by clicking on the summer reading link. Forms for assignments can be recreated by photocopying, downloading off the school website, using a word document, or handwriting it on a separate piece of paper. Copies can also be found at the Garfield Public Library.

Once again, thank you for your continuous involvement in your child's education!

Sincerely,

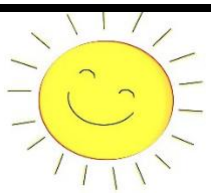
Dawn Rotio

Dawn Rotio
Curriculum Supervisor

Why read to them?

- Reading encourages social-emotional skills
- Grows their attention span
- Helps develop writing skills
- Increases comprehension
- Exercises their brain
- Improves vocabulary
- Builds background knowledge
- Models reading
- Influences their love of learning
- Builds and fosters relationships

Garfield School District
Summer Reading Program 2026



Required Reading:

Incoming Kindergarteners:

- Students must have **5 books** read to them. Our goal is to foster a love of reading! Please feel free to read any book that is of high interest to your child. Bedtime is a great time to do this!

- Complete the story assignments for **1 book** that was read. Your child should complete this to the best of his/her ability.

- Complete the Reading Log Form.

- Students must practice letter recognition and letter sounds. It is beneficial for your child to be able to identify all the letters in the alphabet (out of order) and say the sound each letter makes.

- Read each sentence with your child (use the dots under words to help) and practice reading sight words.

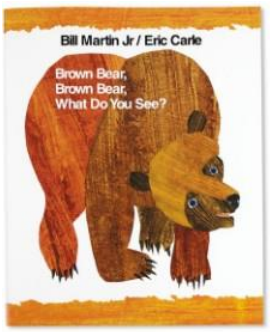
- Your child should also practice writing his/her name. (Handwriting sheet)

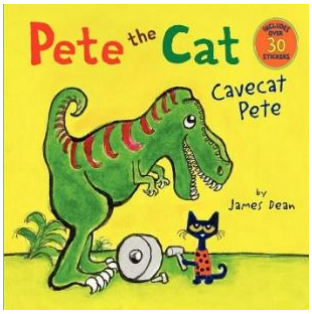
**Upon completion of the summer reading assignment, your child should have the opportunity to read or be read to every day or night!*

Suggested Summer Reading List for Kindergarten

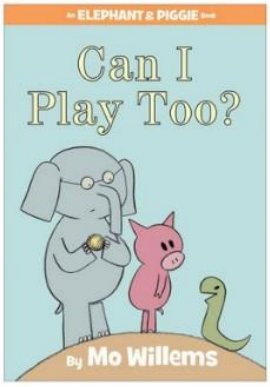
Students are NOT limited to this list!

Bad Kitty by Nick Bruel
Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? Bill Martin Jr.
Click, Clack, Moo, Cows That by Doreen Cronin
David Goes to School by David Shannon
Duck! Rabbit! By Amy Krouse Rosenthal and Tom Lichtenheld
First Day Jitters by Julie Danneber
First Day of School by Mercer Mayer
Giraffes Can't Dance Giles Andreae
Ice-cream Soup Ann Ingalls
If You Give a Mouse a Cookie Felicia Bond
Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Kindergarten by Joseph Slate
Off to Kindergarten by Tony Johnston
The Day The Crayons Quit by Drew Daywalt
The Kissing Hand by Audrey Penn
The Night Before Kindergarten by Natasha Wing
The Rainbow Fish Marcus Pfister
Tool School Joan Holub
Wemberly Worried. by Kevin Henkes





Any books written by:
Ezra Jack Keats
Eric Carle
Eric Litwin/James Dean (Pete the Cat books)
David Shannon
Dr. Seuss
Mo Willems



Leveled books:
First Little Readers
Bob books
Penguin Young Readers

Name: _____

Directions: Draw a picture about your book. Label your picture or write a sentence to match your picture!

Name_____

Reading Log Form for students entering Kindergarten

Book Title	Author	Parent/Guardian Signature

Checklist:

Assignments have been completed: ☐

Reading Log is signed by a parent/guardian: ☐

Name:_____

Directions: Point to each uppercase letter and have your child tell you what letter it is as well as the sound it makes.

G	Y	T	F
L	Q	Z	I
B	M	P	K
R	O	C	N
S	E	D	U
A	J	H	W
V	X		

Name:_____

Directions: Point to each lowercase letter and have your child tell you what letter it is as well as the sound it makes.

g	y	t	f
l	q	z	i
b	m	p	k
r	o	c	n
s	e	d	u
a	j	h	w
v	x		

Name:_____

Directions: Read each sentence pointing your finger under each word. The circles are there to help you. See if you can find sight words from List A in the sentences.

I like the red ball.

The pig is in the mud.

The duck is in the water.

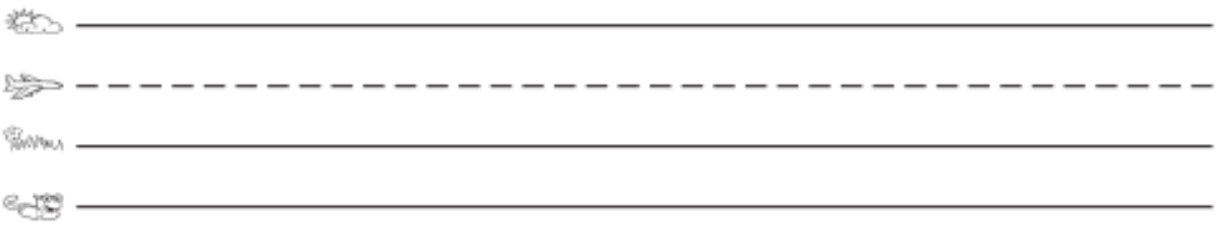
My name is Bob.

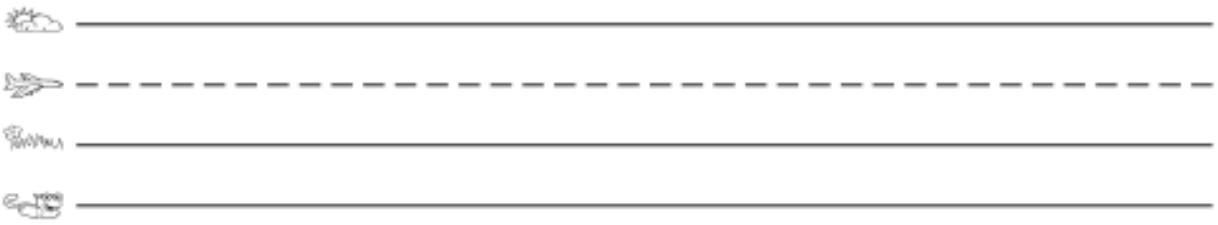
Max and Jax are my dogs.

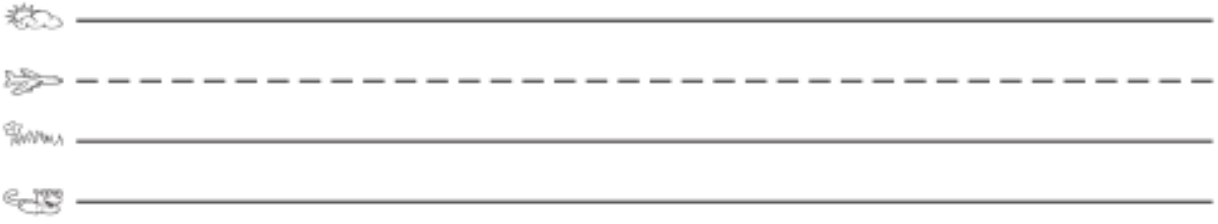
Practice reading some sight words!

I	my
can	are
the	he
we	with
see	is
a	little
like	she
to	was
and	for
go	have
you	of
do	they

Name: *Date:*







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