The 2018 Summer Book Challenge is just around the corner!

More than 75 summer camp providers, library systems, school systems, summer recreation locations, foundations, teaching artists, and area businesses will work collaboratively to provide summer learning opportunities to more than 4,000 children. This collaboration will help these children gain reading proficiency over the summer to avoid the dreaded "summer slide."

Participating students will be provided with the official Suncoast Summer Book Challenge Log and a Family Guide. The Family Guide is also available in Spanish. As children finish books and enter them into their logs, they will be awarded brightly colored silicone bracelets, a different color for each book read. Summer Book Challenge providers will encourage and motivate the students to complete at least six books. Support for the Suncoast Summer Book Challenge is provided by The Patterson Foundation.

2017 was the inaugural year for the Summer Book Challenge. More than 2,600 students signed up to participate; 918 students successfully completed six books. The 22 participating sites reported a total of 10,730 books read. Participants were proud of the achievements of the first challenge, and are doubly excited as we look at the horizon for summer 2018 with over 75 sites and 4,000 children participating!

Dive into Reading this summer with Gecko's Grill & Pub SR 70 and Anna Maria Oyster Bar. Mentor a child as a Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading Mind in the Making (MITM):

Team Daring
Begins May 31

Team Velvet
Begins July 10

Sarasota Community Baby Shower: May 19
FREE event for pregnant women and families, families with infants up to one year old, and community partners who support the health and well-being of pregnant women, infants, and young children.
Preparing for Kindergarten: A Real Joy

Why is everyone talking about the Kindergarten Readiness Bags? It’s because they are stuffed with summer learning and school readiness; two of five pillars the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading and Campaign for Grade-Level Reading focus on to close the gap in #GLReading.

Research tells us that academic achievement increases when parents are engaged in their children’s education. The Kindergarten Readiness bags include many great tools parents and children can share together during the summer before school begins. By using the resources provided in the bags, parents can create fun learning experiences for their children to help prepare them for school.

Here’s what each brightly colored tote bag contains:

- Magnetic Letters
  
  *Tip:* Pick a letter, talk about the sound that letter makes, and see how many things you can find around the house that begin with that letter's sound.

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FREE Parenting Program Groups at Forty Carrots Family Center:
- Welcome to Our World
- Breastfeeding Support & Latch Clinic
- Child Personal Safety

All Faiths Food Bank Food Distribution Schedules

Kindergarten Readiness Play Days
Join us from 10:30-noon and help your child prepare for kindergarten! There will be fun activities for parents and kiddos to help get ready for the first days of school.

- June 16, 2018 Sarasota
- June 23, 2018 Bradenton
- June 23, 2018 Venice
- June 30, 2018 Palmetto
- June 30, 2018 Sarasota
- July 14, 2018 North Port
- July 21, 2018 Ellenton
- July 28, 2018 North Port

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"A dream becomes a goal when action is taken toward its achievement."

— BO BENNETT

#GLREADING
Jumbo Crayons
Tip: Teach your child how to write his/her name with the first letter capitalized, and the rest in lowercase.

Flashcards
Tip: Use flashcards as a tool to help your child learn how to pronounce letters and recognize objects and colors as they correlate words to their meaning.

Books
Tip: As you read, move your finger under the words to help your child learn that words go from left to right.

Drawing Pads
Tip: Develop fine motor skills with your child by encouraging them to draw shapes.

Erasable Alphabet Charts
Tip: Help your child practice writing letters each day.

and a pamphlet entitled, Kindergarten Readiness: Practical Skills Every Child Needs As They Enter Kindergarten.

To teach children about water safety in Sarasota County and Charlotte County, Sarasota County Rotary Clubs and Charlotte County Rotary Clubs are providing copies of "Josh the Baby Otter" for each bag. The book was created to help children comprehend and remember the importance of being safe around bodies of water.

Things to Practice with Your Child Before Kindergarten Begins:

- Put their jacket on and take it off without help.
- Use the restroom and wash their hands.
- Cover their mouth when sneezing or coughing.
- Drink from a cup and open a juice box.
- Operate zippers, snaps, and buttons.
- Properly use eating utensils.
- Clean up after themselves.

Developing personal responsibility is an important step in getting ready for kindergarten.

Taking a few extra minutes to teach self-help skills will lead to kindergarten success and build self-confidence!

Source: Getting Your Child Ready For Kindergarten

We welcome your thoughts. Contact us at info@GradeLevelReadingSuncoast.net.