

Reading Programs for Children

Some experts suggest that children should read or be read to for at least 20 to 30 minutes each day. For school-age children, reading skills are essential for achieving a sense of competence about their own abilities. For preschoolers, being read to fosters the desire to read and teaches them cooperation and listening skills. In the activity below, you will research and select print media sources for children that illustrate or reinforce the developmental tasks discussed in Lesson 4 of this chapter.



ACTIVITY

You have been asked by your local library to develop a summer reading program for children. Pick one of two age groups for your project, children ages 3 to 5 or children ages 6 to 11. For children ages 3 to 5, research and select five stories to be read aloud to the children. For children ages 6 to 11, identify five books or stories for the children to read themselves.

Using your school or local library as a resource, research and select the five stories you will recommend for your summer reading or story-telling program. For each selection you make, write a brief synopsis of

the story that explains how the selection illustrates or reinforces the developmental tasks for that age group.

EXPRESS YOUR VIEWS

Research summer reading and literacy programs in your area. Write an editorial for your school newspaper that encourages teens to volunteer for these programs. Your editorial should state why reading is important, give information about local programs, and contain suggestions for how to get involved.