



Just for Parents

Welcome to the first edition of the “Just for Parents” monthly newsletter. The Bureau of Family and Community Outreach is pleased to provide this service to keep parents and guardians up to date with current issues and helpful information. Parent and guardian involvement gives students the extra support and encouragement they need to get better grades, increase their self-esteem and motivation, and has been proven to increase the overall graduation rate.

Gerard Robinson, Commissioner

Summer is the perfect time for reading a few good books!

Grades K-5

- Read to your child daily.
- Read a lot of different materials.
- Discuss what you've read together.
- Ask your child questions about what was read.
- Encourage your child to write or draw about what he or she has read.

For more information:

[Elementary Summer Reading Loss Prevention](#)

[First Lady Ann Scott's Summer Literacy Adventure 2012](#)

[Summer Reading Camps](#)



Grades 6-12

- Discuss stories or articles you have both read.
- Ask your child questions about what was read.
- Encourage your child to write in response to what was read.
- Ensure your child reads widely—at least one book every ten days.

For more information: [Teen Summer Reading Loss Prevention](#)

Students in grades 6-12 will have school-required summer reading assignments. Contact your child's school or visit the school's website for information.

A list of Florida's schools can be found here: http://www.fldoe.org/schools/schoolmap//district_list.asp

Other helpful summer reading links:

[Just Read, Families!](#)

[Just Read, Florida! 2012 Summer](#)

[Recommended Reading List](#)

[Find a Book - Florida Florida Libraries](#)

[For Teens, by Teens – Teen Recommended Reading List](#)

The Bureau of Family & Community Outreach offers the following services and programs to parents and guardians:

Click on a link below to learn more!

- [Parent Involvement](#)
- [Faith and Community Based Initiatives](#)
- [Office of Safe Schools](#)
- [Dropout Prevention](#)
- [Volunteer and Recognition Programs](#)
- [21st Century Community Learning Centers](#)

Bureau of Family & Community Outreach

(850) 245-0847

Visit The Florida Department of Education online: www.fldoe.org



Join DOE's online Parent Community. Sign up today!

[Just For Parents Website](#)



Just for Parents

Make Summer Fun (and Educational)!

- Challenge kids to compare and add up prices while shopping.
- On car rides, ask kids to look for shapes, colors, letters, or words on billboards and signs.
- On rainy days, have an indoor scavenger or treasure hunt.
- Stargaze before bedtime!
- At the beach, collect, count, and organize sea shells by shape and color.
- Make cookies and have kids help measure the ingredients.
- Explore a local museum, zoo, aquarium, or historic landmark.
- Play board or card games.
- Have kids draw, paint, or color a picture about what they love about summer.



Summer and Afterschool Programming

Many 21st Century Community Learning Center programs offer summertime programs in addition to afterschool programs. To see if there is a summer program in your area, please visit:

<http://florida21stccclc.education.ufl.edu/>

For more information call: (850) 245-0847

SUMMER BREAK SPOT

FRIENDS. FOOD. FREE. ALL SUMMER LONG.

Summer Meal Programs

There are approximately 3,000 Summer BreakSpot sites around the state that provide free meals and snacks to children through age 18 when school is out for summer vacation.

Local governments, school districts, and non-profit organizations sponsor these free summer meal sites. Meals are served at

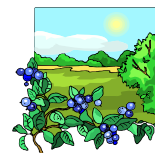
schools, parks, playgrounds, recreation centers, housing projects, migrant centers, Indian reservations, YMCAs, Boys and Girls Clubs, houses of worship, summer camps and other sites. Most Summer BreakSpot sites are open to all children who go to the site during meal service times.

No application is required.

To find the Summer BreakSpot sites nearest you, visit: www.SummerFoodFlorida.org or call the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services toll-free at **1-800-504-6609**.

Visit a U-Pick Farm – Children love them!

Children love picking fruit, tasting it, and filling up their buckets. In Florida, a variety of fruits and vegetables can be picked at U-Pick farms — berries, tomatoes, grapes, corn, squash and more!



Kids can learn a little science, math, and even

history such as:

- how foods grow.
- when these foods are planted and when they are harvested.
- the nutritious value of fruits and vegetables.
- measurements like weight and volume.

To learn a about the fruits and vegetables you are picking, visit: [Fruits & Veggies-More Matters](#)

To find a U-Pick Farm near you, go to the following web-site:

<http://www.pickyourown.org/FL.htm>