



SUMMER FUN ISSUE

HAWAII PARENT

THE MAGAZINE FOR FAMILIES

WATER WATCH • CAMPING OUT
SUMMER READING • ALLERGY ALERT
SAFETY ON WHEELS

Discover the
Magic
OF
Reading!

By Valerie S. Elwell

A hhhh! The long golden days of summer. Plenty of time for swimming, biking, camping, hiking, picnics, trips and ... reading.

That's right. Reading should be one of the most important activities of your child's summer. It keeps their reading skills active so they don't have to "relearn" so much at the beginning of the school year. It helps slower readers get up to grade level. It gives preschool children the building blocks for learning.

Learning to read is one of a child's greatest achievements. Reading exposes

children to a variety of people, places and experiences. It gives them the foundation for all other knowledge and helps them become lifelong learners.

Here's how to make reading fun:

- Join a summer reading program. It lets your child keep track of all the books they read and the incentives are great encouragement.
- Read aloud to your child at an early age.
- Read often and on a regular schedule. Naptime and bedtime work well, but anytime is fine.

Summer Reading is FUNdamental

★ ★ ★ ★ Reading is Magical! ★ ★ ★ ★

- Don't be surprised if your child wants the same book read over and over. The high interest and repetition encourages memory and language skills.

- Start the library habit early on. Get your child their own library card. Show them how to look up books.

- Let your child read to you and ask them questions about the book. By reading aloud, you can determine if your child understands individual words and the story. You can also pinpoint any reading problems.

For older children:

- Encourage them to keep a list of book titles, dates read and a brief review. This builds a sense of accomplishment.

- Talk about books at the dinner table.
- Help them start a book club with

friends. Let them see that different people can get different ideas from the same book.

- Plan a fun, related activity when they finish a book. For *Anne of Green Gables* have a tea party. For *Hans Brinker and the Silver Skates*, take a trip to "Ice Palace". For *The Secret Garden* visit Lyon Arboretum or plant your own little garden. The possibilities are endless.

- Help them find books and magazine articles about a sport, hobby or other interest.

Most of all, let your children see you read. Let them know that you read for information, but more importantly, for pleasure and joy. Your example and interest is a powerful motivator.

Discover the magic of reading. Once again, the Hawaii State Public Library System is presenting a children's summer reading program. The theme is "Discover the Magic of Reading" and it highlights books on fantasy, knights, dragons, fairies, magic and King Arthur tales.

In addition, they are hosting a traveling national exhibit sponsored by the American Library Association, Newberry Library and

the New York Public Library entitled "The Many Realms of King Arthur". The exhibit runs through June 5.

You can join the Children's Reading Program anytime from June 8 through July 27 at any Hawaii State Public Library.

- Eligible participants are children who will be in preschool to 6th grade in the fall. Adults may read aloud to children, preschool through 2nd grade.

- Read your books and visit the library every week to receive a free prize (while supplies last).

- The librarian will keep a log of the books you read.

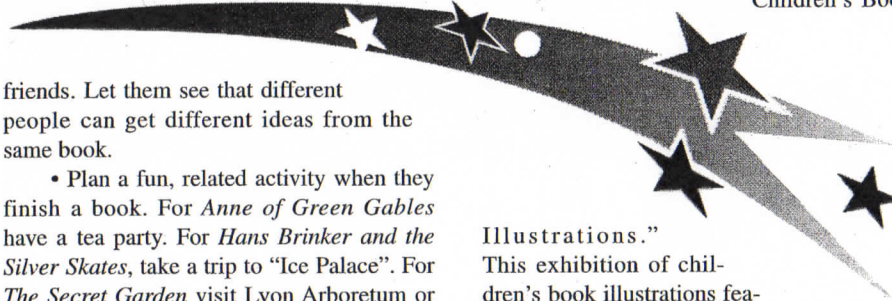
Windows on Enchantment. Another fun way to encourage summer reading is a special exhibition at the Academy of Arts entitled "Windows on Enchantment: Children's Book

Illustrations."

This exhibition of children's book illustrations features Trina Schart Hyman, one of the most important figures nationally and internationally, in book illustrations for children and adults. She has received numerous awards including the Caldecott Medal.

The "Windows on Enchantment" exhibition will run from May 25-July 16 and is presented in a castle-like setting. Visitors cross a "drawbridge", walk through the portal of Fountain Court Castle, pass by the armored knight and enter the Great Hall to view original works of art by six major illustrators of children's classic books. Knights and ladies, dragon, wizards, medieval legends and Arthurian tales abound.

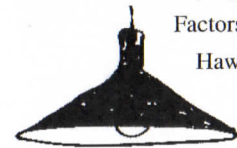
Reservations are required at least two weeks in advance for the one-hour tour. It includes the video "The Reluctant Dragon." Call the Academy of Arts at 532-8726.



Summer Reading is **FUNDamental** is one of a series of articles produced by Children First for Hawaii Parent Magazine. Children First is a comprehensive community service campaign developed by ABC-TV Network and aired locally by ABC affiliate KITV-4 for the past two years.

This campaign addresses the fact that our children are in crisis and offers tips, ideas and solutions to help improve their lives. It believes that all of us can help protect our most precious resource, our children, by acting locally. It celebrates the efforts of those among us who are part of the solution and encourages all of us to put Children First.

This year's sponsors of KITV-4's Children First campaign are the Finance Factors Family and the Hawaii State Teacher's Association (HSTA).



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