**Summer Reading: Or, How to Avoid the Summer Slide?**

Did you know? Kids who do not continue reading over the summer can lose up to **two months** of the reading gains they achieved during the school year. This especially affects low-income children. Almost all Idaho public libraries and branches offer some type of summer reading program to help keep the children in their communities reading during the summer months.

Currently Idaho does not have a statewide summer reading program. Each public library designs, implements, and funds its own program to meet the needs of its community. Summer reading programs are often referred to as “SRP” in ICfL communications.

**Important links:**

- For program support offered by ICfL see [http://libraries.idaho.gov/landing/summer-reading](http://libraries.idaho.gov/landing/summer-reading).
- For best practices, resources, research, templates, planning timelines and more see [http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/summer-reading-resources](http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/summer-reading-resources).
- Currently the contact person for Summer Reading at the ICfL is Staci Shaw, staci.shaw@libraries.idaho.gov.

**Nuts and Bolts:**

- Idaho is part of the Collaborative Summer Library Programs (CSLP), a national collaborative of states that design and provide low-cost/high-quality programs, resources, promotional materials, and incentives. **ICfL provides membership** to all Idaho public libraries each year. Though there is a theme and slogan each year, libraries are not required to use them. See the summer reading website for more information about CSLP.
- **ICfL offers opt-in outreach programs** that public libraries can apply for separately. These are called “Bright Futures” outreach opportunities and currently include School Visits, School Partnerships, Reaching Underserved Children, and Little Libraries. Applications generally open January 1 and close March 20 each year. See the summer reading website for more details and application links.

Check with your local public library to see what type of program they will be offering during the summer and how your school might collaborate.