

Summer at the Library by Ruth Gilbert

It's officially summer, and no matter your stage of life, summer days seem to pass with a different rhythm than the rest of the year. Longer days stretch open to welcome opportunities for new adventures and connections. The Kirkland Town Library wants to be your headquarters for those opportunities this summer, however old you are. Visit us for books, obviously, but while you're here don't forget to chat with your neighbor, get excited about a new idea, or bond with your child. And if you're not sure how, read on! There are so many ways for every age group to benefit from your public library.

Babies. It's never too early to read books with your child. Come borrow a stack of board books, or sit and read one with your child on our cozy couch. Take home a Play With Me kit full of toys targeting young children's developmental stages. Come play at our Baby Sensory Play program. Learn songs and lap bounces and meet other families with young children at our Wiggles Storytime.

Toddlers and preschoolers. Sometimes you just need to get your kid out of the house. Come play with our train table, puzzles, and other toys in the children's area. Make music with our outdoor instruments on the front lawn, or draw with chalk on our shaded deck. Get their wiggles out at Movers & Shakers Storytime, where we dance, stretch, and jump in between stories. Visit with older adults at the LutheranCare Active Day program during our Intergenerational Storytime.

School-age kids. Find something for every interest in our collection of "things," which includes cake pans, board games, a Nintendo Switch and Switch games, a Yoto Mini audio player, American Girl dolls, scooters, lawn games, and of course, books. Pause for a story at the gazebo on Farmer's Market days. Practice reading with a middle or high school student in our Reading Buddies program. Cool off at a Splash Party on the front lawn. Be entertained by performers like Hilby the Skinny German Juggle Boy and Bubble Man, or a movie on our big screen. Make color changing slime.

Teens. Mentor younger children who are learning to read by becoming a Big Buddy. Sell your creations at the Youth Market during the Clinton Farmer's Market. Create works of art on your fingernails. Test your knowledge of snacks at a Taste Test Challenge. Play our Nintendo Switch on our big screen. Get a Teen Lit bag full of snacks, a craft, and books hand selected just for you.

Adults. Help us compete in the Clinton Challenge, where our patrons try to read more than Clintons in five other states. Get help with your computer, phone, or other device. Learn to make wine out of flowers. Play mahjong. Join a book group. Attend a book discussion with a Hamilton professor. Borrow a pass to a state park or the Corning Museum of Glass. Take home a bicycle, pickle ball set, telescope, or corn hole for a week.

And that's not all! To find out more about anything I mentioned, visit our website at kirklandtownlibrary.org. We hope to see you soon!