



Summer Poetry Ideas for Kids to Keep Learning Going

When summer is in full swing, parents (and grandparents) find themselves planning all manner of activities for kids--it's hard to know how to balance fun and play with a little bit of learning.

'Falling behind' is a common concern of parents of school-aged kids. The good news? There are simple poetry activities grown-ups can do to sneak in some learning disguised as fun during the summer months.

Especially with poetry!

Simple Poetry Activity #1: Try a Poetry Walk

Tick tock, around the block...

What will we find on our walk?

What if you went for a walk in the park or your neighborhood and, using this little rhyme, asked kids to find rhymes for as many words as they can for what they see in nature?

*It fills me with glee to spy a tree.
Where's he at, the neighborhood cat?
Look at that flower, taking a shower!*

Those are simple, silly rhymes that can keep kids' thinking well oiled and also be a seed for more ideas.

Simple Poetry Activity #2: Incorporate Poetry into an Ice Cream Outing

What if you went out for ice cream and read this together?

*Ice cream-chocolate,
Vanilla with bright sprinkles.
Ice cream in a bucket?
Why, I'll take a sink full!*

Again, a silly rhyme but a way to get the wheels turning to think poetically no matter what the occasion.

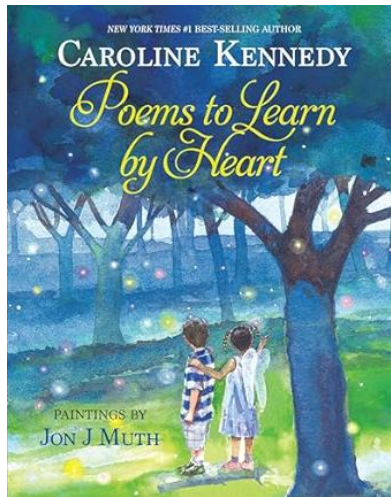
What about making up poems as you're driving to and from the grocery store, washing dishes, sitting on the couch, or setting up a splash pad—where and how can you find some simple or silly rhymes?

- *We love the water when the weather is hotter.*
- *Friends come play and we stay here all day.*
- *Oh how my wish is that there were no dishes*
- *Mom says it's chore time, work first then there's more time*

Simple Poetry Activity #3: Read Poetry Aloud

Another simple poetry activity is simply reading poetry to your kids this summer. Attuning kids to poetry begins with training their ears to listen....Even 15 minutes a day (or once a week if that's all you've got) makes a difference.

To help you out, here's a list of 15 poems in the public domain that can be found via the search engine of your choice. Find the poem, download and print it to keep in a poetry notebook for reading in the slivers of time this summer.



15 Poems Every Kid Should Know

1. *Afternoon on a Hill*, Edna St Vincent Millay, 1917
2. *Daffodils (I wandered lonely as a cloud)*, William Wordsworth, 1802
3. *Good Morning*, from *Pippa Passes*, Robert Browning, 1841
4. *Hope Is the Thing with Feathers*, Emily Dickinson, 1861
5. *Hurt no Living Thing*, Christina Rossetti, 1872
6. *Jabberwocky*, Lewis Carroll, 1871
7. *My Shadow*, Robert Louis Stevenson, 1885
8. *Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening*, Robert Frost, 1922
9. *The Caterpillar*, Christina Rossetti, 1872
10. *The Eagle*, Alfred, Lord Tennyson, 1851
11. *The Road Not Taken*, Robert Frost, 1915
12. *The Tyger*, William Blake, 1794
13. *There was an Old Man with a Beard* and *There Was an Old Man in a Garden*, Edward Lear, 1846
14. *We Have a Little Garden*, Helen Beatrix Potter, 1922

15. *Who Has Seen the Wind?* Christina Rossetti, 1847

HONORABLE MENTIONS

The Frog, Hillaire Belloc, 1896

The Arrow and The Song, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, 1845

You can download the FREE list of 15 poems [HERE](#).

Here is the first poem to whet your appetite

Afternoon on a Hill, Christina Rossetti

I will be the gladdest thing

Under the sun!

I will touch a hundred flowers

And not pick one.

I will look at cliffs and clouds

With quiet eyes,

Watch the wind bow down the grass,

And the grass rise.

And when lights begin to show

Up from the town,

I will mark which must be mine,

And then start down!