

**Morton County Extension News**  
**Liz Larson, Parent Educator/Parent Resource Coordinator**  
**For the week of August 14, 2017**

**Dates to remember:**

**Aug. 17 Morton County Fair Board Meeting, 7:30 pm New Salem**

**Aug. 28 Cooking with Kids & The Family Table, New Salem**

## **Summer Reading – It's Not over Yet!**

Back-to-school shopping advertisements abound and cooler weather has passed through. Summer isn't over yet, though! There is still plenty of time to work on your summer reading list and also to encourage that love of reading in your youngsters. Glancing at your calendar you may see a couple days or a weekend where there is room for fun. One of our NDSU Extension Specialists, Kim Bushaw, describes six easy steps to take those moments of fun and use them to instill a love of reading in kids.

Step one: Search local newspapers, brochures, or on Google for sites you would like to explore in a so-many-mile radius of your location. Together, read everything you can about these places and decide on one that appeals to everyone, is affordable, and is good for the body *and* brain.

Step two: As a family, write lists of what to pack using words or pictures, depending on the age of your children. If they are old enough, have the kids help brainstorm and write the packing list.

Step three: Put away all digital devices and bring along the old-fashioned car games.

Step four: Enjoy the adventure. Be sure to bring books, maps and other reading materials that relate to your trip in addition to whatever your kids enjoy reading in the car. Reading aloud can be a great substitute for movies, giving kids the chance to use flex their imagination.

Step five: End your adventure by sharing a book your whole family will enjoy. If you do not have such a book, write one together using your adventure as its basis.

Step six: Feel good about your vacation from digital devices and about your family's shared time with reading and relaxing.

You have helped instill a love of reading in your children. Consider that the best souvenir you can hope to bring home all summer!

Other publications such as the Bright Beginnings series offers tips for engaging all ages of children (infant and up!) in reading. For more information visit our website, [www.ag.ndsu.edu/publications](http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/publications) and use the search bar for more topics.