

Grandma SUMMER READING CLUB

1 Choose a Fish-Themed Book

I chose Goldfish on Vacation by Ally Lloyd-Jones with adorable illustrations by Leo Espinosa.

It's a fictionalized but true story of three kids and their grandfather who, along with all of the other kids in the neighborhood, set their goldfish free in the town fountain for the summer.



2 Plan a Kickoff Event

I planned an old-fashioned fish pond game, and the kids fished for prizes & books.

You can do this long-distance if your grandchildren don't live nearby, but Grandma or Grandpa will have to do the live fishing via video call, then ship the prizes to each grandchild.

You can ham this up as much as you like. Film yourself at an actual pond or lake and pretend to pull all kinds of fun books and treats out of the water.

Another option is to ship books and prizes in advance and let the parents create the fish pond on their end of the call. You join in via video call the day of the event.

If you are in-person, hang up an old sheet over the stair railing, or over a couple of chairs, so that the kids can't see what is behind.

If you have a fold-up ping pong table, or can drape a long cloth over the kitchen table, those options work fine too, just as long as the kids can't see what is behind the cloth.

The grandchildren will “fish” for prizes using a fishing pole with a clothespin tied to the end of the fishing line. Our prizes included:

- A package of goldfish crackers
- An age-appropriate reading book
- An inexpensive game or craft



Each grandchild gets several turns to try fishing for their “prize.” If your “fish prizes” are heavy, try using a heavy dowel and a piece of heavy twine or rope for your pole.



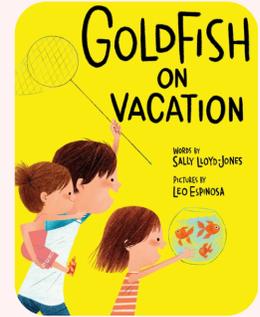
You can fashion a hook out of an old wire hanger. Heavy prizes or books can be hoisted up using paper shopping bags to hold the treasure.

The children simply dangle their fishing pole over the top of the sheet barricade, and grandpa, who is underwater (behind the sheet), attaches appropriate prizes for each grandchild.

3

Read the Book Together

and stock your TACKLE BOX with story snacks: I used my “snackle box” ([available online](#) or at Target) and stocked it with gummy worms, cheese balls, and other “fishy” treats.



4

Set up a Reading Routine + a Goal

I chose an age-appropriate book for each grandchild, with the hope that I'll be able to squeeze in an individual book-themed playdate for each of them sometime during the summer.

I'm lucky enough to see some of them every week. Others live hundreds of miles away, and I'll have to be a little more clever about ways I engage them in Grandma's Summer Reading Club. But I have a manageable goal of encouraging each grandchild to finish the one book I gifted to them. I'll help them along as needed, using a variety of “read with Grandma” tactics: everything from video calls to blanket fort sleepovers.

For more hesitant readers, I'll mail [Yoto cards](#) or a gift certificate for an audio version of their book so they can listen along. My subscription to [Readeo.com](#) allows me to read with the long-distance grands via video.

5

Encourage Kids to Report Back

Once they have finished their book, each child can report back to me to win another small gift. I found [fish-shaped bookmarks](#) I will be mailing out with a note of encouragement for each child *and* a coupon for another book.

6

Share the Love

Feel free to share this PDF with friends and family. You'll find other Grandma Playdate ideas on my blog: [LynnaeAllred.com](#), and you can sign up to receive new ideas as I create them.

3

Book and Supply Ideas:

If you are like me, the brainstorming part of planning an activity for the grandkids is really FUN, but it can also be overwhelming. I'm sharing ideas for the things I gathered from my Grandma Pantry, or purchased for this activity so that duplicating it will be simple for you.

Please note: Keep your activity **simple** without comparing your version with mine or anyone else's. Do what works for you, leave the rest out!



a "Snackle Box"

Book Ideas:

Infant: age 1-4:

Little Brown Mouse - A Lift-a-Flap Board Book for Babies and Toddlers

Preschooler: age 3-9:

How to Make an Apple Pie and See the World

Goldfish on Vacation

Watercress (Newbury and Caldecot Awards)

The Gardener (Caldecott Honor Award)

7-10-year-old boys:

The One and Only Bob

Pizza and Taco: Who's the Best?: (A Graphic Novel)

Alvin Ho: Allergic to Girls, School, and Other Scary Things

7-12-year-old girls:

The Eyes and the Impossible: (Newbery Medal Winner)

The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane:

Raymie Nightingale: (A Historical Middle-Grade Novel of Hope and Friendship Set in 1970s Florida - For Kids Ages 10-14 in Grades 5-9)



Activities Ideas:

Fish-Themed bookmarks

Waterworld Ocean Sea Assortment Bookmarks Clip it Over The Page



Go Shark Card Game

I'm ready to teach the kids to play "go fish!"

Fish Bowl Beverage Containers

Fill these with blue Gatorade and serve with Goldfish crackers or Swedish Fish.



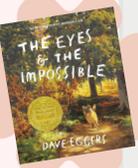
Fishing Pole Cupcake Toppers

I used mine as swizzle sticks in the fish bowl drinks because, why not!



Free Printables

I've attached a printable fish pond sign and bookmarks for kids to keep track of all of the books they read this summer. Just print them out on heavy cardstock.





Fish Pond

