

Home to School Connections

Preventing Summer Learning Loss

Inevitably all young people experience learning losses when they do not engage in educational activities during the summer. Furthermore, research shows that students typically score lower on standardized tests at the end of summer vacation than they do on the same tests at the beginning of summer vacation (Cooper, 1996).

As a partner in your child's education, you have recently prepared your child for these standardized tests. Now it is your responsibility to help your child retain what they have learned over the school year. Consider the following five tips that will help you and your child have a summer full of fun and learning.

1. Read Every Day - Take your child to the library, listen to books on tape, and take turns reading to each other. Allow your child to stay up a half hour later at night as long as they're reading.
2. Use Math Every Day - Practice the multiplication tables by making each point in a basketball game worth 7 points (or 8 or 9). Ask your child to make change at the drive-thru. Make up math word problems in the car and at the dinner table.
3. Get Outside and Play - Find ways to ensure your child is active for 60 minutes each day. Have him/her walk the dog, go swimming, play a sport, take walks, or go for family bike rides. Look for safe, fun ways to play outside together year-round.
4. Write Every Week - Ask your child to write a weekly letter to his/her relatives. Encourage a summer journal. Have him/her write the family's grocery list. Organize a secret pal writing project for adults and kids in your community.
5. Do a Good Deed - Encourage your child to help out neighbors or friends. Your family can volunteer with a local group or complete a service learning project.

Adapted from Center for Summer Learning, Johns Hopkins University and Jane Voorhees Sharp, Office of Early Care and Education, New Jersey Department of Human Services.

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KYPIRC Mission Statement Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative

The mission of the Kentucky Parent Information & Resource Center is to increase parent involvement to improve student academic success.

For additional information regarding the KYPIRC and services available contact: Karla Gibbs - kgibbs@ovec.org or Stacey Langan - slangan@ovec.org



FREE Online Learning "NCLB Parent University" Visit us on the web at:
www.ovpirc.org/nclbpu/

"Parents are critical to a child's academic success."

Henderson and Mapp, 2002

Additional Resources for Summer Learning

- Summer Reading Resources for Parents - www.colorincolorado.org
- Scholastic Summer Activity Guide - www.scholastic.com
- Summertime Funtime Activities - U.S. Department of Education - <http://www.ed.gov/pubs>
- Reading is FUNdamental - <http://www.rif.org/summer/>