

## Ways to Prevent Summer Learning Loss

Summer learning loss is an alarming reality for many caregivers and educators. The good news is that there are ways to help prevent some of that learning loss over the summer.

### WHAT IS SUMMER LEARNING LOSS?

You may hear this referred to as summer setback or the summer slide, summer learning loss is when students return to school at a lower academic level than the end of the last school year. This can happen when your child does not use or practice the skills, he or she learned at school during summer vacation.

### LET'S START WITH THE FACTS

- Children can lose what is equivalent to one month of learning over summer vacation
- Math skills - 2.6 months are lost over the summer
- Reading - 2 months are lost over the summer
- In the fall it can take up to 6 weeks to re-learn old material to make up for summer learning loss

**GREAT NEWS:** With only 2-3 hours of work per week you can help prevent summer learning loss.

### STAY AHEAD OF THE GAME

It is a great idea to focus on subjects your child has struggled with in the previous school year and an even better idea to strengthen all areas of learning for your child.

### ACTIVITIES FOR YOUR SUMMER LEARNER

There are many ways to encourage learning over summer break. So put your thinking cap on, do your research and start organizing a summer learning plan. Below are some ideas to add to your plan.

- **BE A BOOKWORM:** This can help build up their reading ability and help enhance their spelling and grammar skills. There are studies that reading 4-5 books during summer break has a similar impact when compared to summer school. They get to throw out assigned reading and read books that interest them. (*Ideas: trip to the library, reward system for finishing books, read a chapter every morning before you start your day*)
- **GET TECHY:** Technology presents opportunities to motivate summer learning. There is an endless supply of educational apps, games and toys that cover an assortment of topics that enhance problem-solving and critical thinking. (*Ideas: challenge your child to a new high score on educational apps, create art on tech devices, start a tech project like toy robotic kits*)
- **BE CREATIVE:** Research has shown that creative activities expand academic and emotional accomplishments by enhancing higher-level thinking and skill development. This is done by participating in activities that help with subjects like English and art. Being creative helps generate neural pathways between different parts of the brain and is helpful for all areas of learning! (*Ideas: Daily creative writing in a journal, arts and crafts, decorate cookies or cupcakes, coloring pages*)
- **GET THE WHOLE FAMILY INVOLVED:** When the whole family is involved in an activity, your child will not view learning as such a chore. BONUS! You get to spend time with your child, model and encourage positive self-esteem, and help make learning fun. (*Ideas: Family game night, cook and try new recipes together, watch educational T.V. shows*)
- **GO EXPLORING:** This can be accomplished by planning trips to historical landmarks, taking day trips to zoos, aquariums, museums, and learning about the animals and exhibits. You will get to spend the day with your child, encouraging learning, exploring and helping build curiosity in your child.

### STAY AHEAD

Summer learning loss is a case of “use it or lose it”. Help prevent learning loss and encourage skill development this summer with some of the above ideas!

Article resource: (<https://www.oxfordlearning.com/summer-learning-loss-and-how-to-prevent-it/>)

**Between Families Newsletters**  
**Ways to Prevent Summer Learning Loss**  
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONNAIRE FOR ½ HOUR CREDIT AND SUBMIT TO YOUR  
ASSIGNED FOSTER CARE WORKER**

**Questions:**

1. Summer learning loss is when students return to school at the same academic level than the end of the last school year.
  - a. True
  - b. False

2. Children can lose what is equivalent to \_\_\_\_\_ month of learning over summer vacation.

3. It can take up to \_\_\_\_\_ weeks in the Fall to re-learn old material to make up for summer learning loss.

4. You can help prevent summer learning loss with only \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ hours of work per week.

5. List a way that you can stay ahead of the game to prevent summer learning loss.

\_\_\_\_\_

6. How can being a bookworm help with summer learning loss?

\_\_\_\_\_

7. How would you get your family involved with summer learning?

\_\_\_\_\_

8. List 2 ways that you could get creative with your child.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. List 2 places you could explore with your child this summer.

\_\_\_\_\_

10. List 2 games that you could incorporate into your game night.

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