

**TODAY I WILL
SEE MY CHILD
BE A SCIENTIST
OR A CHEF**



**A Guide to Creating a Fun,
Educational Summer**





WHY IT'S TIME TO MAKE SUMMER LEARNING A BLAST

By Megan Riede

For many families, June signals the end of the busy school year and the beginning of days where abundant sunshine and free time kick-start months of relaxing. Children — and often parents — look forward to trading in a tightly packed schedule of schoolwork and extracurricular activities for vacations and spontaneous adventures with friends or family.

Increasingly, however, there's evidence that it's important to keep children's brains engaged in learning activities over summer break to minimize the impact time off has on school learning. Each fall, re-teaching material children no longer recall takes up a significant amount of teachers' time. Instead of starting with a brief review of past skills then moving on to new concepts, the National Summer Learning Association found that teachers commonly spend anywhere from four to six weeks on remedial instruction.

TIPS FOR MAINTAINING READING SKILLS

Want to maintain or improve your child's reading skills during summer? These common parenting strategies can help you do just that.

REINFORCE INTEREST WITH A SUMMER READING PLAN

- Developing a summer reading plan with your child sets your young reader up for success. Ask your child about his or her interests to help create a list of books to try.

As part of your plan, set a goal for the number of books your child will read during the summer; revisit your child's list if interest lags.



TIP: Children of all ages can benefit from the free summer reading programs many public libraries offer.

REWARD BEHAVIOR WITH A SUMMER READING INCENTIVE PROGRAM

- Involving your child in a summer reading incentive program is another way to spark enthusiasm. Many libraries, bookstores, and children's publishing companies offer free summer reading programs. You can also set up your own reading incentive program at home.



TIP: Select rewards that link to a learning opportunity. Try picnics in the park, family hikes, letting your child take photographs of a new or familiar place, or visiting a museum or zoo.



As a parent, you can do a lot to prevent your child's summer learning loss — without sacrificing your child's fun. Learning opportunities are everywhere: in your home, around your community, and even in your car!

- To sharpen math skills, change a grocery store trip into a math lesson by having your child compare prices and tell you the best deal.
- Turn a road trip's "Are we there yet?" question into a challenge by giving the vehicle's speed and remaining trip distance, and having your child estimate your arrival time.
- Make meal and snack preparation a chance to practice reading recipes and working with fractions (have older children double or halve a recipe).

If you're stuck for ideas, don't hesitate to ask people you know for help. Start at your child's school, because some teachers or school districts create summer learning packets filled with activities for children at each grade level.



TIP: Interested in more information regarding summer learning loss? Find what you need at The National Summer Learning Association: www.summerlearning.org

DID YOU KNOW?

When teachers test children's abilities after summer break, math and reading comprehension skills show the steepest decline.



BENEFITS OF SUMMER CAMP

Structured summer learning opportunities are another great solution to combat summer learning loss. Summer camps have been shown to improve academic outcomes and positively affect children's motivation, self-esteem, and confidence. Look for summer camp programs with activities across the four learning areas:

- SOCIAL
- EMOTIONAL
- PHYSICAL
- INTELLECTUAL

Children in these types of programs benefit from the variety and will actually enjoy the program more because of the diverse activities.



TIP: Across the nation, KinderCare® is making learning fun for kids with one-week camps like Scienterrific, Kids' Kitchen, Sports Smarts, and more! All our camps have two versions: one for preschoolers/prekindergartners and one for school-agers. Our school-age Feats of Science camp features a KinderCare exclusive: a K'NEX® Motion Machines theme!

At KinderCare Learning Centers, our 12 great camps make for one fun summer: www.KinderCare.com/SummerCamp

Megan Riede, Senior Director, Education Programs at KinderCare® Learning Centers is responsible for the conceptualization, development, and implementation of early childhood and school-age programs servicing more than 170,000 children and their families.

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KINDERCARE EXPERTS' SUGGESTED READING LISTS

A world of books awaits your child. Below are some age-specific book suggestions to get you started.

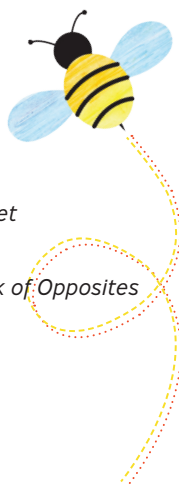
You can find many great reading lists online, and of course your local library is a terrific resource for accessing books.

INFANTS

AUTHOR	TITLE
1. Margaret Wise Brown	<i>Goodnight Moon</i>
2. Bill Martin Jr. & Eric Carle	<i>Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?</i>
3. Child's Play International	<i>Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes...</i>
4. Byron Barton	<i>My Car</i>
5. Sandra Boynton	<i>Moo, Baa, La La La!</i>
6. Peggy Rathmann	<i>Good Night, Gorilla</i>
7. Sam McBratney	<i>Guess How Much I Love You</i>
8. Peter Linenthal	<i>Look Look!</i>
9. DK Publishing	<i>First Words</i> (Baby Touch and Feel)
10. Margaret Miller	<i>Baby Faces</i> (Look Baby! Books)

TODDLERS

AUTHOR	TITLE
1. Sandra Boynton	<i>The Going to Bed Book</i>
2. Dawn Sirett	<i>Baby Bathtime!</i>
3. Judy Sierra	<i>The Sleepy Little Alphabet</i>
4. Elizabeth MacLeod	<i>I Heard a Little Baa</i>
5. Tad Hills	<i>What's Up, Duck? A Book of Opposites</i>
6. Lucy Cousins	<i>Maisy's Nature Walk</i>
7. Xavier Deneux	<i>My Animals</i>
8. Rachel Isadora	<i>Uh-oh!</i>
9. Leslie Patricelli	<i>Higher! Higher!</i>
10. Shelley Rotner & Sheila M. Kelly	<i>Shades of People</i>



PRESCHOOLERS AND PREKINDERGARTNERS

AUTHOR	TITLE
1. Lauren Thompson	<i>Mouse's First Spring</i>
2. Liz Garton Scanlon	<i>All the World</i>
3. Munro Leaf	<i>The Story of Ferdinand</i>
4. Leo Lionni	<i>Frederick</i>
5. Jerry Pinkney	<i>The Lion and the Mouse</i>
6. Jim Aylesworth	<i>The Mitten</i>
7. P.D. Eastman	<i>Go, Dog, Go!</i>
8. Remy Charlip	<i>Fortunately</i>
9. Maurice Sendak	<i>Where the Wild Things Are</i>
10. Carmen Tafolla	<i>What Can You Do with a Paleta?</i>

KINDERGARTNERS TO SECOND GRADERS

AUTHOR	TITLE
1. Lenore Look	<i>Alvin Ho: Allergic to Camping, Hiking, and Other Natural Disasters</i>
2. Alice Schertle	<i>Button Up! Wrinkled Rhymes</i>
3. Mo Willems	<i>I Am Going! (An Elephant & Piggie Book)</i>
4. Tony Johnston	<i>My Abuelita</i>
5. Astrid Lindgren	<i>Pippi Longstocking</i>
6. Ruth Stiles Gannett	<i>My Father's Dragon</i>
7. Robert Munsch	<i>Mortimer</i>
8. Pat Thomas & Lesley Harker	<i>Stop Picking on Me</i> (A First Look At Series)
9. Judith Viorst	<i>Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day</i>
10. Melinda Long	<i>How I Became a Pirate</i>





Our Summer Camps Create Kids Who Yearn to Learn!

KinderCare® Summer Camps do more than meet the needs of busy families — they make learning fun for preschool through school-age children.

This year, we have 12 great one-week camps that make for one fun summer.

Discover how camps like Scienterrific, Kids' Kitchen, Sports Smarts, Animal Antics, Dig Ancient Egypt, K'NEX® Motion Machines (and more!) will create an exciting, educational summer vacation for your child!



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