



# Parent Resource Newsletter



## Tips for Shifting from School Year to Summer Break

*Transitioning from school to summer can be tough on the family. These practical tips can help everyone shift gears as summer approaches!*

As the school year draws to a close, you and your family probably view summer break as a well-deserved reprieve. The challenge lies in shifting gears to a different routine and a schedule that may change as often as every week, depending on the summer plans you've made for your child. This can affect your children, you and your spouse. The shift from school year to summer break (however welcome) represents a transition phase for all children and may pose special challenges if your child has learning and/or attention problems. Read on for practical tips that can help any family make a smooth transition to summer!

## Tips to Help Parents

- Review the summer plans you've made to date. Where there are gaps, brainstorm ways to address them (such as rotating days off from work).
- Post the family's summer schedule. Mark activities (day camp, vacations, your teenager's work schedule, etc.) on a "family size" calendar posted in a central location. Be sure to note blocks of unscheduled time as well; that way, you can anticipate free time to use as you wish — even if it's just to enjoy a break in the action.
- Be prepared to be spontaneous. Keep a running list of places and people to visit when time permits and the mood strikes. Summer — free from homework and tutors — is a good time to stop by the science museum, bike trail, or concert-in-the-park you can't seem to get to during the school year.
- If you and/or your child thrive on routine, build as much of it in to your summer schedule as possible. Even so, your routine may change every week or so; find ways to prepare for this transition. This may be as simple as mentally rehearsing the new routine (including daily wake-up time and preparation) with your child before the week begins. Remember: Transitions can be hard for parents, too!
- Ask other people (spouse, family members, and neighbors) for help shuttling kids to activities and supervising them on their "days off." Trade carpooling and kid-watching duties with other parents in your neighborhood.
- Don't succumb to summer stress! There is bound to be some bedlam and boredom in any household during the summer. When stress strikes, try to shrug it off and find humor in the situation.

## WHAT PARENTS CAN DO

### Helping Your Child Succeed in School

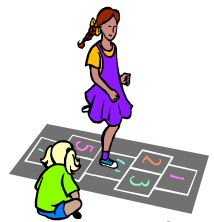
#### On a Budget?

#### Create Your Own Summer Program

- Pricey summer programs may not be a good fit for your family's budget. But with a little energy and creativity, you can create your own summer program. Here's a clever suggestion from one parent: *"How about ideas on how to set up a camp right in your home for several families? They could each take a week and plan great play opportunities for their kids. Maybe one week could be "Pirates Week." They could read The Magic Tree House, a book about pirates. The kids could build a ship from old boxes, learn how to talk like pirates (arrgh!) and make treasure maps. They could write notes to put into bottles. I can think of all sorts of cheap ideas to keep kids having fun while learning and keeping their academic skills sharp. They need to be active and not bored on the street."*

#### Practice math

- Math skills are particularly important to practice over the summer. The great news is that there are a lot of fun and inexpensive activities that exercise the same part of the brain as basic math. Playing an instrument is a fun way for children to experience practicing pattern recognition. Other low-cost math activities include creating a map for your kids to find their way; involving your children in weekly grocery shopping, cooking, baking, and even in sorting laundry. Children can measure things around the house, track daily temperatures, add and subtract while at the store, or learn fractions while cooking. Many board games that you have around the house are not only fun for the whole family but also great tools for building math skills.



## This Month's Family Activity

### **Summer Learning on a Budget**

The brain is like any other muscle in the human body: use it, or lose it. As much as kids would like a break from school and homework over the summer, it's important that they continue to exercise their brains. In fact, according to Bryan Taylor, Founder and President of [www.eduguide.org](http://www.eduguide.org), the average child loses about a month of academic gain over the summer. "Add that up over 12 years," Taylor says, "and they've lost a year!" And that's just an average. Recent research through Johns Hopkins University indicates that 65 percent of the achievement gap between children from low-income families and children from middle-income families is due to unequal learning experiences over the summer months.



Summer camp can be expensive, but it's not the only option for summer learning. Ron Fairchild, Executive Director of the Center for Summer Learning at Johns Hopkins, says, "Summer learning is an essential part of a child's education, and there are so many free and low-cost ways to make summer learning fun and engaging for kids." The Center for Summer Learning suggests the following tips for summer learning opportunities outside of summer camps: visit the library, take educational trips, practice math, and do good deeds. Make sense. Here are some ideas to help in those activities:

#### ***Take educational trips.***

- Many parks, nature centers, and museums can be free of charge. Take the kids on an adventure. A scavenger hunt is a great way to focus children's attention and encourage participation in a collaborative activity. A scavenger hunt can work indoors in a museum or outdoors in a park, and kids of all ages can be involved. Older children can even help prepare for the hunt.

#### ***Create a trip scrapbook.***

- A family vacation is a perfect opportunity to create a trip scrapbook that will be a lasting souvenir for years to come. Encourage your child to take photographs, collect postcards, brochures and menus from restaurants and tourist attractions. Have your child write descriptions of the places you visited and write stories about your family's escapades.

## Site Review

### **Resources available for Parents and Families:**

#### **Make Math More Fun: Useful Links:**

There are loads of great math games online, but often you need loads and loads of time to find them. Here's some that might be just what you need!

#### **Get Interactive this Summer:**

- All kinds of math - you can even create your own games! : <http://resources.oswego.org/games/>
- You could explore this one all day! : <http://www.mathplayground.com/games.html>
- A favorite multiplication game! : [www.bigbrainz.com](http://www.bigbrainz.com)

## Taste of Title I Expo Family Night

Again, thanks to all parents and families who attended our **Expo and Family Nights** held at each of our elementary schools. Our Title I staff was so excited to see all of you and say hello, visit with you and share resources and/or materials geared toward reading and math and aimed at helping you better enable your child to succeed in school. If you did pick up any of the helpful handouts, fun activities, strategies, or cookbooks from our Title I tables; we hope you enjoyed them and found them helpful. Contact us if you would like any additional information or materials.

*This is our last Title I Connection newsletter for the 2009-2010 School Year. We hope you enjoyed reading it as well as found it helpful. We hope you have a Safe and Happy Summer. And we are already looking forward to the start of the next school year!*

*The Title I Staff*

#### ***Here are our 2009-2010 Title I Contacts:***

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- Franklin School – Consultant, Mrs. Caren Young (330-676-8450)
- Parent Involvement Coordinator – Ms. Pam Bose (330-676-7425)
- Federal Grants Coordinator – Mrs. Lori Slattery, Director of Instructional Program (330-676-7600)



*Have a great Summer!  
Enjoy!*

**Parents  
plus  
Schools  
equals  
Success**