

Summer Activities

15 ideas to keep learning alive

Parent's Guide

School is out for the summer, but it doesn't mean kids have to take a break from learning. Did you know that a few simple, structured activities each day this summer could keep your child from falling behind in the coming school year?

Here's a list of free activities you can do this summer to make sure your child's mind doesn't check out on vacation too.



- Get a library card, and check out a new book each week.
- Visit your local bookstore or library for storytelling hour.
- Read in front of your children, even if it's just the newspaper or a magazine.
- Leave books around the house for easy access.
- Visit a museum. Most museums have free or discounted days over the summer.
- Enroll your child in a summer sports team.
- Assign daily chores.
- Go to the park.
- Encourage educational TV shows and websites, like www.imagineisland.com, and restrict usage to no more than two hours at a time.
- Check out community programs for free craft days, cultural events, and festivals.
- Visit a retirement home to listen to stories, and share a few of your own.
- Start a reading rewards program. For every five books your child reads, reward the accomplishment with a trip to the zoo or something equally satisfying.
- Attend an outdoor concert. Most cities offer these free in the summer months.
- Watch a play. Many theatre companies have free dress rehearsals open to the public.
- Write your own books. Whether they're poetry, narrative, or just illustrated, share your books with each other.