

LMP Summer Learning Checklist

“One benefit of summer was that each day we had more light to read by.”

Jeanette Walls, writer

Read Every Day | The Research: Routine reading over the summer positively impacts fall reading achievement compared to summer school (Kim, 2004).

- Read daily, take your kids to the library often, and let them choose which books to check out.
- Listen to audiobooks, read along, or take turns reading to each other.
- Allow your kids to stay up a half hour later at night as long as they're reading.

Use Math Every Day | The Research: The largest summer learning losses for all children occur in mathematical computation, an average of 2.6 months (Cooper, 1996).

- Ask your kids to estimate costs at a store or restaurant. Learn how to leave a tip.
- Earn money and practice budgeting by completing chores, household tasks, etc.
- Use manipulatives (ex: small objects, toys) to practice math..

Get Outside, Play, and Build Independence | The Research: Intense physical activity programs positively affect academic achievement, including increased concentration; improved mathematics, reading, and writing test scores; and reduced disruptive behavior (Journal of School Health 1997).

- Ensure your child is active for at least 60 minutes each day.
- Get involved with a team sport, summer camp, go swimming, take walks, or go for family bike rides.
- Build independence by learning to tie your shoes, and ask your child to manage their water bottle, lunch items, and personal belongings on a daily basis.
- Play board games as a family.

Write Every Week | The Research: Students entering degree-granting postsecondary institutions take remedial writing courses rather than remedial reading courses (NCES 2003).

- Ask your child to write/draw a weekly letter to his or her grandparents, relatives, or friends.
- Encourage your child to keep a summer journal of activities and adventures.
- Have your child help complete daily tasks that involve writing (grocery, to-do lists, etc.).

Do a Good Deed | The Research: Students learn better and “act out” less when they engage in activities to aid in their social-emotional development, such as community service (The Collaborative for Academic Social and Emotional Learning, 2004).

- Have your child gather unused items and bring them to a local charity.
- Encourage your child to help out neighbors or friends. He or she can volunteer with a local group or complete a service learning project.
- Have your child run a lemonade stand and donate the profits to a local organization.

*Adapted from the article:

<https://www.readingrockets.org/topics/summer-reading/articles/five-easy-tips-summer-learning>
Adapted from a presentation by Brenda McLaughlin, Director of Research and Policy, Center for Summer Learning, Johns Hopkins University, and Jane Voorhees Sharp, Office of Early Care and Education, New Jersey Department of Human Services. Rainbow