**Summer Learning Resources for Parents**

**Stopping the Summer Slide by the U.S. Department of Education** [http://www.ed.gov/blog/2014/03/stopping-the-summer-slide/](http://www.ed.gov/blog/2014/03/stopping-the-summer-slide/" \t "_blank)

**Summer Learning Tips for Parents by the Iowa Parent Information Resource Center**  [http://www.iowaparents.org/files/SAI4-11SummerLearningTips.pdf](http://www.iowaparents.org/files/SAI4-11SummerLearningTips.pdf" \t "_blank)

**Tips for Parents: Summer Activities by The Learning Community** [http://www.thelearningcommunity.us/resources-by-format/tips-for-parents/summer-activities.aspx](http://www.thelearningcommunity.us/resources-by-format/tips-for-parents/summer-activities.aspx" \t "_blank)

**Three Tips for Parents to Promote Summer Learning by Brain Chase** [http://brainchase.com/three-tips-for-parents-to-promote-summer-learning/](http://brainchase.com/three-tips-for-parents-to-promote-summer-learning/" \t "_blank)

**Summer Learning by the Fairfax County Public Schools** [http://www.fcps.edu/otherlanguages/translations/PDF\_FILES/publications/familyschoolpartner/sumlearn/english.pdf](http://www.fcps.edu/otherlanguages/translations/PDF_FILES/publications/familyschoolpartner/sumlearn/english.pdf" \t "_blank)

**Five Ideas to Encourage Learning with Young Children This Summer by NAEYC for Families** [http://families.naeyc.org/content/five-ideas-encourage-learning-summer](http://families.naeyc.org/content/five-ideas-encourage-learning-summer" \t "_blank)

**Reading Activities and Ideas**

Engage your child in reading throughout the summer by reading to them and with them. Make use of your local library’s summer reading program, and also demonstrate a positive attitude toward reading. Remember that reading is not just for books; it includes magazines, newspapers, blogs and graphic novels. Introducing your child to a variety of reading materials demonstrates that reading is used for a variety of purposes.

**The Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge** is a free online reading program that provides kids, educators and parents with tools to get excited about reading over the summer. [http://www.scholastic.com/ups/campaigns/src-2015](http://www.scholastic.com/ups/campaigns/src-2015" \t "_blank)

**Reading Is Fundamental**provides a collection of resources about reading and children, including books lists, activities and articles. [http://readingisfundamental.org/us/literacy-resources.htm](http://readingisfundamental.org/us/literacy-resources.htm" \t "_blank)

**ReadWriteThink**offers parent resources for children of all ages aimed at encouraging your child to read and write. [http://www.readwritethink.org/parent-afterschool-resources/](http://www.readwritethink.org/parent-afterschool-resources/" \t "_blank)

**For ideas for young children and reading visit** [http://families.naeyc.org/reading-writing/fall-love-reading-ten-simple-things-you-can-do-home](http://families.naeyc.org/reading-writing/fall-love-reading-ten-simple-things-you-can-do-home" \t "_blank)

**Outdoors**

Summer is an excellent time to take learning outdoors. Explore nature by going on nature walks and visiting a park. Below are some websites containing ideas for outdoor learning.

**Outdoor Explorations by Reading Rockets**gives examples of ways to use nature to increase vocabulary.  [http://www.readingrockets.org/article/outdoor-explorations](http://www.readingrockets.org/article/outdoor-explorations" \t "_blank)

**Outdoor Activities for Children Ages 6-10 by Family Education**lists over 50 ideas to make the outdoors a place to get moving and learning.  [http://fun.familyeducation.com/play/outdoor-activities/33394.html](http://fun.familyeducation.com/play/outdoor-activities/33394.html" \t "_blank)

**10 Awesome Outdoor Summer Learning Ideas by MindShift**provides ideas for turning the outdoors into an adventure. [http://ww2.kqed.org/mindshift/2012/06/08/10-awesome-outdoor-summer-learning-ideas/](http://ww2.kqed.org/mindshift/2012/06/08/10-awesome-outdoor-summer-learning-ideas/" \t "_blank)

**50 Simple Outdoor Activities for Kids by No Time for Flash Cards**offers a wide range of easy-to-do activities. [http://www.notimeforflashcards.com/2012/03/50-simple-outdoor-activities-for-kids.html](http://www.notimeforflashcards.com/2012/03/50-simple-outdoor-activities-for-kids.html" \t "_blank)

**Learning at Home**

Bring summer learning alive in your own home! Activities like cooking and board games are fun and educational. The kitchen is a great place to apply math and science skills while also teaching your child about health and nutrition. Board games provide opportunities for problem solving and critical thinking. Other types of at-home activities can be planned as well that will contribute to your child’s learning.

**The Science of Cooking by the Exploratorium** provides recipes and activities that help children understand the science behind food and cooking.  [http://www.exploratorium.edu/cooking/](http://www.exploratorium.edu/cooking/" \t "_blank)

**Cooking With Kids** provides kid-friendly recipies. [http://www.childrensrecipes.com/](http://www.childrensrecipes.com/" \t "_blank)

**Spatulatta** is another site with recipies suitable for children. [http://www.spatulatta.com/](http://www.spatulatta.com/" \t "_blank)

**25 Activities to Keep Kids’ Brains Active in Summer by Education World**provides a list of activities that covers all subjects and grade levels. [http://www.educationworld.com/a\_curr/profdev073.shtml](http://www.educationworld.com/a_curr/profdev073.shtml" \t "_blank)

**Experiments by Steve Spangler Science** offers various fun science experiments and projects. [http://www.stevespanglerscience.com/lab/experiments](http://www.stevespanglerscience.com/lab/experiments" \t "_blank)

**Kids' Summer Crafts and Children’s Activities by Creative Kids at Home**encourages children to use a wide variety of materials to create and explore.  [http://www.creativekidsathome.com/summerkidsactivities2.html](http://www.creativekidsathome.com/summerkidsactivities2.html" \t "_blank)

**Museums, Community Events and Resources**

Your community has all sorts of resources waiting to be used by you and your family. Use the summer to explore new museums or attend live concerts. Below are websites providing information on how to make your museum visit a great experience for your child.

**7 Ways to Make an Art Museum Visit Fun for Kids by My Kids' Adventure** [http://www.mykidsadventures.com/art-museum-fun/](http://www.mykidsadventures.com/art-museum-fun/" \t "_blank)

**Museums and Learning: A Guide for Family Visits by the U.S. Department of Education** [http://www2.ed.gov/pubs/Museum/visit.html](http://www2.ed.gov/pubs/Museum/visit.html" \t "_blank)

**Tips to Make the Most of Museum Visits With Young Children by Grade School Giggles** [http://www.gradeschoolgiggles.com/tips-to-make-the-most-of-museum-visits-with-young-children/](http://www.gradeschoolgiggles.com/tips-to-make-the-most-of-museum-visits-with-young-children/" \t "_blank)

**Volunteer Opportunities**

Volunteering provides a memorable experience for children and also engages them in meaningful work. Below are two websites that provide information about projects in your community.

**VolunteerMatch** [https://www.volunteermatch.org/](https://www.volunteermatch.org/" \t "_blank)

**Volunteer.gov** [http://www.volunteer.gov/](http://www.volunteer.gov/" \t "_blank)

**Online Resources**

The Internet provides a wide range of websites aimed at teaching children new and exciting things. Additionally, many websites contain educational games to help children maintain their skill sets. Below are some links to just a few websites that offer learning opportunities through the Internet.

**National Park Service WebRangers** [http://www.nps.gov/webrangers/](http://www.nps.gov/webrangers/" \t "_blank)

**PBS Kids Zoom** [http://pbskids.org/zoom/activities/index.html](http://pbskids.org/zoom/activities/index.html" \t "_blank)

**Discovery Kids** [http://discoverykids.com/](http://discoverykids.com/" \t "_blank)

**NASA Kids’ Club** [https://www.nasa.gov/audience/forkids/kidsclub/flash/#.VXhqc\_mjOm4](https://www.nasa.gov/audience/forkids/kidsclub/flash/" \l ".VXhqc_mjOm4" \t "_blank)

**Smithsonian Kids** [http://www.si.edu/Kids](http://www.si.edu/Kids" \t "_blank)

**NGAkids**[http://www.nga.gov/content/ngaweb/education/kids.html](http://www.nga.gov/content/ngaweb/education/kids.html" \t "_blank)

**Kids.gov** [http://kids.usa.gov/](http://kids.usa.gov/" \t "_blank)

From: The U.S. Department of Education