



Title I Parent Involvement Newsletter

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Talk over lessons learned with your elementary schooler

It's the end of a busy school year. Your child has learned a lot. He's read new books. He's mastered new skills. Now is a good time for the two of you to talk about the lessons he's learned.

Find a time when the two of you can have a relaxing chat about school. You might even plan something special--going out for ice cream or making pizza or some other favorite meal.

Take time to look back--and to look forward:

- Take a look back. What was your child's favorite project this year? In what subject did he improve the most? Which book that the class read was his favorite? What goals did he accomplish? As he talks about these positive things, help him see the ways he has grown. "You really worked hard to master division this year. You can do hard things when you put your mind to it!"
- Take a look forward. What is he looking forward to this summer? What is he excited about next year? Is there a grade or a subject he'd like to improve next year? Are there books he wants to read?
- Talk about how learning doesn't stop at the end of the school year. One of the great things about summer, however, is the chance to learn something that isn't related to school. Help him think about something he'd like to learn during the summer. Then together, make a plan to help him achieve that goal.

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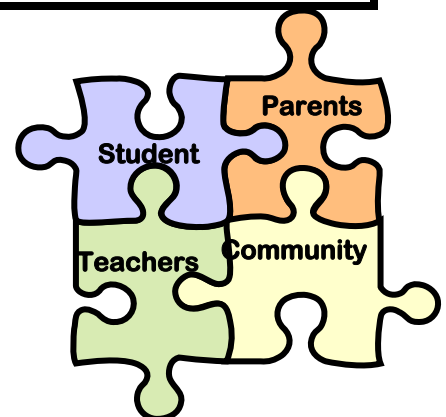
Don't just turn off the TV-- turn on the fun!

Today, most kids already spend hours staring at a TV screen, a computer screen or their cell phones. During the summer, those hours can really expand.

That's why it's even more important for parents to set limits on screen time. Experts say the easiest way to do that is by replacing screen time with other fun activities.

Here are some ideas:

- Get a hula hoop. Even indoors, a hula hoop is an easy way to get exercise. Besides twirling it, your child can use it as a jump rope.
- Explore local playgrounds. There are lots of ways for your child to let off steam--and build muscles.
- Draw a hopscotch game on a sidewalk or driveway. Take turns playing.
- Learn to juggle. Check out a book on juggling from the library. This is a great way to teach fine motor skills.



Disguise summer learning with fun activities for your child

When parents are honest about it, many admit that "educational activities" aren't at the top of their summer to-do list! Yet they know summer learning (or lack of it) can affect school-year success. One solution is to play games that don't feel like learning. You can:

- Conduct science experiments. Spend time in the kitchen answering questions like, "What's the best proportion of lemon juice to water for lemonade?" "Why do we use baking soda in recipes?" or "How long does it take for an ice cube to melt on a plate?"
- Combine reading and math. Many board games use word and number skills. Simple tasks, such as following instructions, reading cards, strategizing and counting points are great practice. Consider taking some games outside. Research suggests outdoor greenery can boost attention, mood and creativity!

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Find ways to connect math to your elementary schooler's life

Your child needs to practice math this summer, but like many parents, you may dread it. Instead of telling your child, "I can't stand math! I'm terrible at it," take a positive approach. Show your child (and remind yourself) that math is a helpful, fun part of life.

Start with basics, including:

- Addition and subtraction. How many hours a week is the pool open? How much do two ice cream cones cost? How many days of summer are left?
- Multiplication and division. If your car gets 30 miles per gallon of gas, where could you go on a full tank? Two tanks? How far would half a tank go?
- Estimation. How many pitchers of lemonade will it take to serve neighborhood friends on a hot day? Guess, and then check your answers!

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Promote Reading with Lists

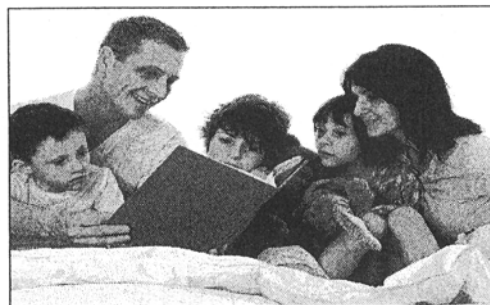
Looking for a way to sneak reading into your child's day? Use lists more often. For Example, rather than asking your child to do the chores, make a list of jobs. Or plan a scavenger hunt, and give each Player a list of items to find.

Summer family reading nights keep skills sharp until fall

Is there one night a week when your family has extra time together? If so, consider making it a family reading night.

Decide how to make the event fun. Maybe you'll all wear pajamas and read in bed. Perhaps your family will camp out with flashlights in a homemade fort. Maybe you'll pack up a couple of books and read outside. Or your family can try something new each week.

Everyone should bring fun reading materials. Remember, you can read aloud to children of all ages—or have your child read aloud to you. No one is too old for a good story!



"The road to knowledge begins with the turn of the page."

—Unknown