

Kindergarten Summer Learning

Why is summer work important?

You may have heard that your mind is like a muscle. Like our muscles, our minds can retain recent learning by practicing for short periods of time several times a week. Your children have been working hard both at school and at home to gain new knowledge, concepts, and skills. This hard work can be lost when the information is not used for 6-8 weeks (less, even!). It is our desire for kids' minds to be actively engaged during the summer to avoid losing those newly learned skills. When summer regression is limited, students feel more confident returning to school in the fall.

ABC's

Letters can be practiced in fun ways, especially with young children. Create letters with a paintbrush and water, or with shaving cream on a table. Have them create the letter with playdough; this will also help with their fine motor skills. Letters can also be practiced by looking at signs. Look for all the letters of the alphabet or read license plates to determine who can spot the most states.

Sing the alphabet song!! This can be done anywhere, anytime. In the car, while washing hands, while taking a bath/shower. Have your child point to each letter as they sing the song.

Fine motor skills

There are many different activities that your child can do to help strengthen their fine motor skills. Building and molding with playdough and/or kinetic sand is always a great and fun activity. They can make the letters of the alphabet, spell out their name, and/or create shapes with the playdough. Try any activity that would require them to use their pincer grip, such as picking up pony beads and stringing them on string.

Reading

The more one reads the better reader one becomes. This includes being read to, listening to audio books, and even reading below one's grade level. Beware! All reading material is not created equal. It is the best and worst of times for kids' literature. To feel completely confident about your kids' choices, choose anything from Make Way for Books. Our friend, and brain-friendly reading specialist, Dr. Kevin Washburn and his wife Julia, have been running this company for years and they have personally read and reviewed each selection. They are exceptional educators and dynamic Christians. I feel confident assigning books from their selection to our students. The books are grouped by age and genre and there is a nice review. <https://www.mwfbooks.com/> Happy reading!

Kindergarten Summer Bingo can help students practice all of these skills. Students can earn a prize for completed bingo sheets brought in the first week of school.

You can also visit your local library to see if there are other areas of interest your student would like to explore. Some students love to learn how to do new things, create new things, or investigate new topics in science or history. The possibilities for engaging the mind and keeping this 'muscle' in shape are endless!

Have a wonderfully happy and safe summer!