

Summer Learning Philosophy

Why summer work, haven't they had enough?

Your children have been working hard both at school and at home to gain new knowledge, concepts, and skills. These skills will be locked into long term memory if they are practiced in short amounts, several times a week all summer long (vacations excluded). It is our desire to keep kids on top of their learning so that they can return to school feeling confident and ready.

MATH

It is not our desire to burden families with hours of drill or workbook pages. For every student the best way to learn and review is to do it naturally, in games or using math in day to day living. The younger the child, the easier it is.

Use **driving time** to do mental math for the whole family. "What's 20 + 5 minus 10?" Adjust up or down so kids are getting about 85% correct. Make them harder as they get used to them. Have kids estimate time, distance, miles, etc. See who can predict what time it will be when we get home or to the ice cream store. Have kids figure out tips when eating out or predict the bill at the end. Let little ones put change together to buy things. Any time you use math, try to give them a chance as well.

ALWAYS use **shopping**, budgets, sale percentages, tips, tax, etc. as math lessons for older kids. Just give them a budget, like \$20, at a park, event, or store and then when they ask you to buy them something say "Yes, if you can afford it!" They will complain that they have to use their own money but they will be far more discriminating and will do a lot of practical math figuring out what to buy.

Cooking is perfect for fractions. Take the time to allow your child to figure out how much flour to put in when you double the recipe. Once you get used to using cooking, travel, and regular home time for math review, it gets easier and easier to do.

READING

Letters can be practiced in fun ways, especially with young children. Create letters with a paintbrush and water, or (my kids' favorite) with shaving cream on a table. They 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.

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!

We wish you all a very happy and safe summer! We also wish you a wonderful return to school. It will be more enjoyable for all if we can keep ahead of summer regression!

Susan Hayward, Founding Principal