

Pre/Primary School

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Dear Parents,

With summer rapidly approaching, many parents are wondering what they can do with the children to prevent 'the summer slip' or 'the summer slide'. As many of you browse through Amazon or visit bookstores in the UK looking for revision and practice materials, we would like to suggest the importance of learning through play.

Without a doubt, summer provides a priceless opportunity for children to learn through play. Exploring, experimenting, and developing their ideas and interests helps them develop higher thinking skills, and the ability to apply their learning to real-life helps transform them into independent, life-long learners.

Some examples of this could be activities such as:

- Exploring insects, drawing them, photographing them, researching them, trying to build homes for them captivates many students' interests for days!
- Building forts, treehouses, gardens, constructions, etc. Can they design and build them? Do they stay up? What sizes will they choose to make them? Can they draw blueprints?
- Visit art galleries and museums. Can they draw sketches of art they like and then try to create their own at home? Can they create their own art gallery and write descriptions of the pieces they have made?
- What about taking the opportunity to learn about the night sky and the different stars? This can involve mapping skills, mathematics, science, history (the myths behind the different names).
- What about writing their own play script with some siblings or friends?
- Inventing new games is always fun, and children can write out instructions, make the game pieces or boards and share it with others.
- Bicycling, running, swimming, the summer is a perfect time to enjoy long hours of sports. What about learning about famous sports men and women or the history of the sports your child is interested in?

There are many great resources with many more ideas online. Some sites you may find interesting or helpful are:

educationworld.com/a_curr/profdev073.shtml

greatschools.org/gk/articles/summer-learning-activities-that-are-practically-free/

scholastic.com/teachers/articles/teaching-content/creative-summer-learning-ideas/

nagc.org/sites/default/files/Parent%20CK/Summertime_and_the_Living_is_Easy_CMcGee_PHP2013.pdf

learningliftoff.com/5-fun-ways-prevent-summer-learning-loss/#.WTafX-uGPDc

Finally, we would like to leave you with a final question – what did you do as a child in the summer? While certainly it is an invaluable time to spend with your children, most of also remember the valuable lessons we learned by (sometimes) having to entertain ourselves and by getting the chance to direct our own learning experiences!

Yours Sincerely,

Cara Frigeri, Key Stage 1 and 2 Coordinator

