

4th Grade Summer Reading **Tips/Suggestions and Math Practice**

Reading:

Summer shouldn't mean taking a break from learning, especially when it comes to reading. Studies show that most students experience a loss of reading skills over the summer months, but children who continue to read actually gain skills. During the summer parents can help children sustain (and even bolster) reading skills, strengthen their vocabulary and reinforce the benefits of reading for enjoyment.

Remember that children need free time, away from structured academic learning, and the summer is the perfect time to relax and enjoy the pleasures of childhood. So summer reading should be fun. The following are a few tips to make summer reading enjoyable for your children:

Read aloud together with your child every day. Make it fun by reading outdoors - on the front steps, patio, at the beach or park. Also, let your children read to you. For younger children, be sure to practice letter-sound correspondence, do lots of rhyming and clapping out syllables, and explore the relationships between oral language and print.

Set a good example! Keep lots of reading material around the house. Turn off the TV and have family reading time (including mom and dad).

Let kids choose what they want to read, and every so often, read the same book your child is reading and discuss it.

Buy books on tape or check them out at the library. This can be especially helpful for a child with a learning disability. Listen to these recordings in the car, or turn off the TV and have the family listen to them together at home.

As you go through the day - cooking, gardening, grocery shopping, playing games - utilize this time as an opportunity to engage in verbal word play, vocabulary building, recognizing new and familiar words or attaching meaning to words and sentences.

Take your children to the library regularly. Most libraries sponsor summer reading clubs with easy-to-reach goals for pre-school and school-age children. Check the library calendar for special summer reading activities and events. Libraries also provide age appropriate lists for summer reading.

Subscribe, in your child's name, to magazines like Sports Illustrated for Kids, Highlights for Children, or National Geographic World. Encourage older children to read the newspaper and current events magazines as a way of keeping up the reading habit over the summer and enhancing a growing vocabulary. Ask them what they think about what they've read, and listen to what they say.

Ease disappointment over summer separation from a favorite school friend by encouraging them to become pen pals. Present both children with postcards or envelopes that are already addressed and stamped. If both children have access to the Internet, e-mail or instant messaging are other options.

Trips can be a fun way to encourage reading. Ask your children to read traffic signs and billboards aloud. Show them how to read a map, and once you are on the road, let them take turns being the navigator.

Encourage children to keep a summer scrapbook. Tape in souvenirs of your family's summer activities - picture postcards, ticket stubs, photos. Have your children write the captions and read them aloud as you look at the book together.

Adapted from "Summer Reading Tips for Parents" by the Coordinated Campaign for Learning Disabilities.

Book Suggestion Websites: 4th and 5th grade sites – depending on your child's reading level

http://www.educationworld.com/summer_reading/4th_grade.shtml

http://www.educationworld.com/summer_reading/5th_grade.shtml

<http://www.education.com/magazine/article/fourth-grade-summer-reading-list/>

<http://www.education.com/magazine/article/fifth-grade-summer-reading-list/>

<http://www.greatschools.org/cgi-bin/showarticle/677>

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Math:

One of the most important things your child can do over the summer to help with his/her math skills is to practice multiplication and division facts. Just a few minutes a day, a couple of days a week will make a big difference.

Following are some math websites for summer practice:

TOP 10 MATH WEBSITES

Your child shouldn't spend the summer stuck in reverse—especially when it comes to math skills. Children can lose up to three months of learning over summer vacation, according to a study by Dr. Harris Cooper, professor and chair of the Department of Psychological Sciences, University of Missouri, so it's important to keep them engaged.

It can be difficult for parents to keep math on the front burner, especially when it is hard to gauge exactly what their child should be learning. Here are some of the best websites to help your child combat the summer math brain drain.

1. www.mathforum.com. This online community includes teachers, students, researchers, parents and educators who have an interest in math and math education. The site includes Ask Dr. Math, Problems of the Week, discussion groups and much more.
2. www.AAAMath.com. Customized by grade level and topic, AAA Math features explanations of various mathematical topics, practice problems and fun, challenging games.
3. www.coolmath.com. This fully interactive site and allows the user to sharpen basic math skills, play games and explore new math concepts.
4. www.figurethis.org. Created by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, this site helps families enjoy mathematics outside school through a series of fun and engaging challenges.
5. www.mathcats.com. Math Cats provides playful explorations of important math concepts through games, crafts and interactive projects. Includes a magic chalkboard and an art gallery.
6. www.easymaths.org. This South African Community website for teachers, parents and students is complete with lessons, tests, exams, worksheets, study skills and much more.
7. www.bbc.co.uk/education/megamaths/tables.html. This lively, interactive Web site, based on the popular BBC Schools Television series "Megamaths," is for practicing and testing times tables.
8. www.mathleague.com. The Math League, designed for students in fourth grade through high school, specializes in math contests, books and computer software. The "Help Facility" is handy reference guide for math topics complete with examples, definitions and

explanations.

9. www.fleetkids.com. FleetKids games teach elementary children several different aspects of money management. Games include Windfall, where a child can run an imaginary business and BuyLo/SellHi, where children can play the stock market. Students can sign up as an individual or as part of an elementary school team.

10. www.funbrain.com/numbers.html. This site includes 17 original games based on soccer, car racing and much more. Other games include Math Baseball, where a child can score runs with correct answers and Operation Order, where students can build pyramids with their knowledge of algebra.