SUMMER LEARNING IDEAS AT HOME AND IN YOUR COMMUNITY

All kids need to keep learning over the summer. If they don’t, they lose what they’ve learned during the school year, and those losses add up year after year. Following are some ways you can help your child learn during the summer months and send them back ready for the new school year.

- **Read at home every day.** Help your child pick books that interest him or her, set reading goals, and reward their efforts. Start a family book club.
- **Imagine your story.** Create your own adventure. Try writing a storybook, poetry, or short play together. Have a family reading or open mic night for everyone to perform and enjoy what you’ve created.
- **Keep a summer journal.** Have your child keep a journal about the books he or she enjoys, their favorite summer events or activities, and the new friends they’ve made.
- **Look for virtual activities near you.** Some local museums, aquarium, zoo, park, or nature center may be closed for now, but many are offering virtual tours and activities. Check the websites of your favorite spots for up-to-date information on visiting.
- **Plant a garden.** Start simple with a tomato container garden or fresh herbs grown on your kitchen window sill. It’s a great way to encourage healthy eating with your child.
- **Use counting skills in daily activities or errands.** Baking a cake? Let your child help count out the ingredients or minutes to mix the batter. Turn a grocery trip into a math lesson. Use coupons and help your child determine the discount.
- **Build a fort or castle.** Build your architectural skills. Let your imagination run wild as you use pillows or cardboard boxes to make an amazing structure for your family to enjoy.
- **Be active.** Get outside with your child. Visit a park for a nature walk, ride bikes, or check out your community’s parks and recreation programs that may offer many fun options.
- **Get creative.** Let your child’s imagination soar. Turn everyday household items like cardboard tubes into rockets or old socks into hand puppets.

National Summer Learning Week is a celebration dedicated to elevating the importance of keeping kids learning, safe, and healthy every summer, ensuring they return to school ready to succeed in the year. Find more resources at [www.summerlearning.org](http://www.summerlearning.org).