

Counseling Connection Newsletter

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Reducing the Summer Slide

Ideas for keeping your child learning throughout the summer!

It's hard to believe we are at the end of the school year! Our children are ready for a summer full of sunshine, play, and sleeping in! However, just because school is out for the summer, doesn't mean learning can or should stop! Here are a few ideas on how to keep your child learning all year round.

1) Vacations and Day Trips

Summer is the perfect time to take those vacations and day trips to teach your child things they can not learn inside a classroom. Take them to museums, zoos, and parks and have them read aloud the signs they see, practice reading maps, and learning the names of different animals and plants you come across! Take your child with you when you run your errands to the bank, post office, pharmacy, and grocery store and teach them how to look at prices and expiration dates, send a package, and other basic life skills they will need as they grow older.

2) Learning at Home

Teach your child life skills around the home, such as making a budget, sewing a button, reading and cooking recipes, fixing a bike, changing a tire, and doing their own laundry! YouTube is a wonderful resource to peak your child's interest in learning many skills. You can find tutorials to learn how to do almost anything. Ask your child, "What would you like to learn how to do this summer?" If you don't know how to do what they want to learn, you can learn together and model to your child how to develop new skills.

3) Learning Apps & Books

You can download some great free apps on your smartphone or tablet to keep your child engaged all summer long. Common Sense Media has compiled a list of free apps by age group, along with a rating and review! Go to [Common Sense Media](#), click on "Apps" on the right hand side of the page. From there you can filter results based on your device, age, subject, and whether the app is free or paid. Visiting one of Jamestown's two libraries is another great way to keep your child reading throughout the summer. The librarians can also teach you how to download e-books for free through their system on your smartphone or tablet.