



TITLE 1A EDUCATIONAL INSIGHTS

Lisbon Community School

Learning Happens Everywhere

After the long, snowy winter that we had I'm certain you're all enjoying the nicer weather and the opportunity to get outside. With summer fast approaching my thoughts are turning to preventing summer slide, the term used for the loss of learning which occurs over the summer months when students are not engaging in learning activities.

According to the National Summer Learning Association, "All young people experience learning losses when they do not engage in educational activities during the summer." Research spanning 100 years demonstrates that students typically score lower on standardized tests at the end of summer vacation than they do on the same tests at the beginning of the summer.¹

To make matters worse, these losses appear to be cumulative and, over time, they contribute substantially to the achievement gap between students who are on grade level and those who are performing below grade level benchmarks.² The evidence is clear that a lack of participation in learning

activities over the summer can cause students to lose valuable gains made during the school year.

Of course, we know that children need time to play and just be children over the summer, too! So what is a parent to do? We're glad you asked! This issue is dedicated to fun activities which will help your child maintain learning gains in reading and math while also having a great time. Take books along on outings. Pack books in your beach bag or picnic basket, and bring a stack on long car rides. You and your child can enjoy books together anywhere you go this summer. We hope you'll try out our suggestions and find them to be easy and enjoyable, just as we meant for them to be.

We wish you and your family a safe and happy summer!

1 National Summer Learning Association. http://www.summerlearning.org/?page=know_the_facts. Retrieved on 2/22/15

2 December 2011/January 2012 | Volume 69 | Number 4 The Resourceful School Pages 60-63; retrieved on 2/22/15 from <http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational-leadership/dec11/vol69/num04/Slowing-the-Summer-Slide.aspx>



Literacy Corner

A child's success as a reader begins much earlier than the first day of school. Reading and a love for reading, begins at home. Here are some suggestions for making reading fun at home over the summer:

Read a text with your child and then go outside to play "baseball." Each player takes turns answering a comprehension question. If s/he answers correctly, then the player advances to first base. Any player who is already on the base advances to the next base. You can either play this with two teams using separate books and/or separate questions (I'm sure neighborhood children and/or your child's friends would enjoy playing, too) or you can simply play with one team and keep track of the number of home runs as a single team. Some "generic" questions you can use with any fictional text would be as follows:

- How did the main character change in the book?
- What surprised you?
- Why do you think the author ended it this way?
- What's another way the book could have ended?
- What connections did you make with the story or the characters?
- Would you want to be friends with (character name) or not? Explain.

The summer slide is not a fun ride at the amusement park.



Math Corner

There are many things you can do to support your child's math development at home this summer.

Play a baseball game by giving children age and grade-level appropriate math problems to solve. For example, younger children might be asked to name a shape or add single-digit numbers in order to advance to first base. This activity is best for older students. Before taking a trip to an amusement park, go to the park's website to locate pricing information. Then have your child add up the cost for all family members to go the park. This activity can be extended by having the child determine the exact bills and coins needed or by having the child divide by the number of hours the park is open to determine the cost per hour.

Draw and label a map of your yard or neighborhood. For added detail, you could have children count steps around the perimeter of your yard or between landmarks. You could then ask them to use the map to find landmarks that are a certain number of spaces apart. For example, "Find three landmarks whose distance from the first to the second plus from the second to the third equals the same distance as the number of steps across the front edge of the yard."

Web Resources for Parents & Children

Reading Rockets: Fun reading and writing activities to do with your child.

<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/25-activities-reading-and-writing-fun>

Read, Write, Think: Links to many online tools and activities for all grade levels.

http://www.readwritethink.org/search/?resource_type=72

Great!Schools: Find many resources for math and reading including worksheets, homework help, activities, and more.

<http://www.greatschools.org>

Reading is Fundamental: Find fun literacy ideas for active youngsters.

<https://www.rif.org/literacy-central>

Family Education®: Eleven everyday ways to learn math while having fun.

<http://school.familyeducation.com/summerlearning/math/70200.html?page=5>

Sunshine Math: Math practice for all grade levels.

<http://www.loudoun.k12.va.us/domain/13224>

Prodigy: Math practice for all grade levels and adjusts to student ability.

<https://www.prodigygame.com/>

Math for Kids: Children's books related to math concepts.

<http://www.the-best-childrens-books.org/math-for-kids.html>

Kid Sites: A list of many children's websites for math practice

<http://www.kidsites.com/sites-edu/math.htm>

Splash Math: Fun math practice for every grade level.

<https://www.splashmath.com/>



Educational Insights is a publication of the Lisbon Community School Title 1A Program. Title 1 A is a federally-funded program to improve learning opportunities for educationally disadvantaged children enrolled in selected public and non-public schools and institutions. Title 1A programs administered by Lisbon Community School focus on providing eligible students with extra help in building thinking and problem-solving skills and applying these skills in reading and mathematics.

Title 1A Staff

Robert Kahler, Principal
Jen Robitaille, Math Coach
Lori Cloutier, Math Teacher
Amy St. Pierre, Literacy Coach
Linda Lacasse, Literacy Teacher
Tara Robertson, Literacy Teacher



Past issues of *Educational Insights* are available on
LCS's Title 1A website:

<http://lcstitle1.weebly.com>