

Help prevent learning loss this summer and assist your child in maintaining their skills. Here are some activities to keep your child practicing skills all summer long, while having fun:

Reading:

- Set a goal of 1000 pages (read to beginning readers). Reward at various milestones.
- Read anything! (comic books, video game manuals, graphic novels)
- Listen to reading - download stories to iPods and other mobile devices, perfect for car rides or a lazy, hot afternoon.
- Use paper bags to make a puppet show and retell your favorite story.
- Have family poetry night – memorize a poem to share. A great way to work on expression and fluency.
- Start a “book club” with friends or family. Talking about books is a great way to deepen your comprehension and understanding of texts.
- Join the Rush Henrietta summer reading program and attend their programs.
- Make a sight word wall in a visible spot.
- Read a non-fiction book and become an expert on something new!

Writing

- Publish a weekly family newsletter.
- Write a postcard or letter while on vacation.
- Write a persuasive essay for something you want to do or buy this summer (trip to Seabreeze, reason why you should be able to mow the lawn, etc.)
- Record your personal time-line.
- Publish a non-fiction book after researching a new topic.
- Make a list of what to pack for camp or vacation.
- Write a play.
- Invent your own comic strip. See how long you can keep it running.
- Keep a personal diary or journal.
- Write a grocery lists and/or recipes.
- Make a scavenger hunt.
- Use a pail of water and a brush or sidewalk chalk to write words on the blacktop.

Math:

- Math facts – practice by using www.xtramath.com or make flashcards.
- Money - collect change in a jar beginning on the first day of summer. Estimate how much you think you’ll have by the end of summer. Count it daily. How much more until you meet your goal? How much will you have by the end of the week? On the last day of summer, count it, and buy yourself a prize or donate to a good cause.
- Fractions – pay attention to fractions as you bake or cook this summer. Try folding paper towels or napkins into large and small fractions, from one-half to 1/16. Use markers to label and decorate the different fractions.
- Decimals/Graphing – use a stopwatch to time yourself running, roller blading, swimming, or biking. Then try to beat your time. Be sure to keep the distance you’re moving the same for each trial. Graph the results.
- Make a lemonade stand. Hand out coupons for a percentage off. A fun, real life way to practice adding money and make change, with and without regrouping.

Science:

- Make secret concoctions – practice using a variety of different measurements.
- Start a garden. Observe and chart growth.
- Build a simple machine to help you with something.
- Investigate the states of matter. Conduct experiments while changing water from liquid to a solid and gas.
- Log and chart the weather. Show temperature, cloud formation and precipitation.
- Start a rock collection – make observations about how they compare and contrast.
- Conduct experiments (with adult supervision).
- Visit the science museum or make your own natural museum by collecting items from nature. Classify and label your items. Advertise your museum, create tickets and open up for your neighborhood!
- Use a kiddie pool or sink: hypothesize items (soap, dry sock, rock, etc) that will float or sink. Test your hypotheses.

Social Studies:

- Make a map of your bedroom, house, neighborhood. Label the directions and make a key.
- Map out a vacation destination. Write out the directions.
- Make a roles & responsibility chart for your family.
- Have discussions about needs & wants.
- Record all the various landforms that you see throughout the summer.
- Take a family field trip to the Erie Canal, Susan B. Anthony House or Strong Museum.

Art:

- Use recyclable materials and nature to create sculptures.
- Sketch cartoons.
- Draw a family portrait.
- Use sand, dirt and mud to create cities and castles.
- Be an architect – find big boxes to build a fort.

Music:

- Write lyrics to a song.
- Use your “recorder practice sheet” from Mrs. Curry. (4th & 5th grade)
- Make your own instrument out of recyclable materials.
- Attend a concert in the park.

Exercise:

- Run one mile.
- Swim across the pool or learn a new stroke.
- Design an obstacle course and time your friends.
- Plan a family Summer Olympics.

Make sure to access the “library link” page for a listing of educational websites to utilize this summer: <http://www.rhnet.org/librarylinks.cfm>