



Parent Power



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How to Prevent Summer Learning Loss and Still Have Fun

What is summer learning loss?

Some call it "summer learning loss," others call it the "summer slide."

Either way, the idea is the same: Without regular practice, new skills and knowledge fade. So many school kids experience reversals over the extended summer break.

So how do we prevent summer learning loss? How do we stop summer slide?

Some researchers suggest that we make major changes in our schools. They propose lengthening the school year, or replacing the long, summer hiatus with several shorter vacation periods distributed throughout the year.

But we don't have to wait for such changes to help our children. Nor do we have to turn the summer into a time of regimented, structured learning sessions.

Here are some suggestions for making the most of the summer -- without sacrificing summer fun.

6 evidence-based tips to prevent summer learning loss

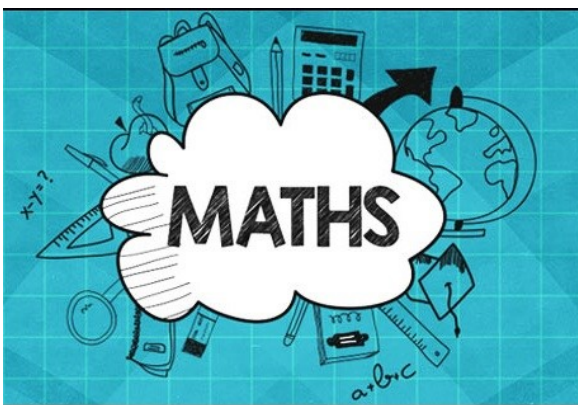
1. Get started on a summer reading program, and make sure your child is reading books that are both interesting and challenging.



When selecting books, it's crucial to make sure you're child is excited by the content. But you also want reading material that will stretch your child's skills -- introduce some new words and ideas.

Need help finding the right stuff? Visit your local library and talk with the children's librarian.

2. Set aside some time to review mathematics concepts.



It's unlikely that most kids will spontaneously practice the sorts of skills that will prevent learning loss in mathematics. And practice really matters. But don't you have to hold daily lessons, or turn the summer into a tedious series of drills.

Studies show that learners can improve long-term retention when they space practice over multiple days.

3. Play "unplugged" number games to help kids sharpen their math skills.

Research indicates that young children can improve their intuitive understanding of numbers by playing certain board games.

4. Develop spatial skills through spatial rotation games and construction play.

How to Prevent Summer Learning Loss and Still Have Fun (continued)

Experiments demonstrate that we can hone strong spatial skills through practice, and better spatial reasoning leads to enhanced performance in math and science.

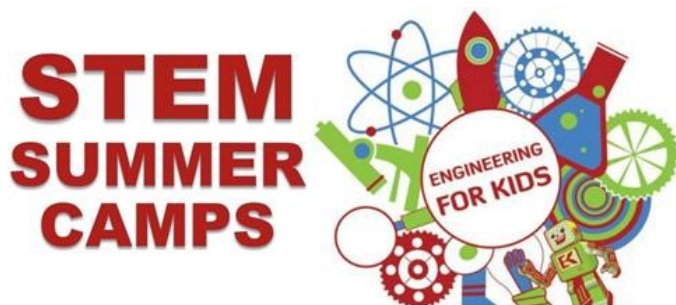
For example, when young school children were asked to practice mental rotation tasks – tasks that required them to predict how two geometrical shapes would look when stuck together – these kids went on to show improvements in their ability to solve basic algebra problems (Cheng and Mix 2012).

5. Take trips to museums, zoos, and nature sites. But don't merely attend. Help children enjoy hands-on experiences, and engage in family conversations.

Kids learn more from museum experiences when they engage in hands-on activities. They also benefit when parents ask them to interpret what they see.

What do you think this tool was used for? What do you think it is made of? How do you think it would feel to sleep on this mat?

6. Choose STEM summer camps that emphasize informal, hands-on learning.



Research suggests that summer camps in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) can stoke children's interest in STEM fields.

What makes a great program? Hands-on, activity-based STEM activities -- like building, coding, robotics, or science labs -- that allow kids to tinker and solve problems themselves. This isn't the time for lectures and passively sitting by. Kids learn by doing (Roberts et al 2018).

To find an informal summer learning program near you, look online, and try contacting local schools, public libraries, museums, and zoos. Can't afford to pay? Don't assume you'll have to. Ask about free and low-cost programs.

7. Can't find an affordable summer camp? Create your own.

The nonprofit organization [Reading Rockets](#) offers materials for a 5-day DIY program called "River Rangers," which helps kids learn about everything from the

formation of rivers, to riverine ecosystems and the management of human drinking water. You can access these free materials, and other ideas to battle summer learning loss, on this website.

8. Let kids explore interests that don't fit into the standard, school-year curriculum.

How many students have been bored by school, and then --one lucky day--they discovered an academic subject they were really passionate about?

Such discoveries can change lives, but many people never make them.

Looking for some interesting topics? Here are some suggestions:

Animal behavior. David Attenborough has produced many outstanding educational programs about animals. These, combined with reading and hands-on activities can help your child develop a lifelong interest in biology. What to do? Get kids outside, and show them how to locate wildlife.

Computer programming. Researchers at MIT have developed a visual programming environment called [Scratch](#). It permits kids to learn computer programming concepts -- and create coded projects -- even before they learn to read. Best of all, it's free to use. All you need is a computer with an internet connection.

“Commit yourself to lifelong learning. The most valuable asset you'll ever have is your mind and what you put into it.”

~Brian Tracy

BREC's Summer Camps

For decades, BREC's Summer Camps have been an inclusive, family tradition in East Baton Rouge Parish! Parents recognize the quality of BREC's summer program which is loaded with a diverse curriculum of fun, memory-making activities that are second to none. Campers experience recreational games, community field trips, recreational sports, cultural arts, develop new friendships and more. From recreation and theatre to animals and science, there is a camp for children of all abilities, ages and interests! BREC offers inclusive opportunities to all patrons. If your child has additional needs or behaviors that our staff should know about, we recommend a recreational assessment.

COVID-19

BREC is committed to the health and safety of all campers. All 2021 BREC Summer Camps will observe Covid-19 measures in accordance with the current phase as declared by the governor and will follow federal, state, and local guidelines. At this time, safety measures will include the wearing of masks when appropriate, small groups with limited interaction and increased sanitation in the facilities.

REGISTRATION

Summer camp registration begins online Saturday, March 20 at 9 a.m. for all East Baton Rouge Parish residents. You are able to register for all locations through WebTrac, BREC's online registration system, from your computer, tablet or smartphone. Payments online can be made using a Visa, MasterCard or Discover credit/debit card at webtrac.brec.org. To pay by check or cash, residents can visit the site where they want to attend camp and register during regular facility hours of operation starting Monday, March 22. Out-of-parish residents may begin registering online or during regular facility hours of operation starting Tuesday, March 30.

Follow the links below to learn more about our upcoming summer camps!

[ATHLETICS](#)

[BATON ROUGE ZOO](#)

**[BLUEBONNET SWAMP
NATURE CENTER](#)**

[BREC Art](#)

[CAMP SUNSHINE](#)

[COMMUNITY RECREATION](#)

[CONSERVATION](#)

[EXTREME SPORTS](#)

[FARR PARK](#)

**[HIGHLAND ROAD
OBSERVATORY](#)**

BREC's Summer Camps (continued)

INDEPENDENCE PARK
THEATRE

MAGNOLIA MOUND
CAMP

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

2021 TEEN GET OUT

TENNIS

Fun! Fun! Fun! Summer Learning Sites

SUMMER LEARNING

- [Themed Books and Activities for Summer Reading and Learning](#): Start with a Book, a project from Read-ing Rockets, offers some great ideas for summer reading. This collection offers books and activities to help kids explore a variety of subjects like dinosaurs, money, and much more. Plus, be sure to check out their [Summer Science collection](#) for engaging in DIY summer science learning.
- [Cool Summer Reading and Learning for Middle School Kids](#): Author Susan Curtis highlights some of the most useful websites, ideas, and strategies for helping middle school students stay active readers during the summer. Included are links to reading lists, online reading contests, and ideas for practicing reading with tech tools. Also check out [Awesome Apps for the Six Traits of Writing](#), from WeAreTeachers, for improving writing skills with apps during the summer.
- [Calculation Nation From the NCTM](#): If you're looking for a fun, web-based game for students, Calculation Nation from the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics is a wonderful resource. This is just one example; there are tons of awesome games. Also check out [Funbrain Math Arcade](#) from Pearson, [10 Best Math Apps for Kids](#) from Parents.com, and [Cool Math](#).
- [Summer Learning Resources for Parents From Read-WriteThink](#): This after-school and parent collection from ReadWriteThink offers something for everything. There are links to summer activities and projects, games and tech tools, printouts, and how-to articles. Plus, there's a link to a useful podcast series about out-of-school learning.
- [Summer Learning Resources for Parents From Colorín Colorado](#): This reading resource roundup for parents is awesome! You'll find guides, tips, and reading lesson ideas in Spanish and English. Another great resource from sister site Reading Rockets is [Get Ready for Summer! Ideas for Teachers to Share With Families](#).
- [Summer Fun Activities, Games, and Printables From Education.com](#): From Education.com, this collection features plenty of activities to keep your kids busy and learning this summer. From hands-on science activities, to outdoor games, there are dozens of ideas here to get started.
- [Simple Tips for Summer Math Learning From PBS Parents](#): These easy-to-implement ideas are perfect for summer learning. My favorites: Turn chores into math learning opportunities, or find math lessons in your child's collection (sea shells, baseball cards, etc.). PBS Parents' [reading tips guide](#) is also extremely useful.



**“Bringing the students, programs and places of the
East Baton Rouge Parish School System into FOCUS”**

Please click on the links below to access EBR TV news segments:

SCHOOL/FEATURED NEWS SEGMENT	LINKS
Guys on the Fly 5K Run	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SfZzqlp6OCU
McKinley High ROTC: Introducing the Hilliard Twins	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=83Yf-ljx5gl
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Donate Chromebooks to High Achieving Students at Wedgewood Elementary	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oGMuy9-b3TY
Villa Del Rey Elementary and Sweet Jones Farm Groundbreaking and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XxIsSjCj7UU
Woodlawn Elementary IXL Challenge	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=61hz6z1GRFQ&t=38s
Forest Heights Academy Living History Museum	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wPoE7qfDPUA&t=5s
BR FLAIM Celebrates Chinese New Year	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DBqC0DOjsrw

**EBR, help us to help you tell your story. Please click on the link
below to Request Media Coverage:**

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc9V6hm7O_qcwDpzOzBdxYSGHGF7Icx8fQGAY6Xn_24ITIPEA/viewform

***Please be courteous and provide at least 48 hours prior notification for your planned events**

Parent University

Parent University was created as a supplemental strategy to build the capacity of parents to be actively engaged in their child's education.

The goal of the program is to "educate and empower parents as partners, advocates, and lifelong teachers in their child's education through educational courses and leadership opportunities."



PLEASE CLICK ON THE LINK BELOW TO ACCESS THE PARENT UNIVERSITY WEBPAGE WHERE YOU CAN
FIND RECORDED SESSIONS

https://sites.google.com/d/1zwly9_5wQnoM35b4Ys8LHw5IN2Bhaw7/p/1mps2Hz6QwYhljm_od2nj8ZyjZv2XWwDq/edit

7 Summer Educational Activities to Keep Students Learning



Most parents know that their children suffer a learning deficit over the summer months, but we bet you'd be surprised to learn just how significant this loss can be. A recent five-year study considering students in grades two through nine found that students lost 25 to 30 percent of the learning they'd acquired over the school year. Educational activities are important in the summer months.

Of course, the way to remedy this learning loss is to make sure your kids continue to learn over the summer. Here are seven ways to keep them learning this summer—even if they still insist you take them to the pool!

For young students:

Encourage young students to improve their STEM skills by asking them to make a [windsock kite](#). Kids can experiment by adding decorations like streamers and beads, but what decorations will make the kite stop flying?

Read books with your young children, and then connect reading to the activities described in the book. For example, you could read Laura Ingalls Wilder and take your kids on a trip to a farm. Or you could read Molly Bang's classic *The Paper Crane* and learn with your young children how to fold origami.

Help your child get to know your area, and science, by encouraging them to start a rock collection. Even if the

collection isn't fancy, it can kickstart an interest in geology, especially if you label and classify your rocks based on this guide from the U.S. Geological Survey.

For middle school students:

Build your child's creativity and curiosity by asking her to document your family's summer travel. Suggest that she learn the history of the city you're visiting, along with documenting the places that you frequent. You may also suggest she take pictures. Once the trip is over, ask her to compile the materials into whatever form she likes, be it a physical scrapbook or an online blog.

Spend an afternoon on a light walk with your middle school children. [Light walks](#), designed by Bob Miller, were created to teach kids about the properties of light and the sun. Today, though, these walks serve an additional purpose: getting your children away from their devices and into the sun. Giving your children an appreciation for nature is an important piece of summertime learning.

For high schoolers:

Teach your older children about money—and help them put their math skills into practical context—by helping them invest their money in the stock market or an IRA. Working with teens to invest in, and then monitor, an interesting stock can help them build a healthy financial future and understand the benefits of managing their money well. It can also give you a clear answer to the constant question, "When am I ever going to use math in real life?"

Encourage your teen to find a job or regularly volunteer. Not only will these activities give teens a better idea about what they might want to do (or not want to do), they will also help them better contextualize how the learning they're doing in school could be applied to the real world.

With the possibility that your child will incur summer learning deficits, it's important not to look at your child's summer break as only a vacation. Instead, build in some exciting educational activities to help your child view learning in a creative, exciting way.



A Wise Approach to Saving Energy

Make Everyday **EARTH DAY!**

Earth Day was first organized in 1970 to increase public awareness of environmental concerns. That first Earth Day led to the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of other first of their kind environmental laws, including the National Environmental Education Act, the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Endangered Species Act. 50 years later it is a global movement in over 190 countries worldwide. To learn more, go to www.earthday.org

EARTH DAY Quiz

Test your environmental knowledge!
(answers at bottom of page)



- Which of the following is a greenhouse gas?
 - CO₂
 - CH₄
 - Water Vapor
 - All of the above
- Globally, which economic sector emits the largest percentage of greenhouse gases?
 - Transportation
 - Buildings
 - Industry
 - Electricity production
- Why is plastic dangerous for marine life?
 - Can mistake it for food & cannot digest it
 - Get tangled in it, affects ability to swim
 - Both a. and b.
 - Not dangerous, they use it for habitat
- How long can the oldest whale species live?
 - 100 years
 - 200 years
 - 50 years
 - 75 years
- What percentage of crops are dependent on bee pollination in the U.S.?
 - 100%
 - 30%
 - 65%
 - 90%

How Can You Help the Earth?

5 Ways to Help Your School and Community Make Everyday Earth Day!

- Save electricity and turn off lights when you leave the room.
- Use less cooling and heating energy by closing window shades and blinds to keep heat out during the summer and to keep heat in during the winter.
- Conserve energy and improve comfort by keeping exterior doors and windows closed.
- Pick up trash while walking or jogging in the neighborhood, or during school recess periods. This can be a fun and effective way to get exercise while cleaning up the community.
- Use reusable water bottle, such as a stainless-steel water bottle, to make a big impact on your plastic consumption.



LEARN MORE AT
energystar.gov

(*) ENERGY STAR is a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency voluntary program that helps businesses and individuals save money and protect our climate through superior energy efficiency. [Learn more about ENERGY STAR.](http://energystar.gov)

This energy conservation tip is provided by the East Baton Rouge Parish School System's Aramark Energy management Team. For more information please contact us at 225-226-3723, or savoie-don@aramark.com

(Earth Day Quiz Answers: 1. d, 2. d, 3. c, 4. b, 5. d)

LIFE HACKS FOR EBR PARENTS

A collection of life hacks, tips and tricks to optimize your life.

life·hack

'lɪf, hak/

Noun

Informal



life hacks

Researchers have found that watermelon can make you happier. The study found that people who suffered from chronic depression and anxiety have lower levels of vitamin B6, and watermelon is jam packed with vitamin B6.

#1120

1000LifeHacks.com

life hacks

If you ever smell a fish odor in an unusual place in your home, it might be a sign that there's an overheating circuit around, which can ultimately cause an electrical fire.

#1116

1000LifeHacks.com

life hacks

Never throw an old phone away. Instead place it in your glove box and use it as an emergency phone. Even with no phone plan all phones have the ability to call the police or an ambulance.

#1124

1000LifeHacks.com

life hacks

On My90sTV.com you can browse through TV channels of the 90's, 80's and 70's as if it was being played in real time.



May 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7 Last Day for Seniors	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 Early Dismissal	19	20 Last Day for Students	21 Last Day for Teachers	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					



- May 7th: Last Day for Seniors
- May 18th—20th: Early Dismissal (11:30 a.m. Secondary / 12:45 p.m. Elementary)
- May 20th: Last Day for Students (End of 2nd Semester)
- May 21st: Last Day for Teachers



The East Baton Rouge Parish School System and all of its entities (including Career and Technical Education Programs) does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, religion, national origin, disability or gender in its educational programs and activities (including employment and application for employment), and it is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of gender by Title IX (20 USC 168) and on the basis of disability by Section 504 (42 USC 794). The Title IX Coordinator is Andrew Davis, Director of Risk Management (ADavis6@ebrschools.org) - phone (225) 929-8705. The Section 504 Coordinator is Elizabeth Taylor Chapman, Director of Exceptional Student Services (ETaylor@ebrschools.org) – phone (225) 929-8600. The Title II Coordinator is Dr. Sandra Horton, Administrative Director of Federal Programs (SBHorton@ebrschools.org) – phone (225) 922-5538.

All students have an opportunity to participate in Career & Technical Programs of Study including, but not limited to, areas of Health Care, Construction Crafts & Trades, Automotive Technology, IT Computer Technology, IT Computer Technology, Culinary Programs, Criminal Justice and Agriculture. Admission requirements for each course can be found in the student course guide/schedule packet of the individual campus where the course is being offered. Please contact the Guidance Counselor at the specific school site for additional information, program requirements and/or any questions you may have.

Parent Power is a publication of the East Baton Rouge Parish School System

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