

Preventing Brain-Drain

Tips, Techniques and Strategies for Summer Growth

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Why are you here?

- Smart engaged parents who want successful children

Why does summer matter?

- Equivalent of one month of overall learning is LOST after summer vacation
- 2.6 months of Math skills are LOST over the summer
- 2 months of Reading Skills are LOST over the summer
- 6 weeks in the fall are spent re-learning old material to make up for summer learning loss

Myths about summer...

- My kids need the summer off to recharge
- Summer isn't part of the school year
- Summer learning is for students who get bad grades
- Summer will make students refreshed and ready to learn in the fall

Good News...the summer slide, the brain drain or summer learning loses can easily be prevented.

There are 3 key things we can do this summer...

1. Make a Plan- "A goal without a plan is just a wish."
 - Folder- Reading and Math (worksheets with basic facts and word problems-from teachers), calendar to mark off days
 - 20 min reading min/10 min math
 - "Students can increase their math retention by 2/3 simply by doing 10 minutes of math per a day in summer.
2. Continue Reading
 - Reading helps kids get better at math
 - Reading fiction helps children be more empathetic
 - Reading changes the structure of the brain
 - "In a six-month daily reading program, scientists found that the amount of white matter in the area of the brain associated with

language actually increased. Another study found that reading helps the brain exercise cognitive function.”

- Find “Just Right” Books
- Resources- Current Events, National Geographic, Highlights, Muse, Public Library Summer Reading Program

3. Ask Questions

- Family meals- dinner questions, “Research shows that the most important thing a child can do to assure long-term well being is eat meals with his or her family.” “
- Framing questions the right way- i.e.: open ended questions
- Using Podcasts, Books and Current Events to ask questions

Summer Activities

Old School

- Typewriter
- Journal (between friends or mom or dad)
- Chalkboard,
- Dry erase
- Road trip songs and games (I’m going on a trip and I’m bringing... license plate game, etc.)
- Hiking songs and games
- Active Games- Brain Balance, Math
- Book Club- Group or Face time
- Outings- Zoo, Museums, Parks, Hikes, Walks

New School

- Overdrive- ebooks and audiobooks
- Podcasts- FREE
- Websites
- Email- Modern Day “Pen Pals”

Closing...

Don’t believe the myths, keep kids learning and growing over the summer...”Research shows that while gaps in student achievement remain relatively constant during the school year, the gaps widen significantly during the summer.”