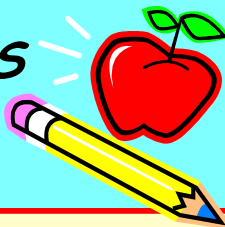


THE PARENT'S PLACE



A Quarterly Newsletter for
the parents of young
children in
Seminole County
Summer 2013

Our mission is to promote family involvement by providing information on topics of interest in early childhood education to the parent as the child's first and most important teacher.

Prevent summer learning loss in your kids

What can you do, personally, to help combat summer learning loss with your own kids? Well, there are plenty of options in your community, you just need to be a bit creative and think outside of the box. For instance, my local newspaper, every April or May, has a special section listing all private as well as community-funded summer programs for kids. Many of these are eclectic-types of camps involving swimming, sports, crafts and field trips. However, more and more add in reading enrichment or remediation as well as math tutoring over the summer. In addition to community and private day camps, check out the following options:

- Learn to love your local library (and librarian!). It's a wonderful place to promote the love of reading, and the librarian can suggest grade-level as well as pure recreational books that will keep your kid's neurons clicking!
- Check out safe, parent-approved Internet sites. There are many that offer a "summer camp" theme – a daily craft activity to do alone or with a parent each day, some brain teasers, awesome video streaming of important world events (volcanoes erupting, the Martin Luther King "I have a dream" speech), and tons of grade-related math, reading and science work to be checked out in a fun way.
- Consider your local newspaper – many have summer writing camps. Your performing arts center has summer camps that involve singing, dancing, set décor as well as script reading (notice the reading part?).

Be sure to check with your child's teacher(s) to get suggestions for summer workbooks and pleasure books, science activities, etc. He or she will know what will be helpful for next year. Also, you may be able to check with *next year's teacher* to get his or her advice as to neat summer activities.

Finally, try to motivate your child to complete 5 to 10 math problems (from a grade-appropriate workbook) a few times a week, and to read a chapter in a pleasure book several days a week also. Hopefully, the work will be fun (keep it low-level and simple), and the kid will do it for enjoyment.

So, it's always a good time to think about keeping the brain stimulated, as well as the body moving over the summer months. Keep it simple, fun, and stimulating. Let the kids pick out the books to read and the sites to research on the Internet (again, only safe sites allowed). Learning alone and informally, or via a structured group for either part of the day or part of the summer will help to prevent summer learning loss and help your child stay sharp for school next year. But, please remember that summer is also for relaxing, taking some time off, and just being a kid. The trick is to balance fun with learning, and with all of the local options available to you, it's a task worth tackling!

By Ruth A. Peters, Ph.D. "Today" contributor

For more on this article, please visit http://www.today.com/id/13388817/ns/today-parenting_and_family/t/prevent-summer-learning-loss-your-kids/

Summer Reading tips

Tips for Encouraging Summer Reading by Jen Robinson

Make sure your kids have plenty of books. Take your kids to the library or the bookstore (new or used) to pick out some interesting new books.

Always pack up books whenever you go somewhere, for your kids and for yourself (including audiobooks).

Encourage social reading. This gives your child a chance to talk about the book with others.

Try not to get hung up on whether or not your child "could" be reading more advanced books. If kids find reading enjoyable, they'll keep reading, and they will eventually push themselves.

Try to keep some time available for reading.

For more on this article, please go to:
<http://www.pbs.org/parents/experts/archive/2011/06/tips-for-encouraging-summer-re.html>



VPK reminders:

VPK registrations will continue throughout the summer at the ELC of Seminole office located at 280 Hunt Park Cove, Longwood, FL. VPK certificates will be issued in group sessions every 15 minutes between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. VPK certificates will also be issued on the following Saturdays between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.: **June 8, June 22, July 27 and August 10.** For a complete list of documents needed to obtain a VPK certificate visit the ELC of Seminole website at www.SeminoleEarlyLearning.org.

Sponsored by Florida's Office of Early Learning, Early Learning Coalition of Seminole, & Seminole State College



Fun summer books to enjoy

- ❖ **Trixie Ten** by: Sarah Massini
Age Level: 3-6
Reading Level: Beginning Reader
- ❖ **The Frazzle Family Finds a Way** by: Ann Bonwill
Age Level: 3-6
Reading Level: Beginning Reader
- ❖ **Rainbow Stew** by: Cathryn Fallwell
Age Level: 3-6
Reading Level: Beginning Reader
- ❖ **If You Want to See a Whale** by: Julie Fogliano
Age Level: 3-6
Reading Level: Beginning Reader
- ❖ **Benjamin Bear in Bright Ideas!** by: Philippe Coudray
Age Level: 3-6
Reading Level: Beginning Reader
- ❖ **Dirt on My Shirt** by: Jeff Foxworthy
Age Level: 6-9
Reading Level: Independent Reader
- ❖ **National Geographic Kids Bird Guide of North America**
by: Jonathan Alderfer
Age Level: 6-9
Reading Level: Independent Reader
- ❖ **Also, please check out the Seminole County Public Library for story times and events**
www.seminolecountyfl.gov/libraries/