

Summer Learning Tips

1. Make Time for Learning

Set aside time for your cadet to read each day during the summer break – 15 to 30 minutes per day is all it takes! During the summer, cadets have more time to read for enjoyment, which also offers a great opportunity to preserve and strengthen their reading skills. Your summer activities should include taking your children or teenagers to the public library to check out books of interest and/or any summer reading groups they'd like to join.

A great way to track how much reading your child is doing during the summer months is a tally on your regular activities calendar. This will help keep the daily reading time from being overlooked because of other summer activities – and we know there are many.

Parents of cadets reading below grade level should read with their children in order to assist with sounding out words they might not be able to decode themselves. In addition, keep a dictionary or online source close by to help cadets figure out those words by using the phonetic spelling provided.

2. Learn and Practice Affixes

Cadets of all grade levels can improve their reading and spelling skills by learning affixes. Most multi-syllable words include prefixes and suffixes added to a base word. You can find a list of affixes and their meanings in a dictionary or in many online sources. To make this practice appealing, turn it into a game! Cadets can create flashcards of prefixes and suffixes. On the reverse side of each affix flash card, they should write the meaning. All children love guessing names and can point out what they think the affix means. You can also use this game to help them learn new vocabulary words.

3. Improve Reading Comprehension

To help your children better understand what they're reading consider offering them a reading comprehension workbook to work on several minutes daily. These can be found at teacher supply stores or many online outlets.

Cadets of all grades and ability can benefit scholastically by working with material that offers self-quizzes and high-interest stories. This practice helps develop fact-retaining and inference-making skills.

4. Review and Build Grammar Skills

Review the past grade level's grammar concepts, and begin to work on the next school year's concepts. During the summer, cadets benefit from weekly reviews or pre-learning two to four lessons. Find workbooks geared to their grade or skill level, and encourage them to check their work using the answer key provided. Even if they make mistakes on their answers, finally filling in the correct answers will reinforce their grammar skills.

5. Encourage Creative Writing

Creative writing is a great way to improve your children's written language skills while giving them a fun and imaginative activity during the summer! Have your cadet write a creative paragraph each week. As a parent, you can help by assisting him or her with choosing a "topic" (such as a family vacation, special outing, or holiday memory) to write a paragraph about. Cadets can also benefit from using a thesaurus and changing several common words to more interesting words. This will make their writing more interesting while learning great new words at the same time.

6. Focus on Specific Skills

Pinpoint the subjects your child had the most trouble learning the previous school year, and make sure to fit in some practice in these areas. Summer is an ideal time to set aside 15 to 30 minutes a day for helping your cadet on areas of difficulty. Again, use every resource available to you! Parents are not helpless when it comes to their child's education. Online resources and teacher supply stores offer a wide variety of learning materials, workbooks, computer games, and other types of games to reinforce and strengthen scholastic skills. Cadets may wish to play learning games with their friends to help make the time fly and by making learning more fun.