

R U S D U P D A T E



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Keeping Sharp All Summer Long

After a long and full school year, your student may be ready for the lazy days of summer. But hold it right there! It may be tempting to take the foot off the gas, but summer is prime time for your student to brush back up on their skills and knowledge from the year.

Summer learning loss is a phenomenon experienced by young students where their reading and math gains from the school year decline during summer break. Research has found that in the summer after third grade, students lose 20% of the reading and 27% of the math skills gained during the school year – and these percentages

only grow with age! So, how do we combat this phenomenon and keep our students sharp all summer long? Just 2-3 hours of reading or engagement per week will prevent this backslide. These tips are proven to help your student start off on the right foot in August!

1. Reading may be a given, but kick the learning up a notch by having a post-book discussion with your student! Digest and analyze the plot and characters together. Can you find metaphors? What was the conflict and resolution?
2. Keep the mathematic mind strong with music. Dance in the car while counting the tempo aloud. How many instruments do you hear? If you listened to the song three times in a row, how many choruses would you hear?
3. Trying to resist the urge to indulge in technology? Make it work for you! Download an e-book for your student to read or choose an app or game that requires critical thinking and problem solving.
4. Summer calls for tents and forts... indoors! Let your student's natural architect skills shine by building a fort out of materials they find around the house. They'll apply science and math to ensure a safe, structurally sound clubhouse for the day.
5. Need help in the kitchen? Encourage your student to join you in creating new recipes, practicing fractions while doubling up quantities and experimenting with scientific processes.

Summer learning doesn't have to be a bore. Keep your student sharp and entertained all summer long. When you find an activity that works best for your family, I want to hear about it! Drop me a summer note at rstock@rocklinusd.org.