



Pre-K Family Newsletter

United Way of Bucks County

June 29, 2020



How to Beat the SUMMER SLIDE



Have your child read for
at least **20 minutes**
every day.

Spend time **cooking**
together.



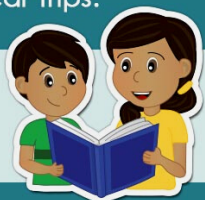
Explore different kinds of
reading material like picture books,
chapter books, and magazines.

Make use of your
local library.



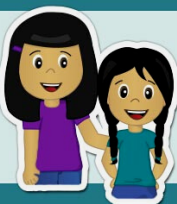
Listen to **audio books** on
summer car trips.

Read aloud with your
children daily.



Review skills with fun,
hands-on review activities.

Engage in **meaningful**
conversation and help build
your child's vocabulary.



Enjoy a
new hobby!

Learn more about these great ideas at
<http://blog.AllAboutLearningPress.com/summer-slide>

ALL ABOUT Learning Press

The Summer Slide

The Summer Slide isn't just a slippery way to splash into a swimming pool. It's an education concept that has been a topic of discussion since at least 1996, when one of the first comprehensive studies on the topic was published. The results of the study showed that our kids lose a significant amount of what they learned in school over the summer break, particularly in reading and math. This then requires teachers to spend the first several weeks of the new school year "catching up" on what skills were lost over the summer.

Yes, summer is wonderful and we need opportunities to relax, unwind, and enjoy family and friends. But how do we balance that fun while supporting our children academically, to ensure that they don't fall behind when school begins in the fall?

Many parents were even more relieved to see school end this year. It has been a grueling three months of virtual classrooms, online workplaces, and trying to keep everyone safe and occupied. The last thing anyone wants to think about is more of the same over the summer. But, we don't have to!

The most important thing for our children (and for us) is to be consistent, and just tackle a little bit each day. The routine will be good for your children, it will allow you to enjoy sharing new things with them, and the outcome will be that they will learn.

Remember, be gentle with yourself and your children. We have all been through life changing events this year. Summer is a good time to slow down, relax, and enjoy the simple things.

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Find all of these and other resources on our website
www.uwbucks.org/preknews

LIVE UNITED



Fun & Easy Summer Learning Ideas

Reading If you can do only one thing, make reading a priority for your children, and have books easily accessible to them. Let kids pick out their books. Choosing their books allows children to explore interests they have and learn more about some favorite topics. They are also more likely to read if they are part of the selection process.

- **Scholastic** has a great online summer program called Read-A Palooza, with activities for kids to build their avatar, make new friends, earn rewards, and unlock book donations. Go to <https://www.scholastic.com/summer/home/>
- **The Bucks County Free Library** is one of the best resources families have and summer is a great time to take your children and get them their own library card. Libraries will be reopening July 6, 2020, and have wonderful (and free) summer activities for kids. Make it a goal to have your child read 6 books over the summer, and you will have taken a lot of the "slip" out of the Summer Slide! It's important that your child see you reading as well. Visit your local library online at <https://buckslib.org/> or in person and borrow a few books for yourself, too!



Math skills are critical to maintain over the summer, as these are often skills that show the biggest "slide" at the start of the school year. The most important thing, particularly with math, is being consistent. It's much less daunting for young children to practice counting verbally each day than it is to complete a worksheet in one sitting. Use sheets of paper to create "placemats" at the breakfast table and have your children use them to count, trace numbers, and sort. A fantastic website that offers fun ways to incorporate math into summer activities can be found [here](#). The activities include things like measuring and cooking, a chalk hopscotch, and a graph-and-go garden project.

Kindness If there's anything we've learned during the past few months, it's the importance of being kind to one another. It's also part of our job as parents to model and encourage kindness in our children. This is another quality that can be developed in fun, kid-friendly ways that will allow our children to blossom during the summer months. The website <https://www.scarymommy.com/random-acts-of-kindness-kids/> has many creative ways to incorporate kindness into your children's summer activities. One of my favorites is the "kindness bingo" where children create a game board with different kind acts and cross off squares as they do each one.

Helpful Websites

<https://blog.allaboutlearningpress.com/summer-slide/>

<https://littlescholarsllc.wordpress.com/10-ways-to-prevent-summer-slide/>

<https://www.communitiesinschools.org/blog/2015/05/slowng-summer-slide/mer-slide/>