

Family Affair

As the parent (or even as the childcare facilitator), you are in a great position to understand what gaps are present in your child's/students' learning. Your natural interest and participation in your child's reading or math activities can also make a real difference in the summer losses whether it be at the dinner table, traveling in the car, or rotating children in centers. Try writing down a math problem on a piece of paper and give it to your child to solve, and then have your child do the same for you. This personal approach, like cuddling with your child while you're reading, enhances learning in real ways. One of the hidden secrets about reading centers around the relationship and sharing something with your child—and the same can be true of doing math together. Below are few other examples of summer learning activities for families.

- Have cooking lessons at home (bake bread, make homemade ice cream, grandma's cookies)
- Write down recipes and make a cookbook
- Visit a pizza store (they'll sometimes let the kids make one for little or nothing)
- Write and illustrate a story
- Plant a small garden or container garden and watch it grow