

# Summer Fun

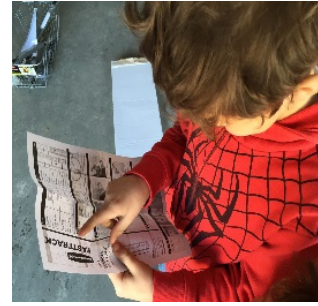


Parents, you don't have to be a certified teacher to assist your children and prevent summer learning loss! Enjoy summer activities with them by engaging children in hands-on learning activities, which are especially memorable. By playing games and building models, you can reinforce math, reading, science and essential 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. Learning can take place whether you are taking a trip to a far-off place or spending the summer in your own neighborhood.

Parents, you can build reading and writing into your child's everyday activities. Here are just a few ideas CASE for Kids would like to pass along:

### (1) Say What?

Have your child read directions for how to play a new game. Tell have your child read the instructions and tell them that they will be in charge of facilitating the game and teaching the entire family to play! Talk to your child about real



world examples of when it is very important to follow written instructions to get a desired outcome. Following recipes, playing games, assembling furniture, etc. Ask your child why it would be beneficial to know how to read and follow instructions. Talk about what would happen in these examples if instructions were not followed correctly.

### (2) Put it on the List.



Your child can help with meals by writing up a grocery list, finding ingredients in the grocery store, and reading the recipe aloud for mom or dad during cooking time. They can also practice math skills to measure ingredients.

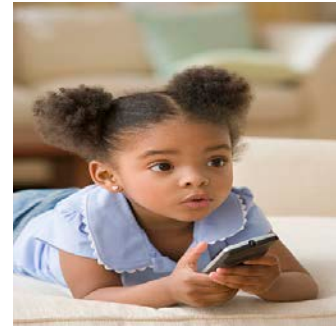
### (3) Make a T.V. Schedule.

Help your child make a plan for television viewing. First, decide what shows your child can watch. Then tell your child that together you can make a television *schedule*. Explain that a schedule tells you when something happens. Remind her of other schedules she has seen, like bus schedules. Give her paper and markers or crayons. Review the shows she can watch. Invite her

to write down the name of each show, what channel it is on, and what time it is on. Then hang the schedule up next to the television. For older children, have them write a summary of the show, identify main characters, conflicts, and resolutions.

#### **(4) Tell Me All About It.**

After your child watches a T.V. show or movie, talk to her about the story. “What happened at the *beginning*?” and “What happened at the *end*?” Give your child plenty of time to think about these questions and give clues to help her remember. Did she like the way the show ended? Why or why not? If she could change the ending how would she change it? Give her paper and markers or crayons and she can write or draw her own story.



#### **5) Hire a Junior Travel Agent.**



Half the fun of a trip starts before you get there. Involve your child in the planning by practicing how to use a map to find cities and tourist attractions, and how to estimate distances. If you are driving, work with your child to figure out how many gallons of gas it will take to get there and estimate the cost. If you are flying or traveling by train, check travel schedules and costs.

## 6) Its Theater Time!!



An important reading-comprehension skill is being able to retell a story. So, after your child finishes a book he's read with you or alone, encourage him to put on a play that tells the story. Volunteer to take a part, and let your child direct.

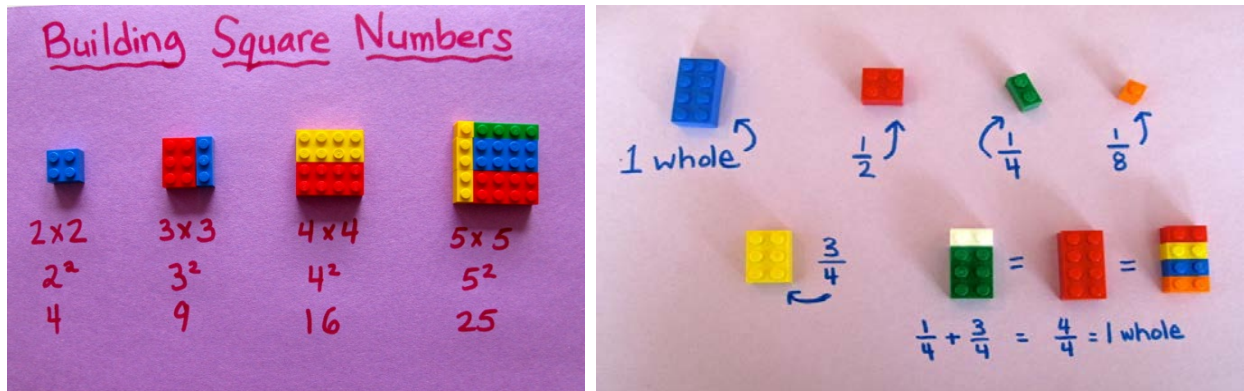
### **Grades K-2**

Young children can make their own puppet theater. Begin by cutting off the finger-ends of old gloves. Draw faces on these fingers with felt tip markers and glue on yarn for hair. Or glue on felt strips to create cat, dog or other animal faces. Then your child can create a story that the finger puppets can act out.

### **Grades 3-6**

For older children, find books containing play scripts for young people and encourage your child and friends to create their own neighborhood theater. They can plan a performance, make a simple stage at the park or on the steps of someone's home, create playbills and sell tickets.

## 7) Tackle Fractions with LEGOS.



Fractions always seem to overwhelm many students. Things can get confusing when it comes to different sizes such as “wholes” or when we switch from thinking about the fractions of one whole to fractions of a set. The only way to combat fraction challenge is to provide students with a LOT of opportunities to experience fractions with tangible objects. Have your child “build” multiplication, and of course, its twin sibling, division problems with Legos.

## 8) 100% Delicious!- July 20, 2016

Use ice cream to make fraction sundaes. Can you make an ice cream sundae that is one-half vanilla and one-half chocolate? What about one-third chocolate, one-third vanilla, and one-third strawberry? Can you cover a scoop of ice cream with one-quarter each nuts, sprinkles, cookie crumbs, and gummy bears? Or can you eat a bite of ice cream that is one-half chocolate, one-half



vanilla? For older children, calculate the percentage of each ice cream flavor in the sundae.

### **9) Invent and Sell a New Recipe.**

For a summer beverage, have your children create a new summer recipe and share it with family and friends. For example, the Citrus Sizzler: 1/2 cup Sprite, 1/2 cup pineapple juice, 1 spritz lime juice. Next, have your children draw pictures and write about the new product. How would they describe it? Would they recommend it or not? For older children, they can create an advertisement to sell it to others.

### **10) Map the weather.**



For this experiment, your children become the scientists. They will record what they observe including temperature, humidity, clouds, precipitation, wind, and air. Then they will study the data. Have them make and write predictions what the weather will be like for the next week.

Use what they already know. What season and month is it? Where do you live? If you live where the climate is dry, you might not expect much rain. If it's summer, you might expect it to be hot every day.

Now comes the observation part of the experiment. At the end of every day, allow them to write down what the weather was like that day. Write down how hot or cold it was, how cloudy, and if there was rain or snow. Include anything unusual or something

unexpected, like fog or hail. Did the weather change during the day?

At the end of the week, have them compare their prediction with what they actually recorded. How they you do? Was the weather a lot like what they predicted, or were there some surprises? Click here to get more weather activities for kids <http://www.niehs.nih.gov/>.