

Summer Fun!

Many of you have asked me for ways to help your student move forward through the summer. Below are my top 10 suggestions to reduce screen time and keep summer fun and relaxed, while also engaging brains! Choose something for reading and something for math each day! 45 minutes will go a long way!

1 READ ALOUD Revival PREMIUM

[Join Read Aloud Premium](#)

Click the link above to go to Read Aloud Premium. Look through the whole page! This is the paid-for portion of Sarah Mackenzie's read aloud revival. It is the best money you can academically invest for the summer (really all year). You will have a book to read aloud (or listen as an audible) each month, and great family activities for the books all year long. Really, she's fabulous. So are her activities. It's for your whole family. There's even a Mama book if you have time or the inclination!

2 Play card Games.

[This website lists 10 basic card games](#) for your family to play. You may not think this is "real" learning. It is. You are taking turns, building strategy, developing thinking skills, and having fun. These are things that build relationships and pull your student away from screens. Conversation happens during games!



4 Roll 3 dice.

See who can make a math problem with the 3 numbers to get an answer the closest to 21. Add, subtract, multiply, or divide the dice. Use 12-sided dice for an extra challenge!

3 Bake Cookies

Baking is fun while working on reading skills, math skills, following directions, paying attention, and finishing a task. You will again build relationships, and have a yummy treat! If your child has allergies or a gluten intolerance, this is the time to look for an allergy friendly recipe!

5 Read Aloud Every Day

If you take 15 minutes to read aloud even 4 days a week, you will clock 12 hours of modeling great language for your child by the end of the summer. After you read, ask ONE of these questions after you read: "What was your favorite part? What happened? Who was your favorite character? Who was brave?" This will help your child start organizing their thoughts with language. It will help their writing more than any curriculum you can buy! If you don't believe me, listen to this podcast about [nurturing competent communicators](#). Don't feel like you have to always read a chapter book, though those are good! There are some great picture book biographies and other great picture books listed in the [Read Aloud Revival Booklists](#), which are free! Sometimes these books have better language than many chapter books, and the pictures help your child follow the story and be able to retell what happened. This applies to your junior high kiddos too! The [Barb Rosenstock picture book biographies](#) are fabulous!

6 Practice Drawing Skills

Drawing improves fine motor skills and helps with handwriting. Sometimes it's more fun to draw than write! Many drawing tutorials can be found in Clip Art books or drawing books for kids or YouTube videos. I especially like the [Art Hub for Kids YouTube videos](#). Grab a piece of paper and a pencil and draw alongside your student! Talk about what you're doing and encourage practicing drawing the same thing several times. Stress progress over perfection! We will be studying animals around the world, so you might try learning some specific animals to draw. [Here is a book to get you started!](#) Watching you try will give your student the courage to try!



7 Start a Journal

Let your student choose a fun notebook... a spiral in their favorite color or with a fun cover works just fine and is inexpensive! Keep a Summer Journal. It can be a sentence written about something that happened each day. A sentence about something they read. A sentence stating why they are grateful. Anything works! Just encourage them to take a few moments and write a sentence. You can challenge them to write a sentence that answers at least 3 of the Wh- questions and How?

**Who? What? Where? When?
Why? How?**

Schoolhouse Friend Days

Come to The Schoolhouse for a movie, snacks, and games!

Monday/Wednesday Class:

June 4, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
June 17, 1 p.m. -3:30 p.m.

Tuesday/Thursday Class:

June 4: 1-3:30 p.m.
June 17: 10:00-12:30 p.m.

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July/August Dates will be published in June!

9 Play a New Board Game

Board games are a great way to build relationships, social skills, thinking skills, and reading/math skills. Some of my favorites: [Prime Climb](#), Rummikub, Sorry, [TransAmerica](#), and [TransEuropa](#). A fun educational game site is [Simply Fun!](#) Simply Fun has great educational games for all ages! Look for one that might suit your family!

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10 Put Together a Jigsaw Puzzle

Jigsaw puzzles come in all kinds of shapes and with all kinds of pictures. Take a few nights and work on one together! I find that 300-piece puzzles are manageable with adult help. Look for ones with distinct parts to the picture. [Here is a fun one!](#) Puzzles teach perseverance and spatial skills!!!

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