

How to Avoid the Summer Slide

Upper Elementary & Middle School

Summer is rapidly approaching! You have worked so hard all year long to teach your students so many vital skills that will help them for years to come. The summer slide is a dreaded reality; we don't want our students to slide back into bad habits, or worse, to slide or regress in their learning. The best way to retain all of the amazing knowledge learned this school year is to keep going this summer.

Oftentimes, summer activities are geared towards younger students, which is why I have created resources for upper elementary and middle school students. No matter their age, most students experience a loss of skills each summer. There are things that we can do to help avoid this loss and keep skills sharp and ready to use when the new school year starts.

What is the Summer Slide?

A loss of skills learned during the school year. A lack of daily practice can cause students to forget skills.

How to Avoid the Summer Slide

Continue daily practice throughout the summer.
Encourage students to work their cognitive “muscles” through critical thinking, problem solving, and review of skills learned during the school year.





Dear Parents and Guardians,

Summer is almost here! A great way to keep students' skills sharp is practice! With so much going on at home, I have some easy suggestions to help your student read, write, and practice math skills.

You might have heard of the term "Summer Slide." Essentially, what the "Summer Slide" means is that students can slide, or regress, in regard to their learning and what knowledge they retain. In fact, students could lose between 20 and 30 percent of their learning over the summer. To learn more about this topic, please check out [Summer Learning Loss: What We Know and What We're Learning](#).



There are many things that students can do during the summer months to prevent this from happening! I have some realistic strategies that can be implemented all summer long. I have also included different types of trackers to help encourage students, and possibly offer an opportunity to celebrate or reward students as they meet their goals. I know that the summer can seem overwhelming; a lot is going on, and with students not in school, it can feel daunting to find things to keep busy. I am hopeful that these tools can help students to practice their skills, read, and avoid the summer slide.

Thank you, and have an amazing summer,

READING

★ **Participate in your local library's summer reading program.**

- A great way to track your reading
- Great incentives and prizes when you reach a milestone
- FREE!

★ **Read at least 2,000 minutes this summer!**

- Use the teacher-provided tracker
- Invest in a digital bookmark to help track your time
- 30 minutes a day will help you to exceed this goal

★ **Read Along with an Audiobook**

- Check out the LIBBY app (all you need is a library card to access tons of free audiobooks)
- Audible
- Read aloud with a friend or family member

★ **Start a Family Book Club**

- Host weekly Book Club meetings
- Set a goal to read a new book every three weeks
- Take turns choosing the book

WRITING

★ **Read!**

- Reading is known to improve writing, so keep reading every single day

★ **Journal**

- Gratitude Journal -Bullet Point Journal -Traditional journal

★ **Rewrite the Ending**

- Rewrite the ending of your favorite book, movie, or television show

★ **Author a children's book**

- Create your own picture book and share it with your sibling, family, or a neighbor

★ **Create your own board game**

- Be sure to write out extensive directions about how to play the game



How to Avoid the Summer Slide

Parent Resource

MATH

★ **Utilize FREE math online resources -**

Khan Academy

<https://www.khanacademy.org/>

-Math Playground

<https://www.mathplayground.com/math-games.html>

-IXL <https://www.ixl.com/math>

★ **Math Workbook**

-Dollar Tree—choose this year's grade level to review and practice skills

-Summer Bridge Workbook

★ **Hands-on Projects with Math**

-Baking and Cooking

-Build something: bird house, model car, LEGO

-Puzzles and board games, fantasy

baseball (check out the book on Amazon)

-Practice mental math while driving in the car

2,000 MINUTES of READING

Color in a square for every 20 minutes you read.

20	40	60	80	100	120	140	160	180	200
220	240	260	280	300	320	340	360	380	400
420	440	460	480	500	520	540	560	580	600
620	640	660	680	700	720	740	760	780	800
820	840	860	880	900	920	940	960	980	1000
1020	1040	1060	1080	1100	1120	1140	1160	1180	1200
1220	1240	1260	1280	1300	1320	1340	1360	1380	1400
1420	1440	1460	1480	1500	1520	1540	1560	1580	1600
1620	1640	1660	1680	1700	1720	1740	1760	1780	1800
1820	1840	1860	1880	1900	1920	1940	1960	1980	2000

What are you working towards?



Family Book Club

Topics, Questions & Conversation Starters

Parent Resource



Questions About the Book:

- ★ Why did you choose this book?
- ★ Is it fiction or nonfiction?
- ★ Any predictions about the outcome based upon the book summary?

Questions to Ask After Each Chapter:

- ★ What was the major problem or issue in this chapter?
- ★ Any words or phrases that were new to you?
- ★ Which characters can you relate to?
- ★ Which characters are you not a fan of?
- ★ What do you think will happen next?
- ★ Did you see any figurative language?
- ★ Are there any themes or lessons in this chapter?

Questions to Ask When You Finish the Book:

- ★ Do you feel satisfied with the ending?
- ★ Does the book cover match the story?
- ★ Was the major problem solved?
- ★ How do you relate to the story?
- ★ Did anything surprise you?
- ★ Would you read another book by this author?

Book List

- ★ _____
- ★ _____
- ★ _____
- ★ _____



SUMMER BINGO

Write a Letter/Email to a Friend	Read for 40 Minutes	Complete an Online Math Lesson	Read for 20 Minutes	Complete an Online Math Lesson
Choose a Recipe and Double It (write it out)	Complete a Building Project Using Math	Read for 20 Minutes	Complete a Journal Entry	Place Your Books In ABC Order
Complete an Online Math Lesson	Read for 20 Minutes	FREE	Write 5 Things You are Grateful For	Read for 20 Minutes
Complete One Math Worksheet/Page	Free Choice: _____	Read for 40 minutes	Complete One Math Worksheet/Page	Complete a Journal Entry
Read for 20 Minutes	Write an Alternate Ending to Your Fav. Story	Complete One Reading Worksheet/Page/Lesson	Free Choice: _____	Read for 60 Minutes

5 in a row earns:

Blackout Bingo earns:



SUMMER BINGO

		FREE		

5 in a row earns:

Blackout Bingo earns: