

CERF/Title I Parent Connection

Marilyn Erickson
CERF coordinator/District Reading Coach
763-792-6219 merickson@isd12.org



“Reading
is a
discount
ticket to
every-
where”

~Mary Schmich

May/June—another year almost over

Our last full week of school is now ending for the 2009-2010 school year. As adults we thought we'd never get comfortable saying two thousand ten (2010), but our school children have never known a time that wasn't named two thousand something.

Adjusting to a new reality can be both a time of excitement and challenge. Summer vacation brings a time of change for everyone—parents, students and teachers. There is the excitement of new activities, new schedules, and new routines. The challenge may be in maintaining a balance between enough activity or quiet time,

enough free choice or directed activities, enough good food or junk food, and reading or TV-video games or something else.

As a parent, there is much you can do to structure your child's time to help them maintain a balance between activities.

This issue has a variety of things you can do to help keep your child's reading skills engaged over the summer. We all need a vacation from our jobs. School is a child's job. They need a vacation, but they also need to make sure they don't lose the skills they've worked so hard to learn. You

can help prevent Summer Slump.

What is Summer Slump?

Summer Slump is the drop off in test scores from spring to fall. Take a look at your child's benchmark report. Look at their spring scores and then their fall scores. It is normal to see some drop. If you see a regular drop between every grade, you will want to think about what you can do over the summer to help your child maintain their reading skills.

5 Pillars of Reading Instruction and You

Now that you know of the 5 pillars of reading instruction—what can you as parents do to support them for your child? Here's a brief reminder of each and a parent idea for you.

1. Phonemic Awareness—the sounds that letters and words make—*Read and recite nursery rhymes and play rhyming games with your child*
2. Phonics—the connection between letters and sounds—*Point out letters in words and have your child play alphabet games*
3. Fluency—the ability to recognize and read words instantly—*Read, read, read - books at your child's independent level—books they can read on their own.*
4. Vocabulary—words that we speak, read and understand their meaning—*Talk about what words mean and explain new words to your child. Talk and listen to their ideas.*
5. Comprehension—the ability to understand and explain what has been read—*Ask questions about who the characters were, where the story happened, or what the problem and solution were. Ask them to explain why they think something happened or to retell what a story or movie was about.*

Read
with
your
child
every
day!

Summer Classes

Summer Jam classes will be held at Centennial Elem and Centerville Elem, August 9-26, 8:30-11:00 am. These classes are open to students who have just finished first—fourth grade and will provide skill enrichment at your child's level. This activity-based program is free, but there is no transportation provided. Parents are responsible for transportation to and from the school sites. Students need to be referred by their classroom teacher. If you feel your child may benefit from this program, be sure to contact your child's classroom teacher as soon as possible.

Parents are Partners in Literacy

“So please, oh
PLEASE, we beg,
we pray,
Go throw your TV
set away, and in its
place you can
install,
A lovely bookshelf
on the wall.”

~Roald Dahl
*Charlie and the Chocolate
Factory*

Math and Literacy

What can you do to keep your child's math skills sharp over the summer? Play games! Many games involve counting and math skills. Just as you have your child read each day, make time to reinforce math every day too! Here's a few examples:

Checkers—strategy
Candyland—counting
Battleship—counting,
Strategy, coordinates
Tangrams—geometry, shapes
Bingo—number recognition
Dominoes—number recognition
Uno—strategy
Monopoly—money

Daily activities

—many daily activities offer opportunities to practice math skills. Try to include your child in activities that involve measurement, estimation, money exchange and other math skills. Try one of these each week—
Cooking—measurement
Building—measurement, estimates
Shopping—counting, make change, estimate
Planning—estimate, time lines
Organizing—sorting, ordering

Online Resources for Reading and Math

Children don't think that when they are working on the computer they are reading. They see it as fun and challenging. There are many online resources available to children that can give them much needed practice on basic skills. Each elementary school has its own homepage that has links to grade appropriate websites and games. Visit your school's homepage and click on parent resources. You will know that sites listed here are

safe and good for your child to visit. They will have learned how to navigate many of the sites during the school year.

A few additional sites to try include:

- <http://superkids.com>—lots of reading, vocabulary and math games
- <http://www.colorincolorado.org>—games and info in both English and Spanish

- <http://coolmath4kids.com>—math skills
- <http://magpo.com/kidspetry/playonline.cfm>—vocab and poetry
- <http://www.readingrockets.org>—reading information and games
- <http://www.funbrain.com>—reading and math skills
- <http://mathplayground.com>—math games and skills
- <http://www.ixl.com>—math skills

Spotlight on Parents—YOU are needed!

Parents are a child's first and most important teacher. What you do and say impacts your child more than anyone else in their world. Teachers know that when parents are involved and connected to what their children are learning—children always do better.

We need your help to keep your child's reading and math skills sharp over the summer. Please try to set aside time

each day to work on reading and/or math. Make it fun—play games and think outside the box. Read with your child. Point out how reading, writing and math help you do your job. Help them to see how they use reading, writing and math every day. Take them to the library and find books they are interested in. You do make a difference!

**Thank
You for
supporting
your
child's
reading!**