



# Preparing for Summer

During summertime your kids are active but not necessarily hitting the books. Kids that don't engage in any learning activities over the summer lose 2 1/2 months of the prior school year. Those that do retain knowledge and gain an additional 3 months of academic skill. Below are suggestions for summer fun learning activities..

## Summer Activities for Kids Keep the Kids Engaged Over the Summer and Improve Learning Skills

One way to keep your child's brain active and learning is to be a bit sneaky about it. Put learning into the physical activities your kids are doing.

For example, create an obstacle course for your kids where they have to:

- follow directions
- do a language activity like rhyming words
- count their jumps
- skip count
- throw bean bags
- keep their balance while using homemade sand-pail stilts

They can even keep track of how long it takes them to get through the course.

Doing this type of Obstacle Course is going to improve 22 areas of the brain including:

- Auditory Memory
- Eye Hand Coordination
- Motor Skills
- Laterality
- Directionality

Those specific areas actually directly impact reading skills, writing skills, and math skills.

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## Ancient Chinese Proverb

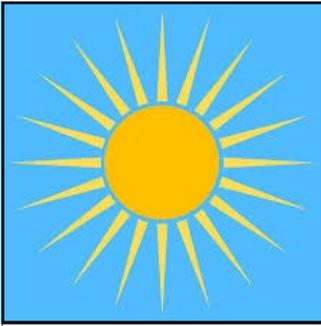
*I hear and I forget  
I see and I remember  
I do and I understand*

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*Children are emerging  
excutives and parents are their  
primary teachers of life-long  
learning skills*



**Proverbs 19:21-** *There are many devices in a man's heart; Nevertheless the counsel of the Lord, that shall stand.*



# Preparing for Summer

## Summer Activities for Kids While on the Road

- ABC scavenger hunt or looking for abc's in order on road signs when you are doing a road trip
- Spell words from road signs when on a road trip
- You can keep lists of how many different kinds of animals you see
- Additionally, take picnic lunches with you and when you stop for lunch, go to a local park instead of the fast food places. In the town you are traveling through, look for a local park. Let your kids run around and play while you get the lunch ready. Be sure you take a ball with you so at a minimum you can play catch. Take photos of the lunch spot. When your kids get back in the car you can talk about the favorite thing about that lunch spot. You can compare one park to another on subsequent days of the trip or compare one rest stop with another. That will improve their observational skills as well as their comprehension skills - the ability to compare and contrast is a higher level comprehension skill than just noting specific details.

For more family activities, download our [BT Family Activity Book](http://www.bonnierrylearning.com/family/). (LINK: <http://www.bonnierrylearning.com/family/>)

So you can see, doing a few simple summer activities for kids can really make an impact on their learning skills!

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*...research showed that more teens tried drugs for the first time in June and July than at any other point in the year...Knowing that children are more likely to try drugs during the summer than in any other season, moms and dads should add a healthy amount of structure to their kids' days. -(See more at: [## Create a Family Summer Plan](http://www.phoenixhouse.org/news-and-views/our-perspectives/summertime-</a></i></p>
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### I. Objectives and goals for being purpose-driven

- Identify household jobs to help build life skills (train kids to be in charge)
- Family time together (establish nights for dinner/other activities)
- Activities and projects that promote personal growth in self-governance and independence

### II. Summertime House Rules

- Age-appropriate boundaries for leaving the home (hours and distance)
- Social activities (criteria for spending the night and having overnight guests)
- Cyber safe house rules (see handout from 2013 February event)

### III. Prepare a family schedule and priorities

- Household jobs to be done/Dinner time/bed time
- Priorities (caring for younger siblings, pets/preparing meals, etc.)
- Volunteer activities
- Identify and explore passions/interests

#### **Proverbs 19:21**

*There are many devices in a man's heart; Nevertheless the counsel of the Lord, that shall stand.*

### Resources:

*What Color is Your Parachute*, by Richard Bolles

*A Teen's Guide to World Domination: Advice on Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Awesomeness*, by Josh Shipp

*A Google World in the Garden of Eden: Five Family Safe Strategies for Texting and Social Media*, by Joanna Jullien



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