

SUMMER LEARNING LOSS

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO TO PREVENT IT



NATIONAL
SUMMER
LEARNING
ASSOCIATION

SUMMER LOSS DEFINED

Findings from a 1982 John Hopkins University (Karl Alexander) long-term study in of 800 children.

Disadvantaged students make similar academic gains during the school year as their better off peers.

During the summer months, the disadvantaged students maintain skills or fall behind, losing 2 to 3 months of knowledge.

Better off students build skills during the summer months.

These losses are cumulative.



WAYS TO INCLUDE LEARNING IN SUMMERTIME FUN

**WHAT IS SO FUN ABOUT READING,
WRITING, MATH, AND SCIENCE?**

MAKE TIME FOR LEARNING

- 15 to 30 minutes per day.
- Join summer reading groups at the public library.
- Set up little rewards for consistent reading.
- Keep a chart to see accomplishments



LEARN AND PRACTICE AFFIXES

Prefixes

again **re** not

opposite of **dis**

re **un**

dis

A prefix is added to the beginning of a word to make a new word.

Make flash cards with parents at a volunteer work session or at a Make and Take workshop.

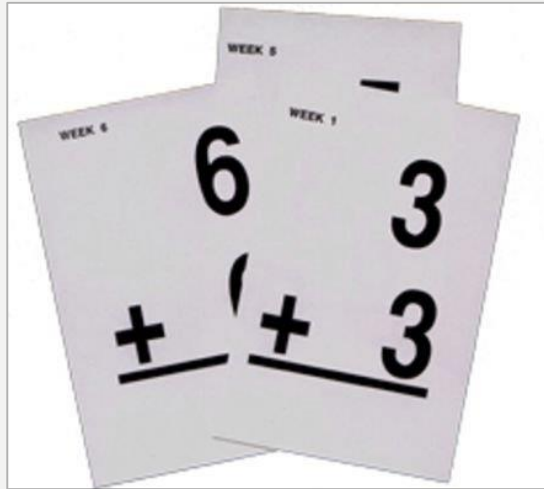
Suffixes

ful full of

without **less**

A suffix is added to the end of a word to make a new word.

DEVELOP MATH SKILLS



- Just doing 3 or 4 problems each day keeps the “rust” away.
- Make small math challenges.
- Keep a checklist.
- Get the whole family in on the game.

OR

$$3x + 2y - z = 1$$

$$2x - 2y + 4z = -2$$

$$-x + \frac{1}{2}y - z = 0$$

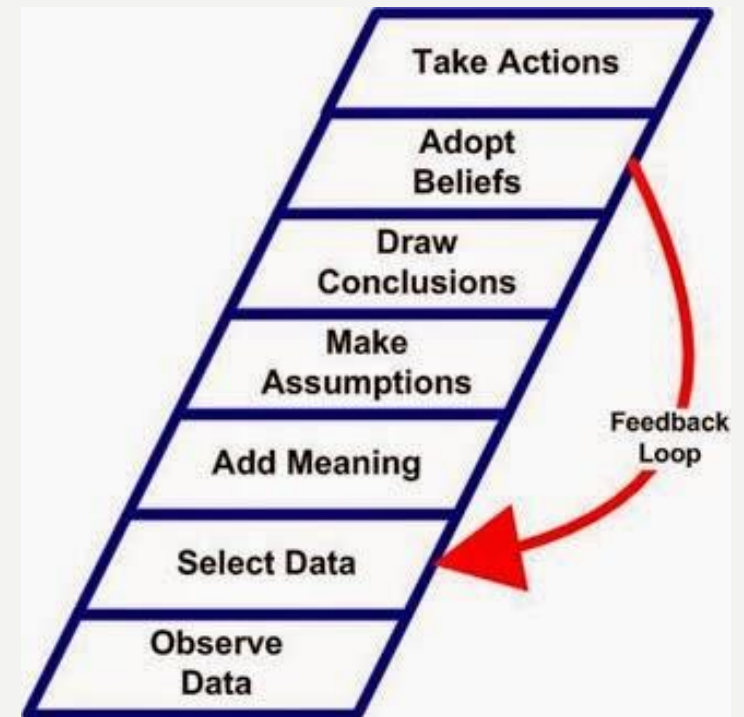
IMPROVE READING COMPREHENSION

Suggest parents purchase reading comprehension workbooks that can be found at teacher supply stores or online outlets.

Would a community partner be willing to purchase a few for various grade levels?



High interest stories support fact-retention and inference-making .



REVIEW AND BUILD GRAMMAR SKILLS



- Ask teachers to provide a general list of the past grade's grammar concepts.
- Find workbooks or get a few worksheets from teachers at a Make and Take or Volunteer Work Session for the next grade level.
- Do a little review each week and pre-learn two to four concepts.

ENCOURAGE CREATIVE WRITING



How about one creative paragraph each week?

Or make a short book about the summer.

Make a list of topics together (examples: the family vacation, the family vacation that almost happened, an interesting story about extended family members, an event that happened in town once, a special holiday, etc.)

Use the first draft to change a few common words to make it more interesting. Use a thesaurus.

FOCUS ON SPECIFIC SKILLS

- Parents are their child's first teacher and know them better than anyone else.
- Use the summer to give a little extra attention to the subjects that students struggled with during the school year.
- Work with parents to create a unique packet for their child's use the summer months. Use the internet and teacher supply stores for materials and ideas.
- Make a plan for helping all students hold onto the knowledge and skills they worked so hard to attain during the school year by doing a little every day. 15-30 minutes per day is all it takes.



Seven Ways to Prevent Summer Learning Loss. Barbara Dianis. Edutopia, June 11, 2013.

8 GREAT RESOURCES TO PREVENT SUMMER LEARNING LOSS

Reading

- Playkidsgames.com (www.playkidsgames.com/member-homepages.php?d=7590)
- We Give Books (www.wegivebooks.org)
- Education.com (www.education.com/seasonal/summer-reading/)
- Opposite Ocean app (iPad, iPhone, iPod Touch)
- Sum Dog (www.sumdog.com/en/teachers/)

Math

- MAP Math (www.sowashco.k12.mn.us/ro/pages/studentlinks/map/)
- TenMarks (<https://www.tenmarks.com/summer-demo>)
- Math Champ app (iPad, iPhone, iPod Touch)



VIRTUAL FIELD TRIPS BY GOOGLE

If families and their children cannot make it to museums and other places of interest during the summer break, try taking an eFieldTrip!

<http://www.efieldtrips.org/support/whats.cfm>