NATIONAL SUMMER LEARNING ASSOCIATION

Summer Spells **SUCCESS**

What parents can do to keep kids sharp over the summer

Set goals and issue a challenge

Understand your child's interests

Communicate with teachers and caregivers

Create intentional learning experiences

Engage kids with creative, low-cost activities

Sustain routine and structure

Set limits and communicate expectations

- **Locate a summer program that fits your budget.** Programs offered by schools, recreation centers, universities, and community-based organizations often have an educational or enrichment focus.
- **Head to the library. It's a great, free resource.** Check out books that interest your child. Participate in free library summer programs and make time to read every day.
- **Focus on communication.** Encourage your child to discuss or write about the books he or she is reading, or keep a journal of favorite events and activities during the summer.
- **Take advantage of local amenities.** Take free or low-cost educational trips to parks, museums, zoos and nature centers.
- **Explore and learn.** If you are taking a day trip by car, choose a place with an educational theme. Camping is a low-cost way to get outside and learn about nature.
- **Give math meaning.** Measure items around the house or yard. Track daily temperatures. Add and subtract at the grocery store. Learn fractions while cooking.

- **Play outside.** Power down the TV and electronic games and, instead, seek out or organize physical activities that contribute to healthy development.
- **Do a community service project.** Teach your child how to volunteer in your community. Cleaning up a local park or collecting supplies for an animal shelter builds compassion for others as well as community pride.
- **Keep a schedule.** Continue daily routines during the summer with structure and limits. The key is providing a balance and keeping kids engaged.
- **Prepare for fall.** Find out what your child will be learning during the next school year by talking with teachers at that grade level. Many schools prepare summer packets of activities highlighting math and reading skills for the next grade level. Preview concepts and materials over the summer.

Find out more at: ***www.summerlearning.org***

© 2010 National Summer Learning Association. Reproduction of this original work permitted for personal, non-profit, and non-commercial use without further permission.