

# CERF/Title I Parent Connection

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The good news is you can help your child prevent the Summer Slump. It is even possible to accomplish this in an enjoyable way; Keep the activities informal and fun! Read on to learn how!

## Children become readers on the laps of their Parents.

~Emilie Buckwald

### Get Ready to Prevent the Summer Slump

Summer vacation is not so far away. It brings a time of exciting change that welcomes a lot of outdoor playtime for children (and hopefully some for adults as well). The challenge may be in maintaining a *balance* between *outdoor fun* and *educational activities*. If this balance is not maintained, your child may experience the Summer Slump. According to Ron Fairchild from Johns Hopkins University, a child can experience up to *two months of learning loss* over the summer if s/he is not engaged in educational activities. This learning loss is known as the Summer Slump. The brain is like any other muscle; if you don't use it, you lose it!

### Ingredients for a Successful Reader

See the READING RECIPE below. You can't add too much of any ingredient to create a fabulous reader. Just make sure you include them all!

- Phonemic Awareness**—the sounds that letters and words make—*Read and recite nursery rhymes and play rhyming games with your child*
- Phonics**—the connection between letters and sounds—*Play letter*

*games: Scrabble Slam, Upwords, Boggle, Banana-grams, What's Gnu, keep magnetic letters on your refrigerator.*

- Fluency**—the ability to recognize and read words instantly—*Read, read and reread - books at your child's independent level, poetry, lyrics to their favorite songs, listen to books on CD*
- Vocabulary**—words we speak, read and understand

their meaning—Never underestimate the power of conversation!—*Talk about what words mean, discuss topics that are interesting to your child, play games: Blurt!, Outburst Jr., Apples to Apples Jr., Name-its.*

- Comprehension**—the ability to understand and explain what has been read—*Ask questions about the characters, the*

*Problem/solution, how the story relates to your family.*

- Writing**—It creates a stronger reader!—*Encourage your child to keep a journal, create stories, write grocery lists, email friends and relatives*



## Outside Resources to Consider



- Local Library Summer Reading Program
  - Community Education Classes
  - The YMCA Day Camps
  - Educational trips to local parks, museums, zoos, etc.
  - Scholastic's Online Summer Challenge
  - Encourage your child to use his/her online Compass Learning program
  - Hire a summer Tutor- Call the secretary for details on hiring a staff member
- from your child's school.
- Hire an older neighbor/cousin to come over and read with your child.
  - Go to your school website and practice games listed in the grade level computer lab link

Reading is a  
discount  
ticket to  
everywhere

~Mary Schmich



## 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

## You're Invited!

### Parent Class on Preventing the Summer Slump

Come and learn even more ways to help your child avoid the summer slump! Watch for details coming soon.

Blue Heron—June 8– Grab and Go  
8:00-9:30 AM

Centennial—May 3– School Library  
4:30-5:30 pm

Centerville— May 18—Parent and Child  
8:15-9:00 AM

Golden Lake—June 2—Parents & Book Fair Too  
4:00-6:00pm

Rice Lake—May 11

CERF Parent Day

Join your child during their regular CERF time

Mark your  
calendars for  
this important  
date!

