

# Summer Learning and Enrichment Activities



It's almost summertime and the fun is just to begin. The kids will soon be out of school and ready for a break. Does this mean they should take a break from learning too? This is the question parents must face every year. When the regular school schedule comes to a close, it is up to parents to pick up where the teachers left off, or allow the kids to have a break until school starts again. Idle Minds Forget! The time off between school years gives children time for relaxation and fun, but it also causes a lull in learning that allows them to forget a significant portion of what they have learned. A lack of educational reinforcement during the summer makes it necessary to spend time catching up by reviewing previous instruction when school reconvenes. Here are some easy and fun activities to help your child improve their skills or for enrichment.

## The following are some suggestions for summer learning ideas and activities:

- **Museums, zoos, and historical sites**

Add an educational twist to summer trips by visiting museums, zoos, and historical sites. This offers kids a chance to learn about history and a little bit about the world they live in. The Sedgwick County Zoo offers a variety of weeklong summer camps for children ages 4 and up.

- **Visit a library**

Take several trips to the library during the summer. Any topic that interests your child will help build and maintain reading skills. Encourage your child to read in leisure time. If you are able to find topics that will be studied in the coming year, reading will be even more productive. Both the Haysville Library and the Wichita Library branches offer fun and exciting summer reading programs.

- **Play number and word games – Board games and Card games**

Number and word games can help children to form relationships to reading and math. Younger children can get practice with building words and spelling. When possible, turn off the video games and get the kids to play some of these. Children also learn many skills playing board games and card games. Visit garage sales and discount stores to find new games to play with your children. These games teach problem solving skills and also reinforce good character traits such as teamwork and sportsmanship.

- **Explore Safe Web Sites**

There are many good educational web sites on the internet. Help your child to explore safe web sites with good educational content. Many sites have games, stories, and other fun activities that make learning seem like play. **The following is a list of sites recommended by Oatville teachers:**

[www.gamequarium.com](http://www.gamequarium.com)

[www.starfall.com](http://www.starfall.com)

[www.kidsnewsroom.com](http://www.kidsnewsroom.com)

[www.funbrain.com](http://www.funbrain.com)

[www.sheppardsoftware.com](http://www.sheppardsoftware.com)

[www.usd261.com/RuthClark](http://www.usd261.com/RuthClark) then select Computer Lab

[www.si.edu/kids](http://www.si.edu/kids) (Smithsonian Institute learning site)

[www.arcademicskillbuilders.com](http://www.arcademicskillbuilders.com) (great fun arcade games with academic emphasis)

- **Educational workbooks**

Workbooks are available for children with daily activities that correspond to their grade level. These books can either provide a broad spectrum of academic subjects or specific subjects in which your child may need improvement. Many of these workbooks have daily assignments that can be completed in an hour or less. These books are an excellent starting point for summer learning. They are available at local bookstores and variety stores or online book dealers.