

Ways Your Child Continues Learning over the Summer by Having FUN!

True False When school ends for the summer, children stop learning.

False. Children know more when they begin school the following fall than when they left for the summer *as long as families and caregivers keep working with them in each of the areas below.*

Here are just a few ideas to help your child learn. YOU will think of more.

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Feeling good about yourself and others is important to learning. Children who are confident about their abilities and who like being with others will probably enjoy being in school. You can help....



Play kindly with pets with your child.



Let your child spend time with friends-- young and old.

APPROACHES TO LEARNING

How your child learns is important. Children who are successful in school enjoy learning. You can help....

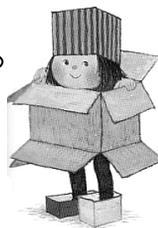


Offer your child chances to explore things that he—and you—are interested in. For example:

- Clean, or repair, your car together. Your child hands you items that you need—great for vocabulary.
- Cook together—lots of math occurs here.

Give your child jobs to do that you know she *likes* to do. Make sure to notice her good work.

Give him opportunities to be creative. Save such things as boxes, toilet paper rolls and string. Watch what he creates!



Encourage singing—some children like to make up the words, others like to perform for friends.

COMMUNICATION

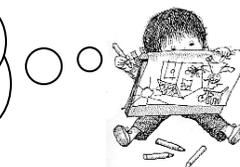
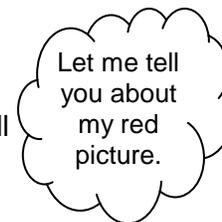
Communicating clearly with others is important—and difficult for young children. You can help....



Tell your child stories—some of their favorites are about when you were little.

Have your child 'read' you a story—go to the library.

Give your child many chances to draw, scribble and write using different tools such as pencils, crayons and markers. Have her tell you about either what she is doing, or about what she has done.



Just sit and listen to your child. Ask him questions that he cannot answer in one or two words.

THINKING AND GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Children learn many things about the world before they go to school. You can help your child learn....



Remember those places that you enjoyed going as a child? Take your child there.

- Trips within your town or neighborhood can be learning experiences.
- Go to friends' homes, to the store or park.
- Go fishing, swimming or camping.

Explore the outdoors:

- Blow bubbles.
- Plant a garden.
- Run through the sprinkler.
- Take a walk in the woods.
- Catch lightning bugs.



Illustrations from: *Oh, What a Busy Day!*
by Gyo Fujikawa (Grosset & Dunlap, 1976)

East Missouri Action Agency, Head Start