

Happy Summer!

Summer is often filled with sports camps, family visits and plenty of down time. This is great for kids to have the change of pace and time to be creative. At the same time, it is possible for kids to experience what is known as the “Summer slide”. This is when students lose academic skills, mostly in the areas of math and reading, and then experience setbacks when they return to school in the fall.

Here are some ideas and resources for you to use to support your child ... and minimize or even defeat “the summer slide” and help your child exercise the [pre-frontal cortex](#) :)

Math:

- Use [Reflex Math](#); if your child was using Reflex Math during this school year, it is available throughout the summer
- Navigate to our homepage and use the Students tab to find [Cool Math Games](#)
- Create a “Daily Four”. This is a simple format to practice one question for each operation (at your child's level of understanding, of course). Older students can certainly add, subtract, (group) multiply and (share) divide.
- Engage with word problems such as those available on [mathstories.com](#)

Reading and Writing:

- Ensure your child explores and/or independently reads every day for at least 20 minutes. Older students in Grades 4 & 5 should read for 45 minutes.
- Encourage your child to keep a journal; you can do a shared journal by writing your response to a show, movie or book: say what it made you think about, who a main character reminds you of, what you think might happen next in the story,... Then have your son or daughter answer you in writing.
- Require your child to ask for things via written request: “Dear Mom and Dad, I am writing to you to request ... (for example) ice cream after supper. We should definitely have ice cream because...”
- Any Lochside student who was using [Lexia](#) reading this year can continue to use it throughout the summer. You will have to set up your home computer by using Mrs. O'Leary's school email: [joleary@sd63.bc.ca](mailto:joleary@sd63.bc.ca)
- For younger students, explore the reading opportunities on Bailey's Book House which is available through the [Learn Now BC web site](#)
- You can find apps which provide great stimulation and practice of basic skills. Most are free downloads through iTunes, and many are also available for android devices. Here is a list of hot-linked apps:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b><u>Alphabet and Letters</u></b></li><li>• <a href="#">Letter School</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Writing Wizard</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Wee Sing</a></li><li>• <a href="#">ABC Ninja</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Endless ABC</a></li></ul>	<b><u>Apps for Stories- most of these are free</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">I Like Books</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Story Time</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Mee Genius</a> – this one has read-along narration</li><li>• <a href="#">Big Cat Series</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Tumblebooks</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Read Me Stories</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Sleeping Beauty</a></li></ul>	<b><u>Story Creation</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="https://toontastic.withgoogle.com/">https://toontastic.withgoogle.com/</a></li><li>• <a href="http://www.teacherswithapps.com/app_reviewstoontastic-jr-shrek-movie-maker/">http://www.teacherswithapps.com/app_reviewstoontastic-jr-shrek-movie-maker/</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Big Cat series (create a story after reading one)</a></li><li>• <a href="#">MadLibs</a> – you can</li></ul>
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		download the free version of this app for some fun story writing and reading
<p><b><u>Photo Books</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Pictello</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Little Story Maker</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Story Maker</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">PicCollage</a></li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Vocabulary</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Amazing Match</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Mini Adventures Let's Go</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Mini Adventures Music</a></li> <li>• Mini Adventures Let's Go and Learn the Alphabet</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Fun</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">How to Draw</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Virtuoso- keyboard</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Doodle Dandy</a></li> <li>• Uno</li> <li>• Let's Spot</li> <li>• Toca Boca</li> <li>• Peek-A-Boo</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Social Skills</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Social Express</a></li> <li>• Going Places</li> <li>• <a href="#">Between the Lines 1 and 2</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Emotionary by Me.Mu</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">S.E.E.</a> - this is an app for practicing interpreting facial expressions and understanding emotions</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Self-Regulation</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Bloom</a> – musical app – you touch the screen and a tone sounds along with a blooming spot of colour. You can layer sounds and colour.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Smiling Mind</a> – Mindful Moments</li> <li>• <a href="#">Humming Timing</a> -a timer that can end a reading session or quiet moment with a song from your music library.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Enchanted 1</a> – guided meditation for little ones</li> <li>• <a href="#">Take a Chill</a> – a full suite of tools to track your level of optimism, cue you to use positive thinking and more.</li> <li>• <a href="#">The Zones of Regulation</a> - many of our classes use the Zones program- a very accessible way for kids to identify their emotions and use a tool for calming.</li> </ul>	

Wishing you all a great summer – we are looking forward to seeing you here at Lochside in September!