

# Five Resources for Family Engagement: Helping Families Prevent Summer Learning Loss

Summer is a perfect time for students of all ages, races/ethnicities, nationalities, and socio-economic levels to strengthen and reinforce their academic skills and still have ample time for summer activities. You are in a key position to inform your parents about the dangers of summer learning loss and to share fun and interactive activities that their children can do at home and in their communities which will help to prevent summer learning loss. These five free resources will provide you with tools to collaborate and share resources with families in your programs.

- 50 Creative Ways to Prevent Summer Brain Drain** This article shares fun ideas for reading and writing, places to go, interactive websites, and activities that students can do alone, with friends and/or family members. This article can be easily shared with your families. Just press the printer icon and you'll have the option to print one page or to create a PDF. <http://ww2.kqed.org/mindshift/2011/07/01/50-creative-ways-to-prevent-summer-brain-drain/>
- Keep the Summer Learning Going - Interactive and Fun Websites**  
Tap into these websites to provide interactive, fun activities for kids this summer.
  - **National Geographic Kids** <http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/>
  - **Discovery Kids** <http://discoverykids.com/explore/>
  - **Young Explorers** [http://www.britishmuseum.org/explore/young\\_explorers/play.aspx](http://www.britishmuseum.org/explore/young_explorers/play.aspx)
  - **NASA Quest** <http://quest.nasa.gov/>
  - **Time for Kids** <http://www.timeforkids.com/>
  - **Smithsonian Kids Collecting** [http://www.smithsonianeducation.org/students/idealabs/amazing\\_collections.html](http://www.smithsonianeducation.org/students/idealabs/amazing_collections.html)
  - **Smithsonian Digging for Answers** [http://www.smithsonianeducation.org/students/ideaLabs/digging\\_for\\_answers.html](http://www.smithsonianeducation.org/students/ideaLabs/digging_for_answers.html)
  - **My Wonderful World (Smithsonian)** <http://www.smithsonianeducation.org/mywonderfulworld/>
- Summertime Reading Adventures** Reading is Fundamental (RIF) stresses the importance of reading during the summer months and helping students of all ages discover the joy of reading. They provide "Ten Weeks of Fun: RIF's Summer Reading Calendar." <http://www.rif.org/assets/Documents/parents/Summer.pdf>
- What Parents Can do to Keep Kids Sharp over the Summer The National Summer Learning Association gives parents and families tips on how to engage their children during the summer months.**
  - **English** [http://www.summerlearning.org/resource/resmgr/program\\_resources/2010.parenttips\\_en.pdf](http://www.summerlearning.org/resource/resmgr/program_resources/2010.parenttips_en.pdf)
  - **Spanish** [http://www.summerlearning.org/resource/resmgr/program\\_resources/2010.parenttips\\_sp.pdf](http://www.summerlearning.org/resource/resmgr/program_resources/2010.parenttips_sp.pdf)
- Tips for Parents to Engage Teens in Summer Learning** This article shares tips for keeping high school students engaged during the summer months in order to prevent summer learning loss. <http://www.usnews.com/education/blogs/high-school-notes/2012/05/02/3-tips-for-parents-to-engage-teens-in-summer-learning>