



IDEAS to go...

Calendar of Learning

It's important to supply students with activities that will keep their skills sharp over the long summer break. Also important is for parents to realize the value of reading with their young children every day. To encourage summer learning, I post online activities and materials like *Mathstories* and send home a summer calendar of daily suggestions that includes the following information:

Suggestions for reading and using the public library, along with a list of activities in the local library's children's department.

The district's summer reading packet, along with titles of suggested chapter books.

Ideas and directions for keeping a summer journal of events, trips, and stories.

Encouraging parents to follow through with the plan is essential. I remind them that learning should be fun, not burdensome, and that it can happen in everyday activities.

Maureen Corrigan-Connell, Multiage Teacher, Montessori School 11, Yonkers, NY

Specialized Summer Learning

On the last day of school, my department's teachers send students home with *Summer Bridge Activities*™ to help them prepare for the next grade level. In the special education department, each student receives activities to practice the skills he or she is working on as stated in the Individualized Education Program (IEP) goals or based on the Gifted Education Program (GIEP) goals. The answer key is removed and the teacher uses it to check the work when the student returns in the fall. Parents can sign the certificates at the end of the workbooks to verify that students completed the assignments. In the fall, teachers reward students who turn in the activities with healthy snacks or supplies, such as special pencils or cool bookmarks.

Ella Macklin, Special Education Services Coordinator & Teacher, Urban League of Pittsburgh Charter School, Pittsburgh, PA

Nontraditional Book Report

To give students a change from traditional book reports, I have had them make a notebook of favorite quotes from each book and either explain why they liked the quotes or give another reflection about the quotes they chose.

Dolores Pinchot, former K-16 biology educator, Cleveland, OH

Summer Prep

Send your start-the-year-right ideas to NewsEditor@kdp.org,
and have a great summer!