

# Summer Learning Adventures



Whether staying close to home over the summer or traveling further, summer learning loss can happen to your kids. To keep them engaged and happily learning over the summer, try these fun summer learning ideas!

## Local Adventures

**Pond Visits** – Ponds are a great place to look for tadpoles, frogs, and small fish. Look for footprints in the mud and try to identify them.

**Stories** – Many local bookstores offer free storytelling that is very entertaining.

**Play Ball!** – Triple-A baseball games are inexpensive and a great place to practice math by tracking the score with the scoreboard.

**Farmer Fun** – The farmer's market is a terrific place to find new favorite treats and explore. Try letting your child handle the money to buy different items. Let them figure out how much money to give the vendor and estimate what their change might be. Talking with vendors is another opportunity to build skills.

**Neighborhood Time** – Our neighborhood agreed on a common study time (before 10am) so pressure to play was not so strong. We all use the ThinkStretch Summer Learning Program and have a fun medal ceremony every year.

**Visit the Library** – Participate in your public library's summer reading program. Public libraries are the best place to find books for every child during the summer. Remember, kids who choose their own books read more than children who are given books to read.

## Just Read, Read, Read, Read!

**Go Outside and Play** – Simple outdoor games are often the best. From wall ball to water balloons, time spent outdoors keeps kids healthy and builds all kinds of social skills.

## On the Road

**Driving** – While driving (on vacation especially), keep a log in the car and record all the different state license plates. While the kids learn how to spell states, talk about from how far away they have come and where the state is located. You can also talk about what other states "touch" the state they have logged.

**Map Reading** – Have a child read a map and tell you how far it will be to the next exit or to your destination.

**Find Home** – Take a bike ride and then have your child use his sense of direction to find a different way back home. You can do it when driving too. Can the kids give directions to get home from wherever you are by using words such as left, right, north, and south?

**Take Educational Trips** – Most museums, zoos, and science centers have a free or reduced entry day of the week. You can plan ahead for your trip by seeing if tours or previews are offered at the facility.



*Content contributed by Donna Lasinski. She is the mother of three sons and the author of the ThinkStretch Summer Learning Program, an award-winning curriculum for elementary students.*

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