

Education NEWS & NOTES

Incorporating Learning Into Summer Fun

(NAPSA)—For children, learning is an ongoing process—one that continues even after the last bell of the school year. Just because families are gearing up for fun, sun and relaxation, that doesn't mean educational activities can't be incorporated into vacation plans.

Educators remind parents that time off from school shouldn't mean a vacation from learning. Research shows that the pre-frontal cortex of the brain is growing during the first 20 years of a child's life—and so the child should always be nurturing, fueling and exercising his or her brain. A lack of learning activities during the summer months could result in lost stimulation during a critical development period.

"It is just as important for children to participate in learning activities that exercise their growing minds as it is to be involved in physical activities that keep their bodies healthy and strong," says Andrea Pastorok, Ph.D., education specialist for Kumon Math and Reading Centers.

Dr. Pastorok recommends the following activities that incorporate learning and engage a child's brain:

Reading and Writing

- Encourage your child to read aloud to a family member each day
- Write letters together and send to grandparents or friends
- Visit the library weekly, inquire about special events

Math

- Build a kite with your child, cut and measure shapes. Take the kite out for a test flight

• Teach your child to keep score. Review batting averages or other statistics from the sports pages

Science

- Help your child plant some flower or vegetable seeds and chart their growth



With a little creativity, parents can make year-round learning fun for their children.

- Take walks in the neighborhood or a park, learn about native plants and animals

History

- Share stories about the history of your family, and work together to draw a family tree
- Research the founders of your town, and visit historical sites

Art

- Tour an art museum or art exhibit at a county fair
- Encourage your child to draw a picture and give it to a neighbor or friend

Music

- Provide children with household items and let them make their own instruments
- Help them write a song and perform it together

No matter what you do, always find something genuinely positive to say to your child every day.

Kumon Math and Reading Centers is an after-school supplemental education program that helps students strengthen math and reading skills, increase confidence and develop study skills that last a lifetime. To learn more, call 1-800-ABC-MATH or visit www.kumon.com.