



Summer 2012 Newsletter

Fighting Summer Learning Loss

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Students can lose much of their learning during the summer if their minds are not engaged. Some experts tell us that learning loss can be as much as two to three months. Any teacher can tell you that quite a bit of time in September is spent re-teaching material—math skills, reading strategies, history facts, writing rules, spelling techniques—that students have lost over the summer.

Summer is a time for slowing down, not shutting down. But creating the right balance between summertime idleness and summertime over-scheduling isn't always easy. Fortunately, there's a lot of time in the summer, and for most kids there's enough of it to build lasting seasonal memories *and* for keeping up those skills they're going to need when the new school year begins.

Here are some easy tips for keeping your child's brain stimulated and body active during the summer months.

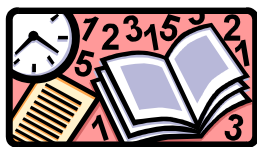
- **You're in charge.** Summer is a time for relaxation, hobbies and fun. But that doesn't mean you want your children's minds to be turned off, or worse, turned to mush from too much staring at electronic screens. It's okay for you to insist that they read occasionally, learn something new, and keep up their math skills in fun ways.
- **Keep reading.** The world is full of interesting topics, and can be read about in books, magazines, online sites, and other outlets. Read together. Go to the library regularly. Create lists of books you've read together—put them on construction paper chains and festoon the room. Act out favorite scenes. Read chapter books together; if there's a movie, watch it afterwards. Keep it informal and fun. Talk about your favorite books.
- **Keep learning.** Summer learning should be fun. Allow your child to learn about things that weren't studied during the school year. Encourage them to discover new interests and talents and to share these new interests with you—summer is a great time to discover untapped potential and interests.
- **Keep up interests.** Participate in special sports, hobbies, games, travel, arts, etc. Talk and write about them.
- **Keep counting.** Math skills are always important. Show how you use math daily—in the kitchen, in the car, at the office, at a restaurant, in your gardening, as you watch or play sports, and at the mall. Have your child help you shop for groceries by looking for good deals; plan for the family vacation by mapping out various routes—the shortest, the most scenic, the one that includes everyone's favorite sites; figure out tips at restaurants; measure for a garden; save a certain percentage of allowance.
- **Keep them writing.** As a family, keep a summer journal, either a hard copy or online. Have everyone write a few lines each day about important and not-so-important events—the weather, the rainfall, the consecutive sunny days, the growth rate of the tomato plants. Write about favorite movies, TV shows, sporting events, people you've visited or who have visited you, neighborhood news and events, new friends, school plans for next year. Include poems, short plays, drawings, video and photos.
- **Get plenty of exercise.** Summer weather is perfect for outdoor fun, exercise and imagination. Encourage plenty of outdoor play, scavenger hunts, sports, bike riding, hiking, community exploring, and imaginative fun.

- **Relax the school-year routines.** Routines put structure and reliability in children’s lives, but some of them routines can be relaxed during the summer. Children still need the safety and comfort of routines, but you and your family can decide which routines are able to be relaxed. If that last report card says your child could benefit from a little academic encouragement, summer’s a good time to do this for a couple hours a week. If you decide to spend some time tutoring, leave plenty of time for other activities, too.
- **Be a good role model.** Show how you read for information and for pleasure, write for business or social purposes, and use your math skills when you pay bills or follow a recipe. Enlist your child’s help—even when you don’t need it—to give opportunities to practice skills.
- **Have family get-togethers.** Make time in your family’s schedule for regular dinners together, game nights, back-yard fun, and informal times for relaxed conversations.
- **Keep talking.** Children need to have plenty of conversation to keep their vocabularies and minds growing. There’s much research that reports stunning differences in working vocabulary between students exposed to plenty of stimulating, interesting conversation and kids without it.
Every once in a while talk about goals for next school year, especially if your child is making a transition to middle or high school, had some challenges this year, or has some personal goals that require your support and enthusiasm.
- **Keep listening.** Ask questions that show you’re tuned in to what your child is saying. Make occasional comments to share your point of view. Keep up with your child’s interests without being intrusive—just enough to monitor and to be supportive.
- **Look forward.** Talk about the promise and possibilities of the coming school year: new teachers; seeing old friends and making new ones; catching up; new extracurricular activities; new skills and knowledge.



Note: this article has been edited for length and clarity.

Sylvan Finals Prep



Now is a great time to add hours in preparation for finals.
We can help instill skills for test taking and maximize homework and review time when students bring in their daily assignments.

Hours fill up quickly, so be sure to give us a call and request your desired schedule.

**** Register for our Study Skills Day: Finals Prep ****
Saturday, June 9—9:00 am – 1:00 pm at the Bellevue center



Summer Seminars/Camps

Make the most of summer with Sylvan!

Advanced Reading

Our twelve-hour course doubles or triples reading speed and improves comprehension.

Bellevue: June 25 – July 2, or August 13 – 23

Renton: August 14 – 30

Sammamish: July 10 – 26 or August 7 – 23

Fit 4 Algebra

Our twelve-hour program gives students in grades 6-9 the opportunity to practice and learn foundational concepts and core skills for Algebra.

Bellevue: July 30 – August 9 *Renton:* August 6 – 14

Sammamish: July 16 – 25 or August 13 – 22

SAT Prep

Our **42-hour** SAT program starts with the twelve-hour Advanced Reading program. Sylvan SAT Prep is individualized to meet your student's needs, has strategies specific to the SAT, plus some content review. It prepares students for critical reading, math and writing—skills which will enhance overall success on the SAT.

Bellevue: June 25 – August 23

Our **30-hour** SAT program is individualized to meet your student's needs, has strategies specific to the SAT, plus some content review. It prepares students for critical reading, math and writing—skills which will enhance overall success on the SAT.

Bellevue: July 5 – August 23 *Renton:* July 11 – August 29 *Sammamish:* July 11 – August 29

Writing Camp

Our new writing camp for grades 4-6 and 7-9 helps your child learn strategic and creative writing techniques as they draft, edit & publish a website, newspaper article, narrative blog post and more.

Bellevue: July 16 – 26

Renton: July 9 – 24

Sammamish: July 9 – 24 (grades 4-6); August 6 – 21 (grades 7-9)



Study Skills: General

Our Study Skills—General seminar for students in grades 6-12 teaches note-taking techniques, organization skills, reading strategies and time-management.

Bellevue: July 25 or August 22; 4 hours
Sammamish: August 20 – 23; 8 hours

Renton: June 9; 4 hours

Study Skills: Note-Taking

Our Study Skills—Note-Taking seminar for grades 6-12 teaches note-taking, how to utilize notes, reading strategies and a variety of test formats and study techniques.

Bellevue: September 15

Renton: August 22

Multiply & Divide Math Camp

Students in grades 3-5 will improve their understanding of basic multiplication and division facts while increasing speed and accuracy.

Sammamish: July 30 – August 2

Reader's Workshop

Our 16-hour workshop is for students in grades 4-6 who wish to improve their reading strategies in order to read more effectively.

Sammamish: July 9 – 19

Solve This! Math Camp

Our math camp teaches students in grades 4-7 to become confident, analytical thinkers and problem solvers.

Sammamish: August 27 – 30

Visit our Facebook page for more useful information and educational links. You can find us by searching for Bellevue Sylvan Learning, Renton Sylvan Learning or Sammamish Sylvan Learning.





Dates to Remember:

Summer instructional hours begin **Monday, June 25.**

Bellevue:

M/W: 9 am – 1 pm, 4 – 6 pm

T/Th: 9 am – 1 pm

Saturday: 9 am – 1 pm

Renton:

M/W: 3:30 – 7:30 pm

T/Th: 9:30 am – 1:30 pm, 3:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Saturday: 9 am – 1 pm

Sammamish:

M/W: 9 am – 1 pm, 4 – 7 pm

T/Th: 9 am – 1 pm

Saturday: 9 am – 1 pm

Closed Days

We will be **closed for instruction** Saturday, May 26 – Monday, May 28 for Memorial Day.

We will be **closed for instruction** Wednesday, July 4 for Independence Day.

Days open in May

Mon/Wed: 2nd, 7th, 9th, 14th, 16th, 21st, 23rd, 30th

Tues/Thurs: 1st, 3rd, 8th, 10th, 15th, 17th, 22nd, 24th, 29th, 31st

Sat: 5th, 12th, 19th

Days open in June

Mon/Wed: 4th, 6th, 11th, 13th, 18th, 20th, 25th, 27th

Tues/Thurs: 5th, 7th, 12th, 14th, 19th, 21st, 26th, 28th

Sat: 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th

Days open in July

Mon/Wed: 2nd, 9th, 11th, 16th, 18th, 23rd, 25th

Tues/Thurs: 3rd, 5th, 10th, 12th, 17th, 19th, 24th, 26th, 31st

Sat: 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th

