



SPCS Students Beat the Summer Slide!

Part of having your child be a student at St. Peter Catholic School is keeping their skills sharp during the summer so they can hit the ground running in August. You, our school parents, are our partners in education. We “pass the baton” to you when summer arrives and encourage you to beat the “summer slide.”

Here are a few important facts you should know about the “Summer Slide”:

1. Learning or reading skill losses during the summer months are cumulative, creating a wider gap each year between more proficient and less proficient students. By the time a struggling reader reaches middle school, summer reading loss has accumulated to a two-year lag in reading achievement. ¹
2. Regardless of ethnicity, socioeconomic level, or previous achievement, children who read four or more books over the summer fare better on reading-comprehension tests in the fall than their peers who read one or no books over the summer. ²
3. Reading as a leisure activity is the best predictor of comprehension, vocabulary and reading speed. ³
4. Studies show that making sure there are always interesting books at home can increase the likelihood of a child being a frequent reader, especially among ages 9-11 and 15-17. ⁴
5. An overwhelming 91% of kids say they are more likely to finish a book they picked out themselves, with 86% of kids saying they feel proud when they finish reading a book. ⁴
6. Researchers have found that children growing up in homes with many books gain higher academic achievement than children from bookless homes, independent of their parents’ education, occupation, and class. ⁵

Think of it this way:
working with your child
in the summer
protects your
investment
you have made in your
child’s education up to
this point in their life.

Are we saying you should spend your entire summer forcing your kids to read books and practice math? Of course not. We are saying there are simple and rewarding ways to keep your kids from experiencing the summer slide, and we are here to help.

Tips to Beat the Summer Slide – from Scholastic.com

1. Let kids read what they want.

Children won't gain as much from summer reading if they aren't truly enjoying it. Nearly 60 percent of children ages 6 to 17 say they love or like reading books for fun a lot, and 52 percent think it's extremely or very important, according to the Scholastic Kids & Family Reading Report. Locally, Sheppard Memorial Library and Barnes and Noble have summer reading programs. Did you know that your child can get their very own library card at the age of 5? They feel very special having their own library card, which makes them want to visit the library even more.

2. Make time for smart play.

Games and puzzles are a great way for kids to brush up on the basics while having fun at the same time. Whether it's a game geared specifically toward teaching kids math skills or a learning activity that helps them brush up on vocabulary, there are countless ways to get children engaged and help them flex their brain power without turning it into a tutoring session.

3. Get out of the house.

Experts have found that novelty stimulates the brain and promotes learning. Visiting a historic site or even simply reading together at the park can help your child get more excited about reading and learning.

4. Use your imagination.

Kids who use their imagination are also expanding their vocabularies and experimenting with new concepts. Even though it may not seem like they're directly "learning" when they're crafting their own superhero capes with a superhero starter kit or dreaming up complex chain reactions with educational LEGO sets, they're still calling on familiar skills and developing new ones. You could even play "theater" and put on a show inspired by all of the great summer books you're reading together.

How to beat the SUMMER SLIDE

Have your child read for at least **20 minutes** every day.

Spend time **cooking** together.

Explore different kinds of **reading material** like picture books, chapter books, and magazines.

Make use of your **local library**.

Listen to **audio books** on summer car trips.

Read aloud with your children daily.

Review skills with fun, hands-on review activities.

Engage in **meaningful conversation** and help build your child's vocabulary.

Enjoy a **new hobby!**

Learn more about these great ideas at <http://blog.AllAboutLearningPress.com/summer-slide>

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