

# "Notes From School"

## Avoid The Summer Slide

Summer Slide can be defined as the loss of academic skills over the summer break. When kids don't read, work math problems, or aren't engaged in other learning experiences, their education doesn't continue and can actually regress.

Summer loss for all students is estimated to be equal to about 1 month in a school year (Cooper, 2006), but this varies across subject matter. Math sees 2.6 months of grade-level equivalency loss. Reading varies by Socio-Economic Status (SES). Low income students generally lose about 2 months of academic year reading achievement. Middle income students experience slight gains in reading performances.

According to Stephanie Johnson, founder of Little Scholars in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, here are ten ways to avoid the summer slide with your students:

- Read every day.
  - Read non-fiction, fiction, eBooks, poetry, newspapers and read out loud. For an independent reader, 20 minutes a day is usually a good amount of time to read. The local library is also open during the summer and has a wide array of programs with incentives and rewards.
- Cook with your children.
  - This is one of the best ways to integrate math, reading and following directions. Let your child design the menu, too. Help your child put together their favorite recipes in a cookbook.
- Plant a garden.
  - Your child will gain responsibility and pride as they watch their plants grow and thrive.
- Take a field trip.
  - Head to a museum, zoo, or local park. Keep a journal about your travels.
- Learn a new word each week.
  - Hang it on the fridge and see who can use it the most times throughout the week.
- Enroll in a quality summer program.

- Summer School at the School District of Mondovi offers a wide variety of course offerings from remedial to enrichment and from academic to athletic. This is our best effort to maintain the knowledge base attained by each and every student over the prior school year.
- Play quick games.
  - Flashcards like Math War or Concentration will keep skills sharp without a huge time commitment.
- Listen to audio books.
  - Take advantage of summer travel time by multitasking in the vehicle.
- Take pictures and make a summer scrapbook.
  - Encourage your child to write narratives to accompany the pictures.
- Make time to read.
  - It can't be said enough; if your child does nothing else this summer, make sure he/she is reading.