



Try these fun activities at home over the summer to prevent the “summer slide.”

Here are some fun literacy activities to play with your child throughout the summer break to promote learning and minimize skill regression.

Letter and Sound Identification:

Letter Jump: Lay index cards of different letters on ground. Have your child hop to different letters as you say the name of the letter to find. When he gets to the letter, have him provide the letter sound. This can be done with **high frequency words**, too.

Laser Letters: Lay index cards of different letters on the table. Have your child use a laser pointer to find different letters as you say the names. Have her provide the sounds once she has found the letters. As a variation, you can say the letter **name** or **sound**, and have your child use the laser to draw the letter on the wall. This can be done with **high frequency words**, too.

Phonological Awareness:

Say It and Move It: Using magnetic letters or letter cards (made from index cards), help your child practice “building” words. Start with a simple word like *mat*; then ask your child to create new words by moving the letters. For example, ask him change the word *mat* to *pat*; then *pat* to *pan*. Continue in this format using different beginning and ending sounds, then move to medial sounds (which are more difficult).

One-Minute Activities: While waiting in line or in the car, play these quick word games. Say a word and ask your child to remove a sound or syllable; for example “Say cupcake. Now say cupcake without cake (cup).” Once compound words are mastered, try leaving out individual sounds. For example, “Say cat. Now say cat without /c/ (at).”

High frequency words:

Bathtub or window crayons: Have your child practice writing or reading high frequency words using these materials. Put words on bathtub and have your child erase once he has read them correctly. You can dictate words to your child and have him write them correctly, too. Also try with shaving cream on shower walls. These activities can be done using sidewalk chalk on the driveway or window crayons on windows as well.

Go Fish: Write high frequency words on index cards. Write each word on two different cards. Mix the deck. Play Go Fish. Your child needs to read the word correctly in order to win the pair.

Flashlight Reading: Write high frequency words on a poster. At night, turn off the lights and shine a flashlight on each high frequency word.



Beginning Reading Skills:

Picture walk: Cover up the text and have your child describe what she sees in the pictures and make predictions about the storyline.

Listening passage preview: Read each page aloud before asking your child to read the page.

Vocabulary preview: Pull out difficult vocabulary terms or words that your child might misread and put them on index cards. Review the words prior to reading the story.

High frequency word preview: Look through the book for high frequency words that your child already knows before reading the book.

Reading Comprehension:

Guess the Covered Word: Cover a word in a story that the student should be able to figure out using context cues. Discuss how they figured out the word without seeing it. Uncover it and see if it matches.

Stop-Think Dots: Put colored dot stickers throughout a story book. Each color is associated with a different comprehension question. When the child reaches a dot, they need to answer a comprehension question about the story. For example, the following system could be used:

Red Dot: What is happening in the story?

Blue Dot: What do you think will happen next?

Yellow Dot: Do you like the story so far? Why or why not?

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