

SHARK TALES

Message from the Principal, Mrs. Axson

THANK YOU

THANK YOU to everyone who came out and volunteered for today's water/field day! Also, a huge shout-out and a big THANK YOU to the Knott's family for all the donations of the water slides and the dunk tank. Our students had an absolute blast!

We had 74 adult volunteers and 12 student volunteers today! We couldn't have done it without you!



Graduation is on
Tuesday, May 26th at the Shores Community
Center

Kindergarten is from
4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
and

5th Grade Graduation is from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00
p.m.

Please see the individual flyers that are at the
end of the newsletter for additional
information.

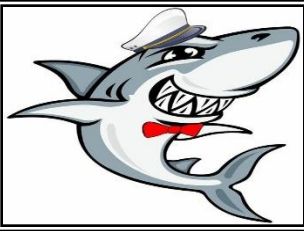
WALL OF FAME

Wall of Fame Word:
No Wall Of Fame!

Carter -
Maldonado -
Booe-
Montanez -
Amerling -
Dillingham -
Dube -
Kucharek -
Crawford -
Moon-
Egert -
Fish -

Last Week's Wall of Fame Word:
PERSEVERANCE

Carter - Nicholas Laurito
Maldonado - Mia Perez
Booe- Rylan Riherd
Montanez - Desmond Curry
Amerling - Nathaniel Glenn
Dillingham - Athena Jagdeo
Dube - Kassidee Perna
Kucharek - Manuel Bravo Munoz
Crawford - Lovell Galarza
Moon- Thomas Linnell
Egert - Mr. Egert's Entire Class
Fish - Ava Lopez



NEWSLETTER!



Remember that there is no school on Monday, May 25th in observance of Memorial Day!



Mrs. Axson had the privilege to accept the "Roots to Wellness Award" on behalf of Marion Charter School for being one of 4 schools that went above and beyond in using their FANS garden to inspire creativity and community engagement.



EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM

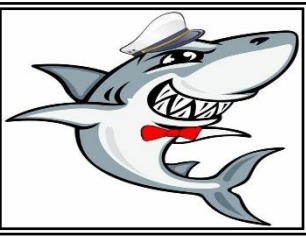
PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT ALL EXTENDED PAYMENTS AND BALANCES ARE TAKEN CARE OF BY TUESDAY, MAY 26th!



Please have your child draw a picture or write about what they would like to do this summer, and have them turn it in to Mrs. Axson as soon as they get to school to earn a special treat.

DON'T FORGET

Don't forget that next Tuesday and Wednesday are EARLY RELEASE days and that next Thursday, May 28th is an EARLY RELEASE DAY, LAST DAY OF SCHOOL, AND NO EXTENDED DAY!



NEWSLETTER!

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Please remember to keep your child at home if they are not feeling well. If your child has a fever, diarrhea, or are throwing up, they **MUST** be symptom free for 24 hours **WITHOUT** the aide of medicine before they can return to school.

If you have any questions, please call Ms. Tammy in the front office at 687-2100.

RESILIENCY SKILL FOR THE MONTH: May

RESPONSIBLE DECISION MAKING

Responsible decision-making is the ability to make good choices that are healthy for themselves and kind to the people around them. It involves slowing down to think about what might happen next instead of just acting on a feeling or what friends are doing. Check out this short video about responsible decision-making.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5hrWtoD3XWk>

A great story to read to your child about mentorship is "I Choose To Make Good Decisions". Click on the link to hear the story.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iPf91rf25Bc>

Resiliency Skills

The State of Florida has implemented resiliency skills and standards throughout all grade levels. These skills are intentionally designed to impart the value of resiliency in early grades, such as volunteerism, responsibility, and goal setting, and then support students as they demonstrate those concepts in higher grades. The standards embed concepts of civic responsibility through citizenship and mentorship to not only help students understand the value of these ideas but to actively engage in activities and exercises that will prepare them to be upstanding, responsible citizens.

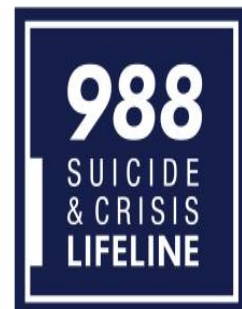


ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

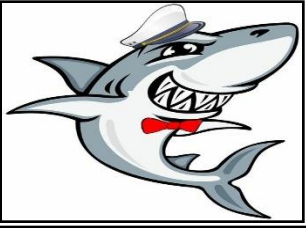
BE HERE! ON TIME! EVERY DAY! ALL DAY!

Our school mascot, Captain Clark the Shark will be visiting classrooms with the best attendance in the school each week! Ms. Wells will also be giving out \$5 Shark Bucks every day to a student in each grade level if they were here on time.

This Week's Winner: Ms. Crawford's Class



Text-A-Tip Hotline
352-877-2838



NEWSLETTER!

**THANK
YOU
FOR
MAKING
A
DIFFERENCE
EVERY
DAY.**



Upcoming Field Trips:

Thank you to all of the parents and families who chaperoned on our field trips this year! We appreciate all that you do for our school!

Please make sure that you have completed the Volunteer Background screening process through Raptor so that you can chaperone on field trips and volunteer for field day.

<https://apps.raptortech.com/Apply/MTE2NTplbi1VUw==>

Important Dates:

Monday, May 25th - NO SCHOOL! - Memorial Day!

Tuesday, May 26th - EARLY RELEASE DAY!
Kdg. Graduation @ 4:30
5th Grade Graduation @ 6:00

Wednesday, May 27th - EARLY RELEASE DAY!

Thursday, May 28th - EARLY RELEASE DAY!
LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!,
and NO EXTENDED DAY!

INFORMATION HIGHWAY -

PARENTS, WE WANT TO KEEP YOU INFORMED. SCHOOL INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND ON:

www.marioncharter.org

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

CONNECT TO YOUR CHILD'S CLASS DOJO



Just a reminder that NO ELECTRONIC DEVICES are allowed in the classrooms per our school policy. Children must turn in their phones and/or Smart watches in the office for safe keeping and at the end of the day, they may come pick them up at carline time.

FIELD DAY FUN!







Once an MCS Student,
always  





MCS Lunch Menu - May 2026

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Daily Milk Choices: White 1% Milk Chocolate FF Milk					1 Big Daddy's Cheese Pizza Mixed Vegetables Fresh Fruit
Menu options are subject to change without notice	4 Cheesy Mac. & Chicken Bowl Breadstick Roasted Carrots Fresh Fruit	5 Pizza Stromboli Fiesta Beans Mixed Vegetables Fresh Fruit	6 Chicken Sandwich Green Beans Roasted Carrots Fresh Fruit	7 Chicken & Rice Roll Black Beans Fresh Fruit	8 Big Daddy's Cheese Pizza Roasted Broccoli Mixed Vegetables Fresh Fruit
	11 BBQ Chicken Drumstick Macaroni Bites Mashed Potatoes Peas, Biscuit Fresh Fruit	12 Beef Walking Tacos Cheddar Dip Fiesta Beans Corn Fresh Fruit	13 Loaded Memphis Fries Roll Mixed Vegetables Fresh Fruit	14 Mandarin Orange Chicken with Dumplings Roasted Broccoli	15 Chicken Tenders Roll Crunchy Carrots Fresh Fruit
	18 Savory Beef Dunkers, Biscuit Mashed Potatoes Roasted Broccoli Fresh Fruit	19 Pork Taco Nachos Fiesta Beans Fruit	20 Cheeseburger Green Beans Fresh Fruit	21 Tortellini & Sauce Breadstick Mixed Vegetables Fresh Fruit	22 Turkey/Ham Croissants Crunchy Carrots Fresh Fruit Bagged Lunch for Field Day!
	25 NO SCHOOL! MEMORIAL DAY! 	26 Grilled Cheese Cucumber Slices Applesauce EARLY RELEASE!	27 Corn Dog Celery Sticks Fresh Fruit EARLY RELEASE!	28 Chicken Sandwich Goldfish Crackers Carrot Sticks Fresh Fruit EARLY RELEASE AND LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!	29 HAVE A GREAT SUMMER! 

CELEBRATE *America!*

Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.
June 2-Aug. 4

- June 2 K-9 Deputy Albi*
- June 9 Space Exploration with Discovery Center*
- June 16 Forest Adventures with Smokey Bear*
- June 23 Wild and Wonderful Florida*
- June 30 Theodore the Therapy Dog*
- July 7 Science Explorers! Survival*
- July 14 Ziggy's Haven Bird Sanctuary*
- July 21 The Story Beneath with Marion Soil and Water*
- July 28 Where in the World? National Parks*
- Aug. 4 Blast from the Past Bash*

Sharing our united spirit and stories. BreakSpot lunch served at noon.
Ages 5-12 with caregivers.



Bellevue Public Library

13145 SE Highway 484, Bellevue | 352-438-2500



A sign language interpreter, or help with other needs, may be provided with one week's notice.

When you enter a county-endorsed event or program, you enter a public area where photography, audio, & video recording may occur. For more info:



Program made possible by contributions from the Friends of the Bellevue Public Library





2026

*Kindergarten
Graduation*

**MARION CHARTER SCHOOL
TUESDAY, MAY 26TH AT 4:30**

**COME AND JOIN US IN CELEBRATING
THIS REMARKABLE FEAT!**

**LOCATION: SHORES COMMUNITY CENTER
590 Silver Rd. Ocala, FL 34472**

*Students graduating need to arrive by 4:00 to prepare. Please have your students dress up (Ex. pants and dress shirts/ dress or skirt with a dressy top). Students will be wearing a graduation gown over their outfit. Hair needs to be down in a manner for the caps to go on.

Thank you!



2026

**5TH GRADE
GRADUATION**

TUESDAY, MAY 26TH AT 6:00PM

**LOCATION: SHORES COMMUNITY CENTER
590 SILVER RD. OCALA, FL 34472**

**PLEASE HAVE YOUR STUDENTS DRESS UP
(I.E. BOYS-PANTS AND DRESS SHIRT; GIRLS- DRESS OR
SKIRT WITH A DRESSY TOP).**

**STUDENTS NEED TO ARRIVE BY 5:30, HOWEVER,
PLEASE KEEP IN MIND KINDERGARTEN GRADUATION
WILL BE FINISHING UP***

*****PLEASE DO NOT FIND SEATS UNTIL KG GRADUATION
IS COMPLETED*****

What could your kids gain (or lose) this summer?

Summer Learning



Summer Loss



Guidance & Care by Parents

Parents play a key role in filling the gaps for the child over the summer.



-2.6 Months in Math

Students will lose 2.6 months of math computational skills over the summer.

2 Months

of subject focused learning is all it takes to improve specific skills.



-2 Months in Reading

Students may lose 2 months of reading skills over the summer.



Consistency has a huge impact on student progress

- Progress of a student that **continued** learning during summer months.
- Progress of a student that **discontinued** learning during summer months.



-18 Months

By 6th grade, students can lose more than 18 months of learning due to summer learning loss.

Doing a little bit every day - even in the summer - is one of the cornerstones of the Kumon Method, and leads to long-term success!

KUMON

Grohne, A., McManis, J., Van Lankford, J. (2011). Closing the summer learning gap for vulnerable learners. *Early Child Development and Care*, Volume 181, Number 5, 575-585. doi: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/0304431903644321>

Schie, S., Alexander, K. (2012). Concentrating Summer Skills. *Journal of Educator for Students Placed at Risk (ESP&R)*, Volume 17, Issue 3, 165-185. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10824669.2012.686171>

Alexander, K., Ervold, D., Olson, L. (2007). Lasting Consequences of the Summer Learning Gap. *American Sociological Review*, Vol. 72, Issue 2, 161-180. doi: <http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0002124407313025>

Alexander, K., Ervold, D., Olson, L. (2007). Summer learning and its implications. *New Directions in Youth Development*, Issue 114, 11-32. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1002/yd.210>

Alexander, K., Ervold, D., Olson, L. (2007). Summer learning and its implications. *New Directions in Youth Development*, Issue 114, 11-32. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1002/yd.210>

Grigg, W., Daines, M., Jr., Y. (2002). *The Nation's Report Card: Reading 2002: National Assessment of Educational Progress*. NCEES 2002-321. doi: <http://nces.ed.gov/nationreportcard/pubs/nrc02/320321.asp>



Rising Stars Summer Success Guide

A quick and helpful guide filled with ideas to keep students learning, exploring, and ready to shine for the next school year.

Rising Kindergarten

Focus on early reading readiness, number sense, & independence.

Activities:

Practice naming letters and sounds
Learn to write name
Count objects to 10
Practice cutting, coloring, & holding pencils/crayons
Learn simple routines: washing hands, using the bathroom independently, opening lunch items
Read aloud daily

Rising Third

Focus on reading stamina, and building a multiplication foundation.

Activities:

Read 20 minutes daily
After reading, discuss characters, themes, and central ideas
Keep a daily journal
Practice 2s, 5s, and 10s multiplication patterns
Practice adding/subtracting two-digit numbers

Rising First

Focus on decoding, writing, and number fluency.

Activities:

Practice reading
Practice handwriting & writing simple sentences
Count to 120
Add/Subtract within 10 using real-life examples
Identify coins and their value
Read aloud daily

Rising Fourth

Focus on fluency, comprehension, fraction foundation.

Activities:

Read 20 minutes daily
After reading, discuss characters, themes, and central ideas
Write a summary about the reading
Practice multiplication facts 0-12
Compare fractions using visuals
Real-life math: recipes, measuring, dividing snacks

Rising Second

Focus on fluency, comprehension, and place value.

Activities:

Practice reading
Retell stories with beginning / middle /end
Play skip-counting games
Practice telling time to 5 minutes
Add/Subtract within 20 using real-life examples
Write a letter to a family member
Read aloud daily

Rising Fifth

Focus on comprehension, fraction / decimal fluency, and organization

Activities:

Read chapter books and summarize
Multiply whole numbers (up to 3 digit by 2 digit) and divide whole numbers (up to 4 digits by a 1 digit number)
Compare/convert fractions and decimals
Write opinion or informative pieces
Develop responsibility: Practice using planners or checklists



Visit the [Family Learning Connection](#) for additional activities.



Join the "Great American Summer Adventure" for more summer learning!





Rising Stars Summer Success Guide

A quick and helpful guide filled with ideas to keep students learning, exploring, and ready to shine for the next school year.

Easy Summer Activities to Prepare Students for Middle School

Build Independence and Organization

- Practice daily routines.
- Practice using a planner or calendar. Families can let students track their own activities or appointments.
- Give students small responsibilities like packing their own bag for outings.

Strengthen Reading and Vocabulary

- Encourage twenty minutes of daily reading. Graphic novels, magazines, and audiobooks all count.
- Encourage journaling while reading.
- Visit the [public library](#) weekly and choose high-interest books.

Practice Real World Math and Problem Solving

- Have kids estimate totals while shopping and compare them to the receipt.
- Cook together and follow a recipe. Cooking reinforces measurement, fractions, sequencing, & perseverance.
- Let them manage a small budget for a treat or outing.
- Play strategy games like Uno, Yahtzee, or checkers.
- [Math Activities for Families](#)

Strengthen Digital Skills

- Have students practice typing, organizing digital folders, and writing short emails to family.
- Review online safety expectations together.
- Let them complete a small independent project like creating a slideshow about a personal interest.

Encourage Curiosity and Exploration

- Watch a short educational video together and discuss one thing learned.
- Take nature walks and use a notebook to record observations like weather, plants, or animals.
- Visit a [local museum](#), park program, or [community event](#).
- Read about [science topics](#) and discuss what you read.

Prepare for Middle School Routines

- Buy a planner and begin recording daily events
- Talk through what multiple teachers and class transitions will look like.
- Organize a study space at home and let the student help design it.

Explore Civic and Community Engagement

- Read about [Florida's Civics & Government Education](#) and explore the ideas and activities together.
- Visit a local landmark, historic site, or city building such as the library, city hall, or a courthouse open house, and discuss who works there and what they do.
- Practice respectful conversation by taking turns, listening fully, and using phrases like "I see it differently because" or "I agree with you when you said."



Easy Summer Activities to Prepare Students for High School

Strengthen Independence and Time Management

- Encourage students to manage their own daily schedule that includes sleep, chores, and personal goals.
- Practice using a planner or calendar to map out weekly commitments.
- Promote responsibility by letting students handle their own planning and preparation.

Build Academic Readiness and Literacy Skills

- Aim for daily reading in any format.
- Have students summarize what they read to build comprehension.
- Introduce simple note-taking practices during videos or articles.

Strengthen Real World Math, Problem Solving, and Life Skills

- Encourage them to calculate how long everyday tasks will take and plan backward from a deadline.
- Have them read and interpret simple charts or graphs from daily life, such as weather apps or sports stats.
- Ask them to check whether answers from a calculator make sense based on the situation.
- Encourage students to tackle real-life problems by brainstorming more than one possible solution and comparing which option works best.

Build Responsibility, Self-Advocacy, and Wellness Skills

- Help students practice communicating with teachers, asking for help, and managing their own work.
- Support stronger organization and study habits by identifying strengths, needs, and simple routines.
- Encourage social confidence and well-being through activities, healthy coping skills, responsible tech use, and consistent sleep habits.

Encourage Curiosity and Exploration

- Try citizen science projects
 - [iNaturalist](#) (biodiversity observations)
 - [Zooniverse](#) (classifying galaxies, wildlife, medical images, etc.)
 - [NASA GLOBE Observer](#) (clouds, mosquito habitat mapping, trees)
- Volunteer for a Local Environmental or STEM Activity
- Learn to Use a New Digital Tool
 - Excel/Sheets for graphing
 - Canva for scientific diagrams
 - PhET simulations
 - Free coding sites (Scratch, Blockly, or Python intro platforms)
 These tools strengthen data manipulation and modeling skills.

Prepare for High School Expectations

- Tour the high school campus, if possible, check out school [websites](#) for orientation dates.
- Review graduation requirements in simple, family friendly language.
- Help students set goals for the school year, one academic, one organizational, and one personal.

Explore Personal and Financial Literacy Topics

- Practice basic budgeting by planning for small purchases, comparing everyday costs, and thinking through saving vs. spending.
- Talk about real work expectations such as the time commitment of a part-time job and how to balance responsibilities with school.
- Introduce simple money management by exploring checking/saving, interest, and solving real problems like choosing fair or efficient options.

Explore Civic and Community Engagement

- Encourage students to volunteer at community organizations, local events, [parks](#), [libraries](#), or schools.
- Visit local government buildings or historic sites to learn about community roles and decision-making processes.
- Guide students to identify a community issue they care about and brainstorm one realistic action step they could take with adult support.



Prevent the SUMMER SLIDE!

Did you
know?

READING OVER THE SUMMER is crucial to
student SUCCESS and HAPPINESS in the fall.

5 Ideas and
Tips for
Summer Reading
with Kids

"Knowledge is power."

SIR FRANCIS BACON

Reading just 4-5 books during the summer can prevent a decline in a child's fall reading scores.¹

Teachers spend an average of 4-6 weeks re-teaching material that students have lost during the summer.²

Students who participated in summer reading programs entered the following school year with a positive attitude about reading, were more confident in the classroom, read beyond what was required and perceived reading as important.³

1. Sign up for your local library's summer reading challenge.
2. Ask your librarian or teacher for a list of good books.
3. Start a book club with friends, neighbors or family.
4. Find a Little Free Library near you, or start one in your area. Visit littlefreelibrary.org.
5. Get a free Bibliosium account to see peer book reviews and reading challenges. Visit bibliosium.com to join!

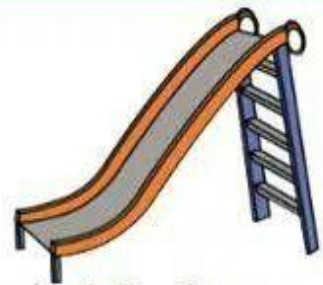
<https://www.learningally.org/Blog/PostId/774/plan-battle-summer-slide-struggling-readers>

Ron Fairchild, Executive Director of the Johns Hopkins University Center for Summer Learning

<https://www.today.com/parents/prevent-summer-learning-loss-your-kids-wbna13388617>

<http://www.sj.com/2010/11/students/summer-reading-programs-boost-student-achievement-study-says/>

Tips for Preventing the Summer Slide



Studies show that children who do not read or have access to books during the summer lose up to 2 months of reading performance. Those losses accumulate during the elementary school years so that by the time a child enters middle school he/she may be 2 1/2 years behind! All children, whether from low, middle or upper income families, may fall victim to the “summer slide” if not provided with summer reading opportunities. So how do we prevent the summer slide-or even accelerate reading growth? Here are a few ideas:

1 Visit your local library! Help your child find “right fit” books. Right fit books are books that are of high interest to your child and are not beyond their reading level. You can use the five finger test to determine if the book is too difficult for your child. Open the book to a page with many words. Have your child begin reading the text. Hold up a finger for each word he/she does not know. If you have 4 or 5 fingers up, the text may be too difficult for your child to read independently. Feel free to still check out the book! It just may be a book you want to read with your child.

2 Be sure your child reads at least 20 minutes a day. According to research, a child who reads only 1 minute a day outside of school will learn 8,000 words by the end of sixth grade where a student who reads 20 minutes outside of school will learn 1,800,000 words! That’s huge! If reading isn’t one of your child’s top priorities, you may need to set up an incentive program.

3 Set a good example. When your child sees you reading and enjoying a book or a newspaper article, you are sending a message that reading is important and valuable.

4 Read to your child. When you read to your child, he/she hears the rhythm of language. Be sure to read with expression! Changing your voice for different characters and increasing your volume during exciting parts are only a few ways to keep children engaged.

5 Read with your child –explore different types of reading such as poetry. For our little ones, poetry is a great way to improve phonemic awareness skills as poetry often incorporates rhyme. For our older children, poetry is a means of improving fluency.

6 Read for different purposes. Reading directions for a recipe or directions for assembling a toy are fun ways of incorporating reading into everyday activities.

7 Play games with words. Commercial games such as Apples to Apples improves vocabulary. You can easily turn a game of hopscotch or 4 square into a game that incorporates learning letters or sight words. Be sure to check out the “8 Super Summer Sight Word Activities” on the Make, Take & Teach blog.

8 If you have access to an iPad, there are tons of interactive books and apps that address phonics and early reading skills. There are also many websites that offer free reading related games.

Have a happy and healthy summer! Be sure to read, read and read some more! Not only can we prevent the summer slide, we can accelerate reading growth.



For more teaching ideas and activities be sure to visit our blog! www.blog.maketaketeach.com

10 Ways Parents Can Fight Summer Reading Loss

1 Set a specific time for daily reading

When you set aside a specific time each day for reading, it becomes part of the daily routine. When something is done routinely it makes it less likely to be forgotten. I love that for my own children reading at night is as routine as putting on their pajamas and brushing their teeth.

2 Let your children see you reading

Literature-rich homes have a myriad of reading material around, from all sorts of books (picture, chapter, nonfiction, and fiction) to newspapers, magazines, and electronic reading materials, etc. Just last week as I was standing in the kitchen holding a book, my son Brady (age 4) said to my daughter Marykate (age 3), "Oh great, Mommy has another book she won't stop reading so she can feed us." I laughed because they were anxiously awaiting a snack, but what they were seeing instead was a true passion for reading that I hope will inspire them to be avid readers themselves. They were just going to have to wait!

3 Talk with your children about what they are reading

Letting your children know that you are interested in what they are reading can be very motivating for them. Even if you are not familiar with the book, you can ask about the characters, the problem, or have your kids share something new they learned. At this point in his reading life, my son starts answering questions (without me asking) as soon as we close a book we have read together. While I am thrilled that he knows that thinking and talking about books is important, I also try to make sure that I keep reading fun and don't turn it into a chore.

4 Have a reading area

Make a special place in your home that is a reading nook. Have a variety of books and periodicals available there. You do not need to buy these reading materials. Instead, borrow them from your local library. At my home, we seem to have books in every room of the house, but I also have a cozy pillow or chair next to my children's bookshelves in their playroom where they enjoy looking at books on their own.

5 Visit the library

Go to your local library regularly throughout the summer. Not only can you check out reading material, but most local libraries also have many fun reading programs and activities to encourage summer reading. My kids love to go to our library—honestly, it's mostly to do crafts—but we always get a stack of books while we are there, too.

6 Reading to your child

Reading to your child is so important. It is a great way to model fluency and enjoy a good book together. I personally love to act out the books with my children. (Sometimes, I am not sure if they are laughing at me or with me!) Children can also read aloud to their siblings or to the whole family—even to a patient family pet.

7 Have writing supplies available

Writing is an important part of the language arts. Additional practice with writing is beneficial to all children and manipulating the text they are reading helps them remember more of it. Keep the writing fun! Some ideas include writing a letter to your favorite character in a book, writing a "sequel" to a story you love, or drawing and writing a graphic novel version of a book. Younger kids could draw pictures or make collages of images that "go with" the books they are reading.

8 Get audio books or listen to books online

Your local library should have a variety of audio books available for children and adults. It can also be a nice change of pace to listen to and watch stories online. Several actors, actresses, sports heroes, and musicians have participated in websites that post celebrities reading books out loud. My children just love to listen to books. Their favorite is Click, Clack, Moo, by Doreen Cronin, as read by Randy Travis.

9 Start a book club

Get your child's friends together and pick a book they are all interested in reading. Have them meet once or twice a week to discuss what they have read—you may want to help them set reading targets if they are reading a chapter book. For example, they could aim to read two or three chapters a week. If they choose a book from their summer reading list, the discussion may also help them with comprehension. My own children are too young to be part of a book club, but I can't wait until they are old enough to have one of their own.

10 Carry books with you

Having books with you at all times is a great way to pass the time when you have a few unexpected minutes. Keep a supply in the car or in a tote bag. I have books in the pockets of the seats in my car. This way, when we're out on the road my kids can grab a book whenever they want.

SUMMER BREAK SPOT

SUMMER MEALS START WITH US

Summer planning starts earlier than you think. When school's out, routines change, and knowing what support is available can make the summer easier.

Summer BreakSpot is a statewide program that helps serve no-cost, nutritious meals to Florida kids and teens during the summer months. Meals are offered at welcoming community locations like libraries, community centers, and schools, with **no application or paperwork required.**

Signing up means you'll stay informed on when sites open near you and how Summer BreakSpot can support your family when summer arrives.

It's a simple, reliable option to keep in mind as summer approaches.



Scan or visit to sign up for
summer updates:



SummerBreakSpot.org



Florida Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services
This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

101 FUN WAYS TO KEEP KIDS LEARNING ALL SUMMER LONG

- ⊙ **read everyday**
- ⊙ bake cookies
- ⊙ **act out a story**
- ⊙ create with playdough
- ⊙ **make sock puppets**
- ⊙ create a puppet show
- ⊙ **pop popcorn**
- ⊙ send a postcard
- ⊙ **grow a vegetable**
- ⊙ grow sunflowers
- ⊙ **visit an art gallery**
- ⊙ visit a museum
- ⊙ **look at the stars**
- ⊙ make a marble maze
- ⊙ **examine a rockpool**
- ⊙ ride a train
- ⊙ **ride a bus**
- ⊙ visit the zoo
- ⊙ **learn a new song**
- ⊙ try yoga
- ⊙ **visit the library**
- ⊙ make paper planes and measure how far they fly
- ⊙ **go on a number walk**
- ⊙ decorate a t-shirt
- ⊙ **play a card game**
- ⊙ play a board game
- ⊙ **make up a game**
- ⊙ bake a cake
- ⊙ **cook dinner**
- ⊙ visit a farmer's market
- ⊙ **do a science experiment**
- ⊙ make and test a solar oven
- ⊙ **make slime**
- ⊙ try origami
- ⊙ **write a thank you note**
- ⊙ do a jigsaw puzzle
- ⊙ **play charades**
- ⊙ make a movie about a day in your life
- ⊙ **visit an elderly relative**
- ⊙ **play I spy**
- ⊙ make a treasure map
- ⊙ **make a bird feeder**
- ⊙ try lego mosaics
- ⊙ **read to a sibling**
- ⊙ explore the backyard with a magnifying glass
- ⊙ **go on a hike**
- ⊙ fingerprint each family member and compare
- ⊙ **make a bug hotel**
- ⊙ invent a new smoothie recipe
- ⊙ **make a word search**
- ⊙ write your plans for the week on a calendar
- ⊙ **write a movie review**
- ⊙ learn how to use the washing machine
- ⊙ **draw a self portrait**
- ⊙ write a letter to an author you admire
- ⊙ **try a new fruit or vegetable**
- ⊙ measure the height of each member of your family
- ⊙ **draw with chalk**
- ⊙ make up a secret code and write secret messages
- ⊙ **repair something**
- ⊙ create a family time capsule
- ⊙ **tell a story at dinnertime**
- ⊙ design a new cover for the last book you read
- ⊙ **play dominoes**
- ⊙ read for 20 minutes without stopping
- ⊙ **make a straw rocket**
- ⊙ interview a family member
- ⊙ **play with water beads**
- ⊙ play with a friend
- ⊙ **make up a dance**
- ⊙ create a collection of the best jokes for kids
- ⊙ **make popsicles**
- ⊙ create a family tree
- ⊙ **read a non-fiction book**
- ⊙ make a schedule (with times) for the day
- ⊙ **build a card tower**
- ⊙ make an obstacle course
- ⊙ **watch a documentary**
- ⊙ read with a flashlight
- ⊙ **paint**
- ⊙ make homemade pizza
- ⊙ **write a poem**
- ⊙ collect 100 of something
- ⊙ **play a ball game**
- ⊙ draw a plan of your bedroom
- ⊙ **make ice cream in a bag**
- ⊙ volunteer at an animal rescue facility
- ⊙ **make a sundial**
- ⊙ find 5 interesting facts about a topic of interest
- ⊙ **listen to an audio story**
- ⊙ make moon sand
- ⊙ **film a music video**
- ⊙ host an art show
- ⊙ **make a drop helicopter**
- ⊙ perform a random act of kindness
- ⊙ **make a terrarium**
- ⊙ make story stones
- ⊙ **create a new superhero**
- ⊙ sew a softie
- ⊙ **start a journal**
- ⊙ **learn something new**