



## Keep it Going...

### Reading, writing and math fun through the summer!

Would you like a list of activities to support reading and writing throughout summer vacation? Looking for some fun ways to keep their math skills sharp? Pick the ideas that your child would enjoy and would work easily into your life. This list is appropriate for any age.

**Involve the entire family; it's more fun that way.** Have a magnificent summer!

- Post your fun photos of your student reading to Facebook using **@btschool** and include **#BTsummerreading2019**.
- Each post will give you one entry into a bi-weekly drawing beginning the first week in June.
- Prizes will include: Family movie passes, bowling passes, Peachwave certificates, and more.

### -My Favorite Book...

Make a list of each book your child reads. Have a little celebration after the first ten picture books, maybe three chapter books, the first books in a series, or the first of several books by the same author. (Whatever seems reasonable for your reader.) Have your child pick one favorite from that group and add it to another list, the favorites list. Then repeat with a different round of books, a new series, or a different author. At the end of the summer, let your child pick the best from their favorites list. It's the book of the summer! Wouldn't it be fun to do this for several years? Then your child would have an all time favorites list. These would be the books they'd read with their children someday. [Share pictures of your stacks of books to Facebook using @btschool and include #BTsummerreading2019.](#)

### -Share Photos of The Best Place to Read

How many different places can you read a book? Under the dining room table; in the closet with a flashlight; sitting on top of the dryer; at the beach; in line at Disney; on a boat, train or airplane; you get the idea. [Share your pictures to Facebook using @btschool and include #BTsummerreading2019.](#) Your child could write captions to go with each photo. [We will print all of the pictures our students post and create a Welcome Back bulletin board in each building where the kids can see what their friends read over the summer and where they did their reading!](#)

### -Reading in Bookstores

Children can read though picture books, easy readers and books in their favorite series with lightning speed. No one could afford to buy all the books that children can read. Add to that, libraries shelves can sometimes look empty during the summer. So...take advantage of book stores. Set aside a time regularly to visit your local book shop. Let your child pick a stack of books, find a quiet corner and read until their eyes get fuzzy. Set limits with your child before you go about purchasing books. Will they get to buy a book? How many? Keeping the same rule throughout the summer helps make this an easy, pleasurable experience.

### **-Write Letters**

Everyone loves to hear from their friends and family. Even if you live down the street from your best friend, it's still fun to get a message in the mail. Grandparents are usually enthusiastic about participating in letter writing fun. Teachers often respond too. *Send postcards to Blessed Trinity from wherever you visit and we will display them in the hallways!!* It can be fun to get a supply of stickers, stamps, fun paper, postcards and glitter pens to personalize letters. Set a goal to write one letter a week!

(Credit: Trish Prentice [www.thedailycafe.com](http://www.thedailycafe.com))

### **-Cook Together**

Have you ever stopped to think about how much reading and math you use when you cook? Directions, measurement, time, problem solving...plus it's fun too. Browse through cookbooks together, try new recipes and have your child write the grocery list. Cook side by side. **Don't forget to post some pictures on Facebook using @btschool and #BTsummerreading2019.** We'd love to see who's reading cook books!! Bon appétit!

### **-Organize a Book Club**

Get together with other parents and organize a summer book club. Determine the purpose first. Will you be trading books? Will you read the same book and discuss? Decide on a schedule, who, where, and how long. It's always a good idea to have the "book talk" first with a little playtime, snacks or an activity afterwards. Book clubs are fun for children and parents!

### **-SHHH...Create a Secret Journal**

Grab a writing journal, it could be a fancy one or just a spiral notebook. Date the first page and write your child a short letter. It might be nice to begin with reasons why you love them, just a few sentences. At the end, ask your child a question and encourage them to write you back. Tuck it under their pillow for them to find when they go to bed. If they ask you about it, tell them to write their answer on the next page and slip the journal under your pillow. The next step is to write another note, ask another question. Be sure to add dates each time. Don't feel the pressure to do this daily, let it happen naturally. You might find that it ebbs and flows. Exciting in the beginning, many days in a row, then fades for a while. That's okay, go ahead and take breaks, just don't let it go forever.

What about the child who is just beginning to read and write? Perhaps parents could take turns helping with the reading and writing to the other parent. If you're a single parent, you can still do the reading for them after your child finds the journal. Have them draw pictures to respond. The fun, for now, will be in the finding and giving of the journal. But you're starting a tradition, a habit that will carry over when the message becomes more important.

How long can you keep this going? Wouldn't this be handy to have in place when your child is a teenager and things are sometimes hard to say, maybe easier to write? Wouldn't it be a priceless gift to have journals filled with dialogue between you and your child through the years?

Your time with your children is limited. Sometimes the minutes are endless, but the years go by almost instantly. Journals may help you keep a bit of who they are and who you were at that moment in time.

(Credit: Trish Prentice [www.thedailycafe.com](http://www.thedailycafe.com))

## **Check out these quick and easy ways to work math into your summer routine and help your child develop numbers sense.**

By GreatSchools

### **Great ideas for younger kids:**

#### **Note numbers.**

Increase your child's awareness of numbers by looking around the house to find examples: the kitchen clock, the calendar, a cereal box, a TV dial, a stamp or inside her shoe. Have her write down the numbers she sees, or give her a number and ask her to look around the house for examples of the number. Boost your older child's awareness of how numbers are used by pointing out the movie times, weather forecasts and sports statistics in your daily newspaper.

#### **Two, four, six, eight, now it's time to estimate.**

Estimation is one way to increase a child's number sense. Before you put a stack of folded towels on a shelf or fill a bowl with peaches, ask your child to estimate how many will fit. Then count afterward to compare the actual number to the estimate. Helping your child learn to make appropriate predictions will help her see how numbers are used in everyday life. Learning to ask, "Is my answer reasonable?" will help her as she tackles math problems in the classroom.

#### **What does a hundred look like?**

Understanding the concept of 100 is difficult for young children, even if they can count that far. Suggest that your child start making collections of 100 things — rubber bands, watermelon seeds, pebbles or buttons. You can divide the objects in groups of 10 or 2 or 5 to see how these smaller groups add up to 100 in different ways. Glue the objects onto a piece of colored construction paper for a math collage. Seeing 100 will help her conceptualize it.

#### **How tall are you?**

Many families record the height of their child on a door or wall chart. If you do the same for everyone in the family, your child can join in the measuring and see how the heights compare. Measurement and understanding relationships between numbers are crucial to the development of mathematical thinking.

### **Fun ideas for older kids:**

#### **Play grocery store math.**

The supermarket is an ideal place to use math skills, particularly for older children. Point out that yogurt is \$2.59 a six-pack. Ask how much it would cost to buy 3? Your child can round up to \$2.60 or \$3.00 and figure this out. Talk about how he arrived at that number, point out how the estimate differs from the true cost. Or get the latest advertisement

announcing sales from the grocery store. Have her look at the specials on fruit and determine how to spend \$10.00. Supply her with paper and pencil, and maybe a calculator, as well, so she can practice using calculators the way adults use them every day.

### **What's on the menu?**

The next time you go to a restaurant, hang on to the menu while you are waiting for your meal and play some math games with your child. Ask him to find the least expensive item on the menu, then all the items that cost between \$5 and \$10 or three items whose total cost is between \$9 and \$20. This will not only fill the time while you're waiting to eat, it will show your child how math is used every day.

### **Cook up a math game.**

The kitchen is a great place to practice math, as long as there's an adult home to supervise. How many tomatoes will you need to double the recipe for sauce? If you put 10 slices of mushroom on the pizza, ask your child to put twice as many olive slices. How many is that? If there are three people in your family and 15 strawberries to divide equally among them, how many strawberries will each person get?

### **Measure the distance.**

You don't have to leave home for this game, although it's ideal for vacations. Get out a map that indicates the distance in miles between cities. Measure the distance between Los Angeles and San Francisco, and between Phoenix and San Francisco. Which is greater? How does that compare to the distance between New York City and Chicago?

### **Change up.**

Give your child an assortment of quarters, dimes, nickels and pennies. Put a piece of fruit on the table and tell him it costs 45 cents. Tell him he needs to find five coin combinations that equal 45 cents. Change the item, raise the price and find five more. Keep a tally of all the ways to pay for each item.

### **Keep working on online programs.**

**Your student will continue to have regular access to Dreambox, Achieve 3000, and Smarty Ants throughout the summer. Encourage them to keep their routine of using these programs.**

**Encourage your child to complete 10 of these reading, writing and math ideas!**

**Let them keep track of the activities they are completing**

**with a journal, photos or a notebook.**

**Students who participate and complete 10 activities will be invited to a**

**Welcome Back party where they can share what they did with friends and classmates.**

