



WHAT TO DO OVER

The Summer



What we will cover

1. Objectives for summer break
2. Why does it matter?
3. Structure and routine
4. Summer homework
5. Reading
6. Concentration
7. Independence
8. Curiosity and exploration
9. Responsibility
10. Time off screens
11. Time in nature



What do we hope for over summer break?

- Refreshment and revitalization
- Enrichment
- Maturation
- A smooth and confident return to the routine of school

Why does it matter?

Having a plan for the summer allows us:

- To maintain work habits
- To continue to practice time management
- To deepen independence
- To promote ongoing active thought and creativity
- To support the understanding that learning is a lifetime and worldwide occupation, not something limited to school

What are the most important things?

1. Establishing structure and routine right away
2. Building in the appropriate amount of flexibility
3. Involving your child (ren) in the development and maintenance of that routine as much as possible

04 Summer Homework

Reading

Perhaps the most important thing your child can do for their ongoing academic development is to continue to regularly practice reading over the course of the summer.

Math Practice

Based on your child's program level, they will receive different types of math activities. These have been tailored to your child specifically based on lessons they have already had. Always the goal is to maintain their hard won progress as opposed to teaching them new skills

Why?

To combat "summer learning loss," which can result in the student forgetting as much as a third of the math that they gained in school the previous year. For critical, scholarly articles on the subject, please consider visiting <https://www.nwea.org/blog/2018/summer-learning-loss-what-we-know-what-were-learning/> or <https://www.brookings.edu/research/summer-learning-loss-what-is-it-and-what-can-we-do-about-it/>. The general gist of these articles is that without summer work, students who do not work over the summer can be separated by a gap of 2-5 years of academic material comprehension compared with those students who do work over the summer by the time they reach high school.

Reading

Reading at home

Questioning comprehension

Suggested books

Reading opens up the world to your child. It allows them to explore their interests, entertain themselves, and learn things they want and need to know. Our goal is to help them develop strong skills and, of course, practice is always the key to building any skill. Beyond that we hope that your child will love reading and that opening a book will feel like opening a present to see what is inside. In order for this to happen your child needs to comprehend what they read. Comprehension relies on creating create quick, accurate, complete mental imagery.

Concentration

The key is to find activities, not things to occupy the child's time.

These should be physically, mentally, and emotionally engaging.

Having the child share their interest and make choices will improve their participation.

Avoiding screens will diminish lethargy, apathy, and disinterest in non-screen based pursuits.

You are not a cruise director, there are some experiences you will want to share with your child, and there should also be times when they are identifying their own independent undertaking.



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Promoting independence



"I'm bored"

Great! This is the place where creativity is born and where independent pursuits are identified!

As soon as you use a screen to alleviate your child's boredom, you have removed the opportunity and challenge of thinking from them. You are utilizing someone else's creativity instead.

Instead of running through the long list of books, art supplies, games, available to them, right at the beginning of the summer as you work to establish your routine, consider the inclusion of a list of things available to them when they are looking for something to do. This allows them to choose independently.

The background features a collage of colorful, textured shapes and handprints. On the left, there are blue, green, and purple handprints. In the center, a yellow handprint is partially visible. On the right, there are blue, green, and orange handprints. The overall aesthetic is vibrant and childlike.

How can we help them to continue to be mentally engaged?

Physical activity is all well and good, they are children and it is summer break, they are going to want to move at some point, but how do we keep their minds active in a way which is purposeful and productive?

It is mostly about the materials available and culture of your home.

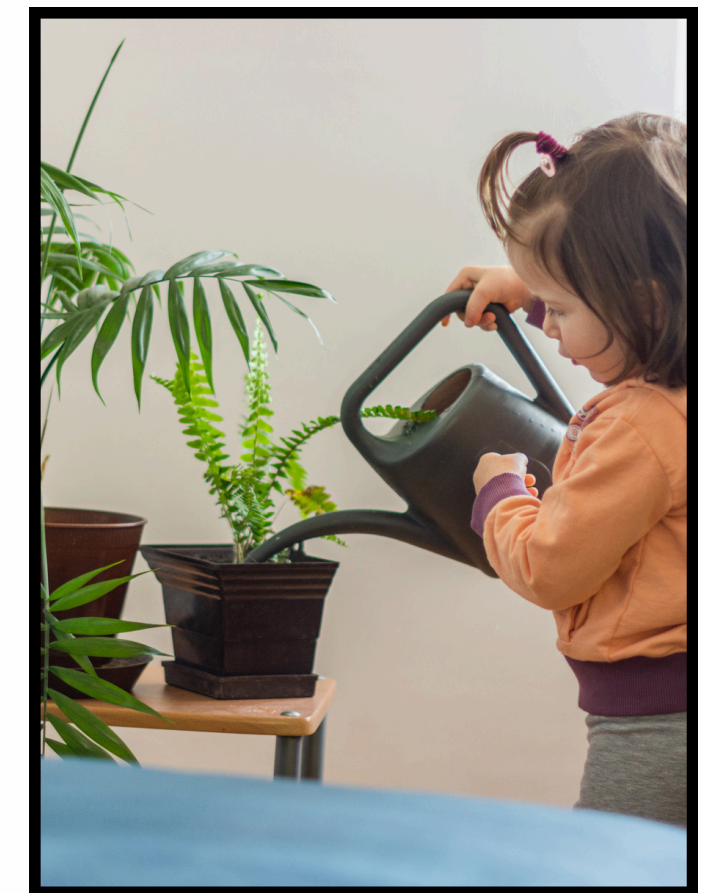
Any trip or travel is an amazing opportunity to model curiosity, problem solving, and an enthusiasm for new and novel experience.

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Responsibility.



The children are used to undertaking practical life activities, and the knowledge that they contribute meaningfully to their home and have a real and valued role is empowering. Consider the summer as a great time to introduce new skills and responsibilities.



Screen free activities around Charlotte

We know that they can only read and color so much! We want you to do fun, fulfilling and enriching things together as a family when time allows.

Each of these has the potential to be more than a one-time amusement, it can serve as the catalyst for future learning and exploration, fostering an appreciation for the world, and immersing the child in the beauty of the natural world.

It gets hot, so consider which of these might be better in the morning or evening to help your child sustain their attention!

Why bother going into nature?

"Passion is lifted from the earth itself by the muddy hands of the young; it travels along grass-stained sleeves to the heart. If we are going to save environmentalism and the environment, we must also save an endangered indicator species: the child in nature...We have such a brief opportunity to pass on to our children our love for this Earth, and to tell our stories. These are the moments when the world is made whole. In my children's memories, the adventures we've had together in nature will always exist...If getting our kids out into nature is a search for perfection, or is one more chore, then the belief in perfection and the chore defeats the joy. It's a good thing to learn more about nature in order to share this knowledge with children; it's even better if the adult and child learn about nature together. And it's a lot more fun."