

Turn the Summer Slide into Summer Gains



Classworks®

Whether your plan is to address unfinished learning, mitigate learning loss, reinforce focus skills and standards, or extend your current school year, one thing is for sure - maximizing your students' potential during the school year paves the way for success well into the future. Summer is often the time to reinforce these vital skills.

Buckle in as we break down some practical ways to help keep your students' minds sharp during the summer months and well into the new school year.

WHAT IS A SUMMER SLIDE?

The "summer slide," officially referred to as [Summer Learning Loss](#), is the decline in academic abilities during summer vacation. This often leads to students beginning the new school year with achievement levels well below where they were when school let out.

Imagine your student enjoys playing basketball but doesn't set foot on a court for three months. Would you expect them to perform at the same skill level as when they practiced routinely? It's a callback to the saying, "if you don't use it, you lose it," and academics are no exception to this rule.

Preventing students from slipping in areas they've worked all year to grow can be tricky for students with already defined skill gaps. Without interventions during the summer, students run the risk of reversing their learning gains and leaving a less-than-ideal predicament for their new teachers.

HAVE A PLAN

By this point in the year, you're aware of your student's deficit areas. You've both put in the hours to help close learning gaps and boost achievement. But, how can we ensure that the momentum we've built is enough to carry them through three months outside of the classroom?

Studies have shown that summer programs are most effective in helping students retain the skills they've mastered. The programs should follow an [evidence-based curriculum](#) and incorporate adequate time spent on instruction.

Many students view summer school as punitive, leading to low morale and performance. You can [keep students motivated](#) by providing content that engages them and incentivizes success. To experience success, students must understand that they are not punished for their performance during the school year. Summer learning should be fun.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

It's also essential to involve parents in the summer learning conversation and communicate the available resources to them. Parents can work on reading activities with their children to help maintain reading stamina and comprehension.

Public libraries are a great, cost-effective way to provide materials to students when school is out. Plus, having a wide variety of content - digital passages, chapter books, magazines, poems, picture books, and non-fiction literature - appeals to students who struggle to stay focused on literacy.

SUMMER READING

Many schools assign summer reading projects to students to curb the decline in literacy skills. Students should be able to pick up on topics that interest them, and even a simple read-aloud is shown to reduce [Summer Learning Loss](#). If families plan long car rides, audiobooks are perfect substitutes.

Educators have found that one daily activity can boost literacy retention: texting! Receiving and sending messages often helps students gain practice skills like comprehension, subject-verb agreement, and spelling. Students can access books and articles and exchange content with family and friends. Helpful features like a dictionary, highlighter, read-aloud capability, and notes allow students to dive into the reading and confidently answer text-dependent questions.

DON'T FORGET ABOUT MATH

But what [about math?](#) Parents can help students retain math concepts through simple daily activities, [such as cooking](#). Following a recipe is a great way to review fractions and follow directions for step-by-step problem-solving. If you're [looking for fun](#), simple suggestions for parents to be active in their student's success, this is a perfect example. Or try some of our practice problems [here](#).

CONCLUSION

It's important to help students retain what they learned over the school year. Combine reading and math programs with fun, practical activities at home for the most significant benefit to students over the summer.

Classworks is a popular choice for summer programs because of its ability to pinpoint learning gaps and deliver the right practice to students over the summer. Because Classworks is available on any device, students can access it at home and work on activities customized just for them. This ensures that students are constantly working on relevant, engaging content that helps them to keep pace and grow.

ABOUT CLASSWORKS

Classworks leverages technology and evidence-based learning practices to transform how school districts support students' academic, social-emotional, and behavioral needs. The comprehensive MTSS and Special Education solution includes academic screeners, math and reading individualized interventions, progress monitoring, social-emotional and behavioral resources, and powerful data visualizations. Classworks assessments and progress monitoring probes are validated by the National Center of Intensive Intervention (NCII) and Classworks is endorsed by the Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE).

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

<https://www.curriculumadvantage.com/efficacy>

<https://www.curriculumadvantage.com/blog/5-proven-tips-for-motivating-students>

<https://www.curriculumadvantage.com/blog/supporting-dyscalculia-with-early-numeracy-instruction>

<https://help.classworks.com/portal/en/kb/articles/what-is-applied-mathematics>

<https://help.classworks.com/portal/en/kb/articles/what-is-integrated-reading>



hello@classworks.com

770.325.5555

classworks.com