



Preventing the Summer Slide

What Is the Summer Slide?

The Summer Slide is a phrase that is used to describe the slide backwards that many students make in reading and math skills over the summer. It is possible for a child to lose 20 percent or more of their reading level gained in the school year during the summer if they do not continue to read. In a typical year, this means they could start school in August or September at the reading level they were at in April of the previous school year.



However, with school closures due to COVID 19, there is a double whammy effect. The big fear is that the annual "summer slide" could supercharge the loss of learning for students having a hard time keeping up with their education during shelter in place.

An [April 2020 study by the NWEA](#) found that “Preliminary COVID slide estimates suggest students will return in fall 2020 with roughly 70% of the learning gains in reading relative to a typical school year. However, in mathematics, students are likely to show much smaller learning gains, returning with less than 50% of the learning gains and in some grades, nearly a full year behind what we would observe in normal conditions.”

What Can I do to prevent the summer slide for the students in my care?

1. **Read every day.** Read non-fiction, fiction, eBooks, poetry, newspapers and read out loud or listen to audiobooks. Check out our [catalog](#) to request print materials, or find [e-resources](#) in Hoopla, Overdrive, RB Digital and Tumblebooks.



2. **[Participate in our Summer Reading Program.](#)** Participating in reading programs helps children and teens retain and enhance their reading skills over the summer and also creates a community for readers.
3. **Practice other literacy/language skills.** Learn new vocabulary, practice language and grammar, spelling, phonics and other literacy skills.

4. **Write.** Make a summer scrapbook, create a journal, or write a letter to someone special.

5. **Practice Math Skills.** Cooking, games, math facts, and online math sites are some of the ways you can incorporate math into everyday life.



6. **Have fun with [STEAM](#) (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) activities.** Cooking and baking, building projects, science experiments, walks outside looking at nature, nature journals and crafts all incorporate STEAM.
7. **Make time to read.** It can't be said enough; if your child does nothing else this summer make sure he/she is reading!