

"Words from the Woods"

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"Keep the Fun & Learning in Your Child's Summer"

Whether you are planning to spend this summer at the Jersey shore, the Pocono mountains, or simply enjoy a relaxing few months in your own backyard, please try and take time to also plan some educational experiences for your children.

While summer vacation should be a break from the typical school routine, it doesn't necessarily mean that students should take a break from learning. For many children, summertime is synonymous with fun time.

However, during the summer, many children tend to take a vacation from practicing skills they need to be successful in school. Students in all grade levels can suffer from something the experts call, "Summer Learning Loss."

According to research by the John Hopkins University Center for Summer Learning, on average, students lose approximately 2.6 months of grade-level equivalency in mathematical computation skills over the summer months.

Research at the University of Missouri suggests that the average child who engages in structured summer learning outperforms 55%-60% of comparable children who do not

dedicate time to learning over the summer.

Engaging your children in enrichment activities over the summer will help them discover that fun and

For the older Green Woods' student in your life, he or she may be required to attend an approved summer school program in order to be promoted to the next grade. This is important as

we believe that students who don't have the requisite knowledge and skills to do well in their current grade, will only fall farther behind as they start a new grade.

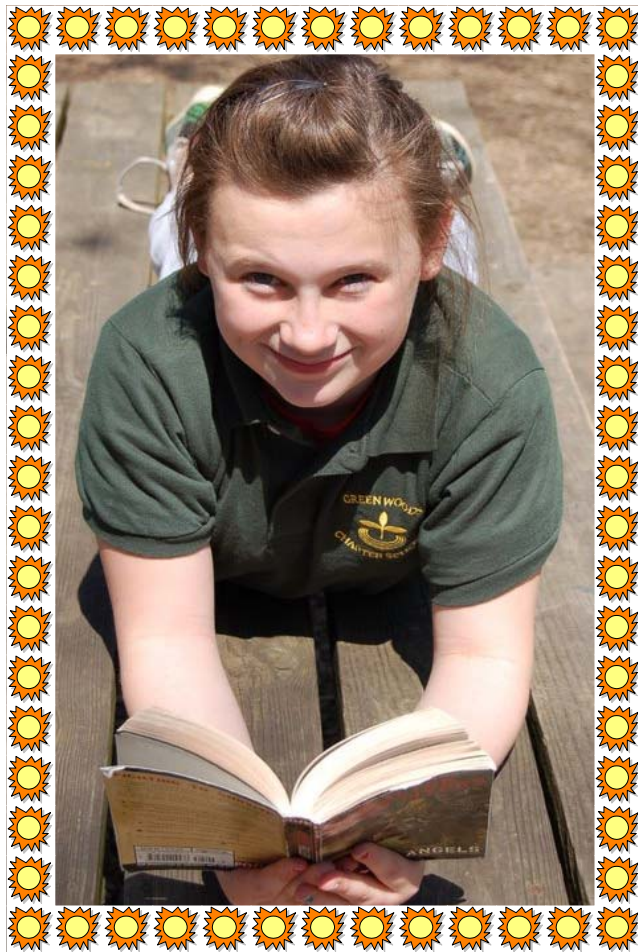
Also, please keep in mind that children and teens who are unsupervised are more likely to use alcohol, drugs, and tobacco, engage in high-risk behaviors, receive poor grades, and drop out of school than their peers who participate in activities supervised by their parents or other responsible adults.

Prepare your students for another great year at Green Woods by helping them to retain their skill levels and knowledge during the summer months. Find something that you all enjoy learning and learn as a family.

Please plan exciting learning opportunities for your children this summer. Help them to be

better prepared for their return in September. They will soon learn that they can have fun and achieve academic success both in and out of the Green Woods' classroom.

learning don't just happen at Green Woods! Also, skills gained during the summer months can really help to ease the back-to-school transition in September.



10 WAYS TO KEEP THE FUN & LEARNING IN YOUR CHILD'S SUMMER

1. Plan your family vacation around learning.

Talk with your child's teacher(s) to find out what they will be covering in class during the next school year. For example, if your child will be studying American History, plan a trip to see some of the historical sites in Philadelphia or take a weekend and visit Washington, DC. If you do any driving on your trip, teach your child how to calculate gas mileage, read a map, follow directions, and determine distance.

2. Record your family history.

Create a family timeline noting the important events in the lives of your children, beginning with the day they were born. Older children can fill in historical information as well.

3. "Visit" a foreign country—locally.

Many local ethnic groups sponsor cultural events and festivals and own restaurants and retail shops that feature food and items from their ethnic background. This is a great way to learn about other cultures.

4. Put together a summer scrapbook.

Each week, have your child make an entry into a personal summertime scrapbook. Include ticket stubs, photographs, drawings, writings, etc. At the beginning of the new school year, your child can share the scrapbook with classmates.

5. Encourage your child to be a pen pal.

Have your child keep in touch with a classmate or relative over the summer.

6. Plant a garden

Have your child keep a journal to track seed germination and development. Learn why it is important to plant only species native to our region. Plant a butterfly garden!!

7. Get involved with sports

Is your child interested in a particular sport? Have him or her collect statistics and learn how to interpret game results. Read about his/her favorite sport in the newspaper.

8. Plan field trips

Take your child on visits to local museums, botanical gardens, zoos, or historical sites. Don't just "wander" around. Really set out a course for learning about a particular topic. Spend lots of time discussing and planning what you want to learn. After leaving, reflect upon how much you have learned and plan your next visit.

9. Start a book club

Start a mother-daughter, father-daughter, mother-son, father-son or family book club. Children become better readers by reading.

10. Summer School

Approach summer school not as a punishment, but as an opportunity. Successfully completing a summer school program will allow your child to start a new school year in September feeling confident that they can keep up with their peers and be successful all year long.
