



May 2017 Parent Newsletter

www.arkansased.gov/divisions/communications/my-childmy-student

Preparing for Summer

As you plan summer activities for your child, it is important to include fun learning opportunities that will reinforce what your child has learned this school year.

Build a culture of reading at your house. Check with your local library for a list of summer reading programs, and reward your child when he or she reaches reading goals. Learn more by visiting the R.I.S.E. (Reading Initiative for Student Excellence) Arkansas page on the Arkansas Department of Education's website: <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/learning-services/r.i.s.e.-arkansas>.

Talk with your child about volunteering. Find local opportunities at <https://www.volunteer.org>. Your school district also may have opportunities for service projects. Visit with your child's teacher to learn more about summer programs that can help your child grow academically. If you take a vacation, allow time to visit historical locations in the area, and talk about their historical significance.

Consider the following questions as you plan summer activities with your child.

- What educational activities are available this summer?
- How can I help my child retain what was learned at school?
- What volunteer activities are available this summer for my child?
- What programs are available this summer at my child's school?
- How can my child get involved in a summer reading program?

Summer Safety

Whether your child will be home with a sitter or alone over the summer break, it is important to make sure all safety measures have been reviewed and discussed. Start with the basics, like ensuring that all smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and home alarm systems are working properly. Be sure to talk to your child about when it is OK to answer the door.

Post all emergency numbers in a central location, and talk about how and when it is appropriate to call 911. Walk through a practice drill with your child. The National Safety Council has more tips at <http://www.nsc.org/learn/safety-knowledge/Pages/safety-at-home.aspx>.

Don't forget to talk to your child about the safety precautions involving swimming, ATVs and other outdoor equipment. Make sure your child knows the importance of helmets, seatbelts and life jackets.

Consider the following questions.

- What safety tips should I share with my child this summer?
- How can I promote the proper use of safety equipment such as seat belts, life jackets and bicycle helmets?
- What should my child do if he/she does not feel safe?