



May 2017 Teacher Newsletter

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

Preparing for Summer

As teachers, you know that summer learning opportunities can help reinforce the knowledge students gained throughout the school year. To assist parents who are making summer plans, share information about activities that will help their child learn over the summer break. Be sure to include school and community activities. Check out local volunteer opportunities at <https://www.volunteerar.org>.

Help promote a culture of reading this summer. One idea is to hold a reading contest. Team up with other teachers to create the rules, gather prizes and advertise it around the community. Post information about the contest on social media using #RISEArkansas. Learn more by visiting the R.I.S.E. (Reading Initiative for Student Excellence) Arkansas webpage on the Arkansas Department of Education's website: <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/learning-services/r.i.s.e.-arkansas>.

Consider creating individualized packets for students based on their areas of needed growth. This could include a list of free apps, worksheets, experiments, book lists, vocabulary lists, etc. Be sure to include instructions for each activity. Get additional ideas by going to <http://www.readingrockets.org/article/get-ready-summer-ideas-teachers-share-families>.

As you help parents prepare for the summer, consider asking yourself the following questions.

- What academic resources can I share with parents so they can help their child this summer?
- What community activities and programs are available this summer for students?
- How can I support students who need additional assistance this summer?
- What summer reading programs are available this summer?

Summer Safety

As you gather resources for your summer packet to parents, include information about summer safety. The National Safety Council provides home safety tips at <http://www.nsc.org/learn/safety-knowledge/Pages/safety-at-home.aspx>. Create a safety to-do list to send home using ideas from <http://www.parents.com/toddlers-preschoolers/safety/tips/make-your-home-healthier-9-ways-to-make-your-house-healthy-and-safe/>.

Take time before the end of the school year to discuss scenarios with your students such as how/when to call 911, fire safety (stop, drop and roll), how to wear a helmet correctly and water safety. Ask a local fireman, police officer or ambulance driver to talk to your class about safety.

Consider the following questions.

- What summer safety tips can I share with students before the end of school?
- What summer safety resources can I share with parents?
- How can I help encourage safety for all students this summer?