



SLIDE INTO SUMMER!

**Fun and Easy Ways to Keep
Your Child Learning All
Summer Long
(without them even knowing it!)**

**A collection of Olmsted Falls
Teacher-Approved Ideas
for Grades K-5**

**New resources added
for 2022!**

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Fun and Easy Ways to Keep Your Child Learning All Summer Long (without them even knowing it!)

According to Scholastic.com, "The concept of the summer slide has been on researchers' radar since at least 1996 when one of the first comprehensive studies on the phenomenon was published. The study showed that kids lose significant knowledge in reading and math over summer break, which tends to have a snowball effect as they experience subsequent skill loss each year. A more recent study of children in 3rd to 5th grades also showed that students lost, on average, about 20 percent of their school-year gains in reading and 27 percent of their school-year gains in math during summer break."

"Summer Slide" refers to the academic regression that some students may experience over the summer.

Research shows that:

- Learning and achievement are perishable.
- The average student loses a month of academic-calendar learning each summer.
- The impact of the summer slide contributes to a more pronounced achievement gap.
- There is a link between socioeconomic status and the loss of reading skills experienced over the summer.
- Students see greater academic dips in math than in reading.

The National Summer Learning Association says, "Summer is a time for fun, for exploration, and yes, for learning - but in different ways from the traditional school year. When kids continue learning during the summer, they are healthier, safer, and more prepared for the school year ahead." So, how can parents, schools, and the community provide opportunities for students to reinforce skills and bridge the gap between summer and fall while still having fun? Because as your children will probably remind you...

Summer is SUPPOSED to be FUN!

Help is on the way...with an updated list of websites, books, places to go, and things to do this summer that are not only FUN, but packed with opportunities for your child to learn all summer long! The guide contains active links to most resources mentioned, but all are easily found on Google. Print or save this guide to pull out when boredom strikes or you want to sneak in some learning.

Are you ready to SLIDE INTO SUMMER? LET'S GO!

**Julianne Allen, Family Engagement & Communication Specialist
LINK Program Coordinator**



Best Books to Binge!

"*Fish in a Tree* and *One for the Murpheys* by Linda Hunt Mulally"- Mrs. Barylski, OFIS, 4th Grade

"*The Goldfish Boy* by Lisa Thompson"
-Mrs. Vinci, OFIS, 4th & 5th Grade
Speech, ESL, & Reading Tutor



***Elmer's Friends* by David McKee,
Duck and Penguin Are Not Friends by Julia Woolf,
A Friend for Henry by Jenn Bailey and Mika Song,
Lost and Found by Oliver Jeffers,
The Boy Who Loved Everyone by Jane Porter
- Mrs. Heinrich, ECC, Kindergarten**

"Check out the [Ultimate Summer Reading Guide](#) on [Scholastic.com](#) for a list of summer reading books by age (and a whole lot more!)" - Mrs. Allen, OFCS Family Engagement & Communication Specialist

"Any book by Margaret Peterson-Haddix, Rick Riordan, or Andrew Clements."
-Mrs. Pojman, OFIS, 5th Grade

Find your next favorite book at [Bookopolis](#) - a kid-friendly social network and book discovery tool designed to ignite a love of reading in elementary and middle school students. It's kind of like Goodreads made just for kids.

"Elephant and Piggie books by Mo Willems, National Geographic for Kids, any book written by Eric Carle, rhyming books, *The Book With No Pictures* by B.J. Novak (anything that makes them laugh!)
- Mrs. Kley, ECC, Kindergarten

Best Books to Binge!

"Magic Treehouse series by Mary Pope Osborne, I Survived series by Lauren Tarshis, My Weird School by Dan Gutman, Junie B. Jones by Barbara Parks, Sports Books (each book has a different title) by Jake Maddox"- Mrs. Vormelker, Falls-Lenox, 2nd Grade



"Allow your kindergartner to visit the local library and select some books that are appealing to them and take them home to read together! The Summer Reading Program is also a great way to get introduced to some new books this summer!"
-Mrs. McNeeley, ECC, Kindergarten

"[Understood.org](https://www.understood.org) has resources for summer reading for kids who learn and think differently, struggling readers, reluctant readers and more!" -Mrs. Cogan, Asst. Superintendent

"Books by authors Mo Wilems, Doreen Cronin, Tedd Arnold, and Laura Numeroff"- Mrs. Heinrich, ECC, Kindergarten



All of the Above by Shelley Pearsall
Among the Hidden (Shadow Children Series) by Margaret Peterson Haddix
The Best Christmas Pageant Ever by Barbara Robinson
Bird Lake Moon by Kevin Henkes
Charlotte's Web by E.B. White
Crash by Jerry Spinelli
The Egypt Game by Zilpha Keatley Snyder
Fever 1793 by Laurie Halse Anderson
Frindle by Andrew Clements
Getting Near to Baby by Audrey Coulombis
Hatchet by Gary Paulsen
The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien
Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell
The Lemonade War by Jacqueline Davies
The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis
Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli
Number the Stars by Lois Lowry
The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate
Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper
Running Out of Time by Margaret Peterson Haddix
Swindle by Gordon Korman
Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing by Judy Blume
Time for Andrew by Mary Downing Hahn
Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech
The War that Saved My Life by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
The Watson's Go to Birmingham by Christopher Paul Curtis
A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle
A Year Down Yonder by Richard Peck
-Mrs. Pojman, OFIS, 5th Grade

Best Books to Binge!

"Any grade level or reading level appropriate nonfiction books on subjects like the planets, ecosystems, animals, forms of energy, setting up and conducting simple science experiments. Historical nonfiction on topics such as Native Americans and first peoples, as well as United States history." -Mr. Vormelker, OFIS, 5th Grade

"**Junie B. Jones and Geronimo Stilton series**" -Mrs. Roberto, ECC, Kindergarten

"Dog Man, Magic Treehouse, Weirder School Series, Flat Stanley, A to Z Mysteries"- Mrs. Timura, Falls-Lenox, 2nd Grade

Storia eBooks- This collection of more than 300 titles was selected to support Ohio's Learning Standards for 4th and 5th grade.

Cuyahoga County Public Library.
Many resources (All ages)



"For Kindergarten, Nursery rhyme song books, any song/story books;
For Grades 4/5 - books about composers and musical artists of their interested genre"- Mrs. McClellan, ECC and OFIS, Music Teacher

InfOhio has a digital library for all ages, and a special summer learning section

"Mo Willems Piggie and Elephant Books"- Mrs. Strawser, ECC, Kindergarten

"Reading Rockets has themed booklists! Tap into books that will interest your child. Browse the books identified by interest. Ages 0-12." Mrs. Cogan, Asst. Superintendent

Best Educational Websites to Wander!

"Go to KrazyDad for printable math puzzles, mazes, Sudoku, and more!" -Mrs. Swanson, OFIS 4th Grade

MysteryDoug.com has short videos that answer real-life student questions like "why do we get goosebumps?" - Mrs. Kley, ECC, Kindergarten

"The "Math at Home" tab on the Bridges Math Learning Center website has a practice book with worksheets, the same workplace games we use at school in a digital format, and at-home math activities that get kids thinking about real-life things. It is K-5 and **FREE!**" -Mrs. Connelly, OFIS, 4th Grade

"Visit TheMint.org for fun financial literacy activities for kids, teens, parents, and teachers!"- Mrs. Connelly, OFIS, 4th Grade

PRODIGY Math & English Game Portal (Grades 1-5)

STARFALL Math, Language Arts, Music (PreK-3)

ABCYA Math, Language Arts (PreK-5)

WONDEROPOLIS Many subjects (All ages)

BrainPop Many subjects (Grades K-8)

Highlights Library has fiction and non-fiction digital stories and videos on topics such as animals, families, friendships, science, sports, wellness, and more (Grades K-5)

MUSIC Activities (all ages)

PBS Kids Music Maker

New York Philharmonic Kidszone

Classics for Kids

Chrome Music Lab

"Fill each day with possibilities at PBS Learning Media Summer Camp!"

-Mr. Schafer, OFIS, 5th Grade



CAN'T MISS FIELD TRIPS (JUST GOOGLE AND GO!)



"Mitchell's Ice Cream Factory near the West Side Market"- Mrs. Strawser, ECC, Kindergarten

- Cleveland Metroparks Zoo
- The Columbus Zoo
- Lake Erie Nature and Science Center in Bay Village
- Rocky River Nature Center in North Olmsted
- Great Lakes Science Center
- Any Cuyahoga County Public Library Branch

"Check out performances at: Playhouse Square, Blossom, Cleveland Symphony Orchestra (professional, or youth groups), BW Summer performances (or other local college music groups like Oberlin), The Beck Center, Olmsted Performing Arts, and other community theatre/performance groups." - Mrs. McClellan, Music Teacher, ECC & OFIS

"Discovery Education has VIRTUAL field trips!" - Mrs. Cogan, Asst. Superintendent

Visit the Cleveland Children's Museum, local parks, go grocery shopping, check out the North Ridgeville splash pad, Hinckley Ledges, Mentor Headlands, Huntington Beach, Edge Water Beach, or Kelley's island!" -Mrs. Heinrich, ECC, Kindergarten

"Majestic Meadows Alpacas & Boutique" - Mrs. McNeeley, ECC, Kindergarten

"Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village" - Mr. Vormelker, OFIS, 5th Grade

"Medina Public Library; COSI in Columbus"- Mrs. Pojman, OFIS, 5th Grade

"Check out 15 Fun Things to Do in Cleveland with Kids for family-friendly fun this summer!" - Mrs. Allen, Family Engagement & Communication Specialist

"Cleveland Museum of Natural History!" -Mr. Acerra, Falls-Lenox, 3rd Grade

FULL STEAM AHEAD! SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ARTS, MATH - HANDS-ON LEARNING



"Try soap carving using Ivory Soap. A plastic spoon can be used since the soap is so soft. Or, create a fairy garden. The Dollar Tree has cheap ideas/supplies."- Mrs. Pojman, OFIS, 5th grade

"Chalk, playdoh, shaving cream letters!"- Mrs. Heinrich, ECC, Kindergarten

ArtfulParent.com has kids' arts and crafts activities including drawing, painting, collage, printmaking, playdough play, clay modeling, sculpture building, and more!

" I love littlebinsforlittlehands.com for fun STEM experiments, slime recipes, and more!"
- Mrs. Allen, Family Engagement & Communication Specialist

Make Marshmallow Slingshots and learn about potential and kinetic energy in the process! - Mrs. Connelly, OFIS, 4th Grade

"Drawing with Steve Harpster!"- Mrs. Vormelker, Falls-Lenox, 2nd Grade

"Frugal Fun 4 Boys and Girls has a section of awesome stem challenges to do, Makedo has inexpensive construction kits for creating, We Are Teachers has paper plate activities for learning, crafts, and fun."- Mrs. Pinzone, ECC, Kindergarten

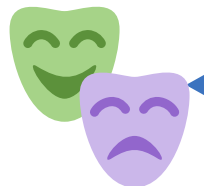


"Research local animals, take a nature walk and collect and sort classifications (living/non-living)." - Mrs. Heinrich, ECC, Kindergarten

"Make bubbles and bubble wands!"
- Mrs. Strawser, ECC, Kindergarten

"Check out these Math Games to Play this Summer for lots of games to play as a family."
-Mrs. Connelly, OFIS, 4th Grade

Cassidy Theatre in Parma and The Beck Center have summer theatre and arts education camps. Bravo!



"Visit the Cleveland Museum of Art. It's free!" - Mr. Acerra, Falls-Lenox, 3rd Grade.

"Bay Arts has summer art camps, classes and workshops for kids."- Mrs. Krakowiak, ECC & OFIS, Art Teacher



MORE WAYS TO GO FULL STEAM AHEAD! (virtually!)

Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math Hands-on learning

Participate in an online math tournament with
Perennial Math!

Attend a LIVE Virtual STEAM Summer Camp from
Classroom Antics

Visit Camp Curiosity online at Great Lakes Science
Center online camp

Try Camp Invention Connect and enjoy the fun of Camp
Invention from home

Explore the surface of Mars on the Curiosity Rover

Check out the fun and engaging science experiments
on the YouTube channel FunScienceDemos



Get OUT(side)!

"Here's a Summer Outdoor Activity Menu. Parents can incorporate Kindergarten skills while having fun outdoors." - Mrs. DeMuth, ECC, Kindergarten

"Play kickball, hide and seek, tag, races, duck duck goose, and hungry hippo."
- Mrs. Heinrich, ECC, Kindergarten

"Build a garden, buy a caterpillar kit and watch the metamorphosis stages, go fishing and discuss parts of a fish!" - Mrs. Heinrich, ECC, Kindergarten

"Jump rope, roller skates, swimming classes, hop scotch, water slide, sand and water tables - Mrs. Heinrich, ECC, Kindergarten

Head to the Cleveland Metroparks to enjoy the surroundings and tire kids out!



"Go on a hike by the Falls!"-Mrs. Vormelker, Falls-Lenox, 2nd Grade

The Lorain County Metroparks offers outdoor fun with Kindergarten Camp, Outdoor Adventure Camp, Nature Camp, Sports Camp and more!

"Go on a scavenger hunt, take a hike, ride a bike!"- Mrs. Roberto, ECC, Kindergarten

"Marco! (Polo)! Find a pool and swim!"- Mrs. Strawser, ECC, Kindergarten

Connect with Special Kids

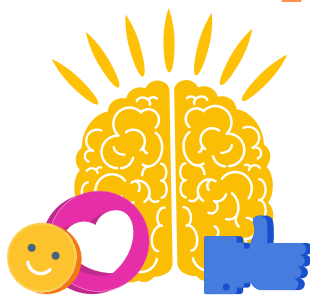
"Practice Yoga, mindfulness, and meditation." - Mr. Acerra, Falls-Lenox, 3rd Grade

Visit [Connecting for Kids](#) to find an Adapted Library storytime to enjoy with your child.

[Scholastic](#) has resources for families about social/emotional learning

"[Time4Learning](#) has lots of summer activity ideas for kids with special needs." -Mrs. Allen, Family Engagement & Communication Specialist

"[Counselor Chelsey](#) has free resources for supporting social/emotional needs, mindfulness, coping skills, empathy, social challenges, and more." -Mrs. Swanson, OFIS, 4th Grade



"Sing with your children- anything! It could be just singing what you are doing. Put on music you enjoy and try to let them play along using pots and pans, shakers, etc. Try to get them moving to the music in whatever way they can move. Have a dance party of their favorite songs!" -Mrs. McClellan, ECC & OFIS, Music Teacher

[Understood.org](#) has many resources to help families and their children who think and learn differently.

[Centervention](#) has 75 Free Social/Emotional Learning Activities to practice communication, cooperation, emotion regulation, and more.

Bridge Activities for a Rainy Day (fun ways to get ready for next year!)



"Khan Academy has "Get Ready For..." courses to brush up on your math skills prior to the next grade." - Mrs. Caso, OFIS, 5th Grade

"Ask your child- how high can you count?" - Mrs. Strawser, ECC, Kindergarten

"Write letters to loved ones, play board games, create with play-doh, build name with magnetic letters or write it in shaving cream, do a direct draw (Google direct draw for kids and then the topic - flower, ice cream cone, dog, butterfly, etc.)"-Mrs. Pinzone, ECC, Kindergarten

"I recommend Summer Bridge Books that you can buy off Amazon. You purchase the book for the grade your child just finished/is entering. For example, a current second-grader would buy the 2-3 book." - Mrs. Timura, Falls-Lenox, 2nd grade.

"Read, play board games like Candy Land, Chutes and Ladders, UNO, etc. to encourage turn-taking and sharing." - Mrs. Pinzone, ECC, Kindergarten

"See the K-5 Specials Website for activities to do all summer long."- Mrs. Krakowiak, ECC & OFIS, Art Teacher

"Typically there are a few pages in the students' workbooks from class that go unused. Before throwing away these workbooks, complete them with your child. You may need to review some of the completed pages... but that is a good thing!" Mrs. Pojman, OFIS, 5th Grade

"Practice first and last name, numbers 1-20, phone number and address, days of the week, nursery rhymes." -Mrs. Heinrich, ECC, Kindergarten

"Check out The Tabletop Family for these educational board games to play on summer break-organized by age." - Mrs. Cogan, Asst. Superintendent

"Memorize your math facts! Print out a worksheet and do a pre-test at the beginning of the summer, a test in the middle, and a test at the end to see your improvement!" - Mrs. Judson, OFIS, 4th Grade



WHAT SHOULD MY CHILD KNOW AND BE ABLE TO DO BEFORE THEY START SCHOOL? TOP TIPS!

"Sustain reading for 20 minutes. Write in complete sentences." - Mrs. Barylski, OFIS, 4th Grade

"An incoming K student should have exposure to the alphabet, writing his/her name, cutting, gluing, counting to 10, taking turns, listening to others, and waiting. To improve these skills, you can do crafts, write letters and numbers using different materials, visit the library, sing nursery rhymes."- Mrs. Kley, ECC, Kindergarten

"Students will be working on reading fluently and comprehending what they read." -Mrs. Vinci, OFIS, 4th & 5th Grade Speech, ESL, & Reading Tutor

"Self-select a book appropriate for their age and ability. They should be able to silently read for at least 20 minutes. This means that a student does not get distracted from their reading and can focus on their book for the entire reading time."- Mrs. Pojman, OFIS, 5th Grade

"Multiplication facts are the single most important thing to know!"- Mrs. Connelly, OFIS, 4th Grade

"How to cope with disappointment, build stamina with listening to a story and answering questions about the book, (characters, setting, what happened first, middle, and end of the book)" - Mrs. Heinrich, ECC, Kindergarten



WHAT SHOULD MY CHILD KNOW AND BE ABLE TO DO BEFORE THEY START SCHOOL? TOP TIPS!



"Addition, subtraction and multiplication math facts, place value-whole numbers, addition/subtraction with regrouping-whole numbers."
- Mrs. Caso, OFIS, 5th Grade

"**MATH FACTS!!! Retell a story with a beginning, middle and end and be able to tie their shoes.**" - Mrs. Timura, Falls-Lenox, 2nd Grade

"Kindergarten: properly hold/cut with scissors, recognize basic shapes (circle, square, rectangle, triangle), recognize basic colors (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, pink, white, black, brown), properly use a liquid glue bottle."
-Mrs. Krakowiak, ECC & OFIS, Art Teacher



"They should be able to write a paragraph of at least three sentences."
- Mrs. Pojman, OFIS, 5th Grade



"Know most letters and sounds, write name, count to 10."- Mrs. Roberto, ECC,
Kindergarten

"Reading a book from left to right, turning pages, reading a variety of genres."- Mrs. Heinrich, ECC,
Kindergarten



WHAT SHOULD MY CHILD KNOW AND BE ABLE TO DO BEFORE THEY START SCHOOL? TOP TIPS!

"Tie their shoes, count to 20, practice sight words, (search YouTube for videos), practice reading by reading with a parent, sign up for library summer reading program, turn on the captions on the TV, read books online."- Mrs. Vormelker, Falls-Lenox, 2nd Grade

"5th- Understand the Elements of Art, Know the Principles of Art (balance, pattern, emphasis, rhythm, movement, variety, unity) use appropriate art vocabulary."- Mrs. Krakowiak, ECC & OFIS Art Teacher

"MATH FACTS MATH FACTS MATH FACTS!"- Mrs. Judson, OFIS, 4th Grade

"First-grade sight words, letter sounds, basic understanding of addition and subtraction facts to 10."- Mrs. Statz, Falls-Lenox, 2nd Grade

"4th- Know the Elements of Art (lines, shape, color value, space, texture, form) understand the difference between 2-D and 3-D art, use appropriate art vocabulary."- Mrs. Krakowiak, ECC & OFIS, Art Teacher

"Kindergarten- Know what their singing voice is, move to music, listen and follow directions."- Mrs. McClelland, ECC & OFIS, Music Teacher

"Follow directions, tie own shoes, be respectful."- Mr. Acerra, Falls-Lenox, 3rd Grade



WHAT SHOULD MY CHILD KNOW AND BE ABLE TO DO BEFORE THEY START SCHOOL? TOP TIPS!

"Grades 4 & 5- Sing relatively in tune with a pleasant sound, read basic rhythms (quarter note, half note, whole note, eighth note, sixteenth note, and their rests), be familiar with music symbols (staff, treble clef, repeat sign, etc.), have a knowledge of basic instruments and musical genres."
-Mrs. McClellan, ECC & OFIS, Music Teacher

"Be organized. Understand latitude and longitude. Write complete sentences with correct grammar, punctuation, etc. Try Sheppard Software for educational games."
-Mr. Vormelker, OFIS, 5th Grade

"Say their full name, address, and a phone number to reach a parent! Write name and say 26 letters of the alphabet. Use manners- please and thank you! Work on independent work time without interrupting."- Mrs. Strawser, ECC, Kindergarten

"How to be a good friend! How to make your needs known to others. Knowing letters and numbers are great too!"- Mrs. McNeeley, ECC, Kindergarten

"Self-help skills: pack/unpack backpack and lunchbox, open snack, zip coat. Be independent in the bathroom. Be able to listen to a story (practice this by reading to your child daily for at least 20 minutes.)"- Mrs. Pinzone, ECC, Kindergarten



THANK YOU

Thank you to all of the K-5 Olmsted Falls teachers who took the time to contribute to this guide, and thank you to ALL staff of OFCS for making this year a great one!

Enjoy your summer!

Looking for more tips on what to expect next school year? Check out School Success Guides by grade level from Scholastic to help your child prepare for what's next.

NOW GO TAKE A NAP! 😊

Questions? Comments? Contact
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LEARN.
INSPIRE.
NURTURE.
KNOW.

