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## Kindergarten Newsletter

**Keep Learning Alive in Summer**

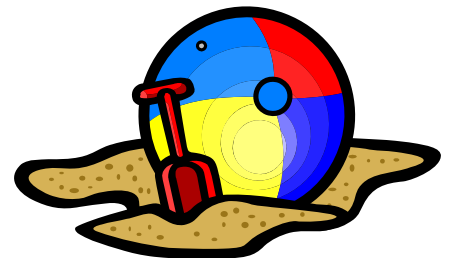


Keeping young minds and bodies active through the summer can be a real challenge. Yet studies show that children who are active learners outside school are more prepared to return to school in the fall. Parents and caregivers play an important role in supporting out-of-school learning.



### **Try these Summer Activities:**

1. Share the joy of books by reading together everyday. Visit your local public library and participate in the summer reading programs that are offered.
2. Dial-a-story and listen to an entertaining tale with your child on the phone. Stories are told in various languages. Call 416-395-5400.
3. Encourage writing! Write words and draw pictures using sidewalk chalk or a pail of water and paintbrush on the driveway and sidewalk.
4. Go outside and be active together! Walk in the park. Swim in a public pool. Visit a local gardening centre. Play at a neighbourhood playground. Build a sandcastle.
6. Enjoy nature. Collect leaves, rocks, shells or bugs. Talk about the collections.
7. Take short trips to a forest, the beach, the waterfront, the museum, the art gallery, the zoo and local, ethnic festivals.
8. Visit your local Ontario Early Years Centre. These centres offer a variety of free programs for parents and children from birth to age six. For more information call them toll free at 1-866-821-770 or check out their website for the location nearest to you: [www.ontarioearlyyears.ca](http://www.ontarioearlyyears.ca)
9. The Toronto Parks and Recreation Department offers various programs at minimal cost. Consult your local program guide for more details.
10. Have fun with water! A pail of water with spoons, sponges, various empty containers and other household items is an excellent way to learn about volume, sinking and floating and the scientific properties of water.



## Travel Ideas for the Long Road Ahead...



if you are planning a long family car trip, some of these ideas may help pass the time and have fun learning along the way:

- Listen to “talking books” from a CD or cassette tape. Books with accompanying tapes are available at your local library.
- Take along a notepad with crayons and pencils. Ask your child to draw and write about what he/she sees outside the car window.
- Play the “license plate” game. Ask your child to name the letters and numbers on license plates of passing cars and trucks.
- Pack some magnetic board games like tic-tac-toe or snakes and ladders. Inexpensive, magnetic car versions are often available at local discount stores.
- Play the “favourite game. Have everyone think of a different “favourite” question. What is your favourite...cereal, colour, song, ice cream flavour etc.
- Give each child a list of items to watch for while driving such as a church, a red car, a stop sign, a bridge, train tracks, a bus etc.

## Cool Summer Snack Ideas to Make Together...

- Fill ice-cream cones with yogurt, pudding or fresh fruit.
- Make your own ice cream sandwich by spreading a layer of frozen yogurt or whipping cream between two graham crackers. Wrap in cellophane and freeze.
- Make your own frozen treats. Pour juice into ice cub trays. Add toothpicks and freeze.
- Peel a banana. Roll it in either a brown sugar and cinnamon mixture or honey and granola mixture. Wrap in tin foil and freeze.
- Cut thin slices of watermelon. Cut out different shapes with cookie cutters.
- Make trail mix for a great take-along snack. In a large bowl, add any type of cereal, pretzel sticks, fish crackers, raisins or sesame seeds. Mix well and place in individual sandwich bags.



**The Toronto Catholic District School Board**

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