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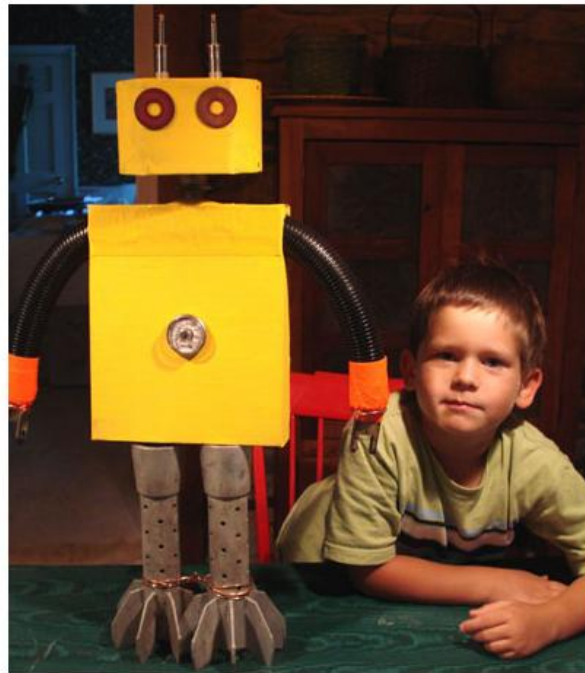
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## Summer Learning Can Be Fun for Kids

Submitted by Staff on Tue, 2010-05-18 18:00  
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After a year cooped-up in the classroom the last thing that most kids want to do is sit at a desk and do practice problems. However, doing some academic work during the summer is a great way to hone in on trouble spots and prevent a rocky start in September. The freedom of summer allows for interesting ways to learn new information. We'll offer **two ways to work on basic math and English skills** with students of any ages (the programs can be adapted to be age appropriate).

### Math

Children spend most of their time learning about math in the classroom and may forget how useful it is in real life! Select topics from your children's math curriculum and challenge yourself and them to use those skills. For example, when you're at the grocery store you can practice basic math skills such as addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. You can also have your child practice estimation by thinking about the total bill or for an older student have him calculate percents. If you have a bit more time, **consider taking on a project such as building something** (as big as a treehouse or small as a birdhouse). By engaging in a larger project you can touch upon a handful of topics: basic math for measurements, estimation and budgeting for buying supplies, and scale and angles for building.

### English

A fun way to **practice reading and writing skills** is to create a theme-based project. Select a topic that your child is interested in such as baseball or art history. From there, pick several types of age-appropriate reading. Be sure to include different types of reading such a short story, a newspaper article, data-based or research paper and media like movies, art, or internet based information such as YouTube videos or online surveys. You and your child can examine different types of reading and various writing styles; see what styles your child is drawn to and enjoys. Then, to have your child practice writing, have him write a similar style piece. For example, after you've read a newspaper article, have your child write an article. Stick with the same theme so that there is a unifying subject matter. At the end of the summer have your child put together a project based on what he has learned from his extensive research.

The summer doesn't have to be a great brain drain. By using the skills taught in previous years and applying them to real life, kids can see that what they learn in school is more than just a student-torture program. There's no better way to get excited about learning than seeing how it applies outside the classroom and summer-time provides great opportunities to show your child ways he can use his knowledge. Happy Studying!

By Alexandra Mayzler

Alexandra Mayzler is the Founder and Director of **Thinking Caps Tutoring**, a comprehensive tutoring company dedicated to developing innovative and individualized approaches to teaching. She participates in the coordination of the New York Dyslexia Association's annual conference, is a curriculum consultant for independent and public schools, and the author of *Tutor in a Book*, a study skills book to be published in September 2010. Alexandra spends her free time thinking about how to make studying easier, more interesting, and potentially even enjoyable!

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