

A group of four children, two girls and two boys, are sitting on a sandy beach, looking out at the ocean. They are huddled together, with their backs to the camera. The ocean waves are breaking in the background, creating white foam. The sky is a pale blue.

# **Making Summer Plans for: Literacy and Math**

**Linda Johnson, Program Director for Math and Science**  
**Cory Gillette, Program Director for Literacy and Social Studies**



A photograph of a family on a beach at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. The silhouettes of a woman, a man, and two children are visible. They are standing on the wet sand, and the water is shimmering with reflected light. The overall mood is peaceful and nostalgic.

**May 10, 2016**  
**Good Morning,**

**Welcome to our last parent workshop of the school year. We are glad you are here. Today we will talk about how to maintain literacy and math skills over the summer in engaging and authentic ways.**

**Linda and Cory**

Math  
Counts!



Even in the Summer...



# Real World Math Problems

- Engage your child in real world problems as often as possible.
- Encourage mental math and estimation.

At the snack shop at Weed Beach we bought a large soda and an ice cream bar. If large sodas cost \$1.75 and ice cream bars cost \$1.25 about how much did we spend?

We left Darien at 7:15am to visit grandma's house in New Jersey. Traffic was terrible, and we did not arrive until 4 hours and 20 minutes later. What time did we get to grandma's house?

# Everyday Ways to Make Math Count

- Cook
- Plan a family vacation
- Shop/Dine out
- Car Rides
- Tell time



# Games are Great for Math Thinking!

Good old fashioned games...

- Go Fish, UNO
- Candyland and Chutes and Ladders
- Monopoly, Monopoly Jr.
- Yahtzee, Trouble, Connect Four, Pit! Mancala for older friends

Newer games...

- Rush Hour
- Math Dice
- Blokus



# Trade Books with Math Themes

Collections of books by math topic with ideas on how to use the book with children...

- <http://ohiorc.org/for/math/bookshelf/default.aspx>
- <http://www.naeyc.org/files/tyc/file/MathbookslistSchickedanzexcerpt.pdf>



# Screen Time!

- [Greg Tang Math Games](#)
- [Investigations Games and Activities](#)
- Sum Dog
- Dreambox Learning
- [Middlesex Middle School Math Site](#)





# Fact Practice

- Card Games
- Flashcards
- [XtraMath](#)
- Singing Skip Counting Songs!  
<http://www.emsisd.com/Page/827>



# Thinking About Summer Literacy





# Cutting and Pasting Matter

- Children need opportunities to
  - cut with scissors
  - play with play dough or clay
  - draw detailed drawings with crayons
  - make sand castles
  - do sticker books
  - weave or sew
  - write (or practice cursive if in grades 3-5)
  - do Legos





## How Parents Can Support This at Home

- Encourage fun small motor activities
- Have your child write with half a crayon, save larger and thicker writing materials for special occasions
- Grades K and 1-Let your child practice forming letters and numbers the proper way by using a handwriting app/program. (We suggest Handwriting Without Tears App called Wet Dry Try.)
- Review the powerpoint from Handwriting without Tears Parent Presentation or read their information on how to support proper pencil grips

# To read or not to read?

“Research tells us that children who do not read regularly throughout the summer months lose approximately three months of reading growth, while those who do read during the summer continue to make gains.”

Regie Routman

# What matters?

- Allow choice
- Make reading ongoing
- Relax with a light read
- Encourage series books



# Reading at Home



- Recognize the value of the early reading books and repetitive reading (K and 1 Parents)
- Read aloud books to your child to model good fluency and phrasing
- Encourage "just right" books
- Practice building your child's reading comprehension by engaging in conversations about books, not just what happened, but what you think about what happened
- Start a book club with your child
- We recommend taking advantage of the Darien Public Library's Summer Reading Program.

# Don't forget about writing!

Students are required to be fluent in narrative, opinion, and informational writing. All students get back into writing on the first day of school. Find ways to keep your child integrating all of the skills he/she has learned so far in structure, development and language conventions.

# Make Writing a Part of your Home Life



- Make writing fun!
  - Practice letters
  - Phonemic Awareness activities - letter sounds, matching sounds to letters, etc.
  - Making lists and notes
  - Start a family blog
- Use a variety of materials...
  - Pens
  - Smelly markers
  - Magna doodles
  - Dry erase boards and markers
  - Squishy sensory pens
  - Fingertip crayons
- Create a writing center (box, suitcase, special area, etc.)
  - Include pencils, colored pencils, markers, crayons, calendar, magazines, notebook, journal, paper, construction paper, tape, stapler, pencil sharpener, magnetic letters, etc.
- Model writing
  - Let children see you write notes, grocery lists, recipes, letters, emails, etc. You are showing them that writing is useful!



# Additional Summer Resources

## Leveled Books

[www.scholastic.com/bookwizard/](http://www.scholastic.com/bookwizard/)

## Social Cataloging Websites

[www.goodreads.com/](http://www.goodreads.com/)

[www.shelfari.com/](http://www.shelfari.com/)

## Book Clubs

[www.guysread.com](http://www.guysread.com)

<http://www.amightygirl.com/>

## Motivational

Darien Public Library

<https://www.darienlibrary.org/kids/summer-reading-booklists-2016>

B & N- <http://www.barnesandnoble.com/u/summer-reading/379003570/>



# More Resources

Teachers College Reading and Writing Project

<http://readingandwritingproject.org/clearinghouse/family>

5 of the best websites for Student Writing

<http://www.fractuslearning.com/2013/01/11/sites-for-student-writing/>

Story Starters from Scholastic

<http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/story-starters/>

# Thank You For Being Here!

Please take an Exit Slip if you would like to contact us with questions or to provide feedback on future topics.