



CHRISTIAN HERITAGE
ACADEMY



SUMMER LEARNING STRATEGIES

Tips & Resources for Reading and Writing

SUMMER GOAL: 20-30 minutes of independent reading of books at student's level 5-6/x per week

Join the public library reading program

Consistency is helpful, as are the prize incentives!

Choose books and genres that your child enjoys

This will cultivate a love for learning, which is one of the main goals!

Read for a specific, tangible purpose

Traveling this summer? Have your child read books about where you'll be going, and they can be the "tour guide!"

Have your child read about a product that you are thinking about purchasing (then make the purchase together), read directions to a game (then play it), or read a recipe (then make it)!

Choose a book of the Bible for which you make a reading plan.

Plan family reading times

Setting aside a time several days a week where the whole family reads can model the importance of reading, give something to converse about, and add enrichment.

Keep a journal

Encourage written reflection on books your child reads, then discuss them.


Have your child journal about a trip you take or a local place of interest you visit this summer.

Use free resources

- **Lexile Hub** (<https://hub.lexile.com>) identifies books at your child's reading level and interest
- Utilize your public library's subscription to **TumbleBook Library** or comparable read-aloud program for a dynamic, read-along experience
- Check out **Bob Books** for beginning readers (ages 3-6)
- Check out **audio books**, such as pre-loaded Playaway products, for bedtimes and car rides



Build your child's vocabulary

- Encourage reading deeply in one subject **or** broadly in many areas of interest
 - Read aloud together (*The Read-Aloud Family: Making Meaningful and Lasting Connections with Your Kids*, by Sarah Mackenzie, is a great resource for this)
 - Visit interesting places like museums, historical sites, nature or science centers
 - Watch documentaries or science, nature, history, and travel videos that are aimed at children to expose them to new vocabulary and learning
 - Play word games like Scrabble, Boggle, Bananagrams, Hangman, and crossword puzzles
 - Involve children in new activities where you can teach vocabulary such as gardening, cooking, making an appliance purchase, fixing something, going to the hardware store, figuring out sports statistics, and planning a vacation
 - Write new words on index cards and make a “word wall” or post them on the refrigerator to be seen and used in conversations
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Practice letter recognition, formation, handwriting, and typing

Try **Handwriting Without Tears** (<https://hwtears.com>), an excellent program for proper and efficient pencil grip, writing posture, and letter formation. The multisensory system leads to less letter mix-up and to learning a correct pencil grip from the start. There are books for both print and cursive.

Typing programs involving racing, like **Nitrotype** (www.nitrotype.com), are a fun way to practice this skill.

Find a tutor

For students who need some intense remedial help to make quicker progress, meeting with a private reading tutor could be beneficial. Certified **Wilson** instructors are listed by geographic area at www.wilsonlanguage.com. Also, **Huntington Learning Center** (www.huntingtonhelps.com) and **Sylvan** (www.sylvanlearning.com) are good options.

Explore these resources

For K-5 grammar instruction and review, utilize **Shurley English** materials (www.shurley.com). There are many fun "jingles" on the Shurley Instructional Materials YouTube channel, which you can watch for free! Music is a great tool for memorizing grammar rules.

For direct academic vocabulary instruction, **Wordly Wise 3000** from School Specialty offers a great workbook and online program for K-12.

Review the **New General Service List** (www.newgeneralservicelist.org), which gives the 3000 most frequently used English words in print. Working through these words is an efficient way to master the most common English words. There is also the more advanced Academic Word List, which lists the most frequent general words in academic texts.

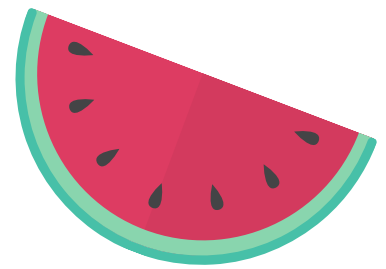
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SUMMER LEARNING STRATEGIES

Tips & Resources for Mathematics

SUMMER GOALS:

- *Consistent practice* ... even for short periods of time (all school levels)
- Completion of a math packet for your upcoming grade level (middle and high school)

Play games

- Younger children love to see if they can “beat mom/dad” or “beat the clock” using props such as cards, flash cards, dominos, dice, toothpicks, and even jellybeans
- Board games that let a child be the banker are great, such as non-electronic versions of **Monopoly Junior**, **Monopoly**, and **Life**
- Math Dice by **ThinkFun** helps sharpen mental math skills for all ages

Pose "everyday" math problems

Let your child be the "expert!"

- Baking with measuring cups and cutting a pizza evenly for different amounts of people (fractions)
- Figuring out the sales tax for items on the Dollar Menu at McDonald's (percentages)
- Measuring a room for flooring or a yard for fencing (area and perimeter)

Use math workbooks and fact worksheets

Purchase published material from sources such as:

- Math Minutes by **Creative Teaching Press**
- **Spectrum Math**
- **Kumon Math**
- Flash Kids by **Harcourt**

Practice math online

- **Khan Academy** (www.khanacademy.org) is the premiere, free online math program for K-12
- **SumDog** (www.sumdog.com/us/) is another free program for practice
- **IXL** (www.ixl.com) is a personalized subscription program for PK-12

Find a tutor

Tutoring centers, including those specializing in math, offer intensive help to students with gaps or who need a better foundation. Options to explore: **Mathnasium** (www.mathnasium.com), **Huntington Learning Center** (www.huntingtonhelps.com), **Sylvan** (www.sylvanlearning.com), and **Kumon** (www.kumon.com).