



# 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

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

According to the National Summer Learning Association, "Summer is a time for fun, for exploration, and yes, for learning - but in different ways from the traditional school year. And this summer, more than ever, our highest priority must be on providing safe spaces with caring adults, and learning opportunities grounded in student interests that can re-spark their engagement, foster their recovery, and prepare them for returning to in-person learning in the fall." As we head into summer after a very different school year, how can parents, school, and community provide opportunities for students to reinforce skills and bridge the gap between summer and fall while still having fun?

"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.

While some studies have disputed the idea that summer slide is "real", there is little research as of yet on what happens when COVID slide and summer slide meet up. One might argue that the 77 days between the last day of school this year and the first day of school next year could be a critical time for students not only academically, but socially and emotionally. But, it's summer, and summer is supposed to be fun. Haven't we suffered enough?

Help is on the way...in the form of a K-5 Olmsted Falls teacher-recommended list of websites, books, places to go, and things to see this summer that are not only FUN, but packed with opportunities for your child to learn and make up for lost time.

The guide contains active links to most resources mentioned, but all are easily found on Google. Print or save this guide to use all summer long.

Are you ready to SLIDE INTO SUMMER?



# 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

"My suggestion would be to 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

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

Gale in Context has books and all your favorite magazines like Cricket, Ranger Rick, Highlights, and Scholastic News (K-3)

"Understood.org has resources for summer reading for kids who learn and think differently, struggling readers, reluctant readers and more!" - Mrs. Cogan, Asst. Superintendent



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!

The [Falls-Lenox Online Resource Page for Students and Parents](#) has a dedicated section of websites and resources organized by grade level. Many of these sites are used at school, like Raz Kids and Scholastic News, so children are already familiar with them.

**"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**

**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)**



**PRODIGY Math Game Portal (Grades 1-5)**

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

**ABCYA Math, Language Arts (PreK-5)**

**WONDEROPOLIS Many subjects (All ages)**

**Book Flix has paired fiction and non-fiction popular texts that engage readers and support literacy. Lexile reading levels included (parents can pair up with Lexile level from NWEA MAPS assessment taken in the spring) Grades K-5**

**"Go to KrazyDad for printable math puzzles, mazes, Sudoku, and more!"  
-Mrs. Swanson, OFIS 5th Grade**

**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**

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

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

**"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**

**Other community theatre/performance groups"-**

**Mrs. McClellan, Music Teacher, ECC & OFIS**

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

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

**"Cleveland Museum of Natural History; Lolly the Trolley Tour"- Mr. Acerra, Falls-Lenox, 3rd Grade**

# Ways to STEAM-it

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

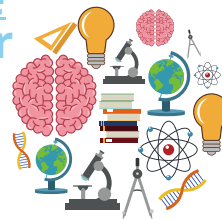


"Try soap carving using Ivory Soap. A plastic spoon can be used since the soap is so soft. Or, create a fairy garden. The Dollar Tree has cheap ideas/supplies."- Mrs. Pojman, OFIS, 5th grade

"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 STEAM-it (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**



# 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

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

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

The Lorain County Metroparks offers outdoor fun with Young Birders Camp, Outdoor Adventure Camp, Nature Camp, Theatre Camp and more!



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

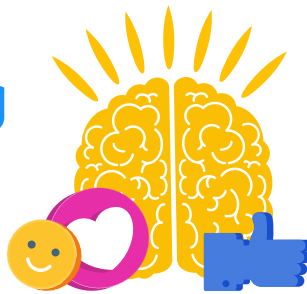
# Connect with Special Kids

**"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**

**"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**

**"I always recommend the Summer Bridge Books that you can buy off Amazon. You purchase the book for the grade your child just finished/is entering into. 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**

**"Write in a journal, draw pictures from a book read showing the beginning, middle, and end of the story."- Mrs. Heinrich, ECC, Kindergarten**

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

**"Ask your child- how high can you count?"- Mrs. Strawser, 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!

**"Addition, subtraction and multiplication math facts, place value-whole numbers, addition/subtraction with regrouping-whole numbers."**

**- Mrs. Caso, OFIS, 5th 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**

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

**"Sustained (at least 20 minutes) silent reading. Choose a book that is appropriate for their reading level and interest. They should be able to write a paragraph of at least three sentences."-**

**Mrs. Pojman, 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**

**"Reading a book from left to right, turning pages, retelling the beginning, middle and end, 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





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 the most of a challenging year. 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!



LEARN.  
INSPIRE.  
NURTURE.  
KNOW.

Questions? Comments? Contact



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