

Summer Learning Loss

Don't Let your Child Fall Behind



Did you know that the school year is based on the

agricultural cycle? Students traditionally had long summer holidays over harvest time when they were expected to help out in the fields. Today that's not the case but long summer holidays are still the norm and what parents might not know, is that children experience "summer learning loss".

Overall, kids lose an average of 1 month of learning in all subjects during the summer and studies show that kids can lose the equivalent of 2½ months of maths skills in the summertime. Imagine if athletes stopped training for 2 months in the year. You would expect, they would experience a lag in performance. The brain is no different. It needs to be exercised.

Teachers spend up to 6 weeks of the new term on last years' material. "Pupils are falling behind in class because they do not practise reading, writing and arithmetic during the six-week break." Institute for Public Policy Research.

What you should do now?

Before this school year ends, check with your child's teachers to get an idea of where they

might need support during the holidays. The summer months are an excellent time for your child to fill in learning gaps.

Tutor Doctor's top tips for stealth learning

- Learn from your holiday. The summer holiday is a great opportunity for stealth learning. Get the kids researching your holiday destination, check maps and handle currency. Learning geography and maths without even realising it!
- Encourage them to keep a journal of their activities, and e-mail friends and relatives about what they are doing.

4 easy steps to summer gain

- Use educational workbooks, about an hour a day is plenty.
- Visit a library. Look out for special events
- Visit museums, zoos and historical sites Help your child learn about history and the world they live in.
- Enrol in a summer tutoring programme. One-to-one tutoring is ideal for filling the gaps in your child's learning.

Do remember that summer is also for relaxing, taking time off, and just being a child. Balance fun with learning, and these activities will help your children and prepare them to start the new school year on top form and brimming with confidence. Alan Bentley is owner of the local Tutor Doctor office. For information on Tutor Doctor's one-to-one, home tutoring, or to book a free, no obligation home consultation, contact 0800 9788280 or abentley@tutordocor.co.uk Visit us online at www.tutordocorhometutors.co.uk

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Where in the Worth Valley? COMPETITION

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Email your answer to:
mail@worthvalleymag.co.uk

The winner will be selected from all correct answers received by June 20, 2013



Last month's winner was **Natalie McSharry**. The correct answer was **Southams of Haworth, 7 Haworth Rd, Lees Cross Roads**.
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