Planning for Summer
Hampton City Schools

May 17, 2016
Have you ever heard these words?

- Hey Mom, I’m bored.....
- There’s nothing to do around here...
- Mommmm, Jimmy won’t stop bugging me...
- It’s too hot to go outside...
- She hit me first!!!!!
Keeping our children busy over the summer months can be a challenge for any family...

What if we looked at summer as that opportunity to reconnect with our children over learning activities without the pressure of IEP progress reports, state testing or report cards?

What if we pulled out the calendar now and started planning...not ‘changing the world planning,’ but thoughtful and reasonable plans that we are able to manage simply?
Hampton City

Parks and Recreation Department

The City coordinates a summer long day camp for children with disabilities and families can pay week by week or for a set number of weeks. ($80.00/weekly)

Possible sources for scholarships include the city, local churches, etc.

Summer Festivals

Family Movie Night

http://www.hampton.gov/PARKS
Hampton City

Public Library (4 locations in Hampton)

- Story time for young children (birth-preschool)
- LEGO club (6 - 12 yrs)
- Paws to Read (6 - 10 yrs)
- Summer Rdg Program (incentives and prizes)
- Battle of the Books (grades 4 - 8)
- Teen Book 2 Film Club
- Teen volunteering opportunities
- Large print and talking books also available
News Flash
(hot off the presses)

Children's board games help reinforce lessons learned in the classroom...

Don't overlook old standards: Candy Land: color recognition and counting (66 yrs) and Chutes and Ladders: building basic math skills (73 yrs)

"Any game that requires a student to count and move a game piece at the same time is good for developing 1:1 correspondence while counting." Jayne Cooke-Cobern (kinder teacher). Trouble, Uno, Yahtzee, Racko and Apples to Apples are some of her favorites.
More About Games

Memory: Recognition of numbers, sight and color words

Bingo: Letters, shapes and rhyming words

Dominoes: Numbers/concept of more or less

Many board games cost less than a movie ticket and are reused over and over.

Encompasses all ages - toddlers to teens and adults (think Monopoly, Stratego, Battleship, etc.)

*2007 study by Carnegie Mellon: group of low income preschool student playing games such as Chutes and Ladders improved performance on 4 kinds of numerical tasks and maintained those skills over multiple weeks.
Including “Game Time” in your daily or weekly schedule increases ‘together’ time for families and is a great way to set up ‘play dates’ for expanding your child’s circle of friends.

Games help children think more strategically, to plan ahead, attach abstract thinking to concrete objects...they also teach self regulation...waiting your turn, thinking ahead...they are a great way to teach and practice social skills.

Games such as Lotto, Bingo, Scrabble can also improve fine motor skills while building vocabulary.
More About Games

Many games have “Junior” versions: Monopoly, Boggle, Scrabble and Labyrinth are a few examples.

Don’t leave out dice games - Yahtzee, Go Nuts, Ideal Bowling, I Spy Find It Fast are all games that provide sensory stimulation, help visual perception skills and present opportunities for crossing midline and practicing fine motor and hand eye coordination skills.

Don’t overlook booklets that you can pick up in any grocery or variety store such as crossword puzzles, Sudoku puzzles, word finds and mazes. Coloring is an excellent activity when a child is upset - it engages the other side of the brain.
Summer Reading Activities for Students with Reading Disabilities

Building Language

1. “What’s another word for...?” Children get points for every synonym they can think of. “What’s another word for couch?” S/he might answer sofa or futon, you might then add the word, “divan,” to expand vocabulary.
2. Sentence Building: construct sentences to help a child enhance and use descriptive language.

Example:

Start with a flower, ask your child the color. If the reply is red, you would say, "The flower is red," and ask them to repeat the sentence. Ask a question and incorporate the answer to the sentence...if the s/he says it has green leaves, you could say, "The red flower has green leaves," ask s/he to repeat the new sentence. Keep building and repeating...you may end up with, "The red flower with green leaves grows under the trees in my backyard."
3. Vocabulary: Boggle, Bananagrams and Scrabble are great word play games. (I Know you can think of more)

Create a system of bonus points for longer word or for using words the child has recently learned.

Find opportunities to expand vocabulary by labeling items in the home...creating sentences to explain or describe the item.
Building Fluency

1. Take turns reading with your child... alternating page by page or by character. When it’s your turn, read with expression, encourage your child to do so, also. Ham it up!!!

2. Make your own audiobook. Practice reading a favorite story until your child feels comfortable and familiar with it...record on your cell phone or computer...play it back and re record until your child is happy with it (not you - your child) and send it to grandma or grandpa...or daddy or mommy overseas....
Building Comprehension

1. Mental Movies: Ask your child to picture the scene in the story you are reading to help connect the words with imagery. You may need to help find words and phrases that describe the scene. What might it look like if it were in a movie?

2. What Happens Next?: After reading a few paragraphs of a story, ask your child if s/he can predict what is going to happen next. What does s/he think will happen if the rabbit steals the carrots? Will the farmer catch the rabbit? How will the story end? Encourage your child to look for clues in the pictures.
3. Reading for a purpose: help your child read with a specific goal in mind.

Before beginning a chapter, pose a question or 2 so they can look for answers as they read. For example, “When you finish this chapter, tell me 2 things the main character says to his dog.” Or ask what time of year they think the story takes place, summer or winter...and how can they tell?

*(Check out this website: www.greatschools.org/gk/author/valledwight)*
Elementary School Level

- Cooking activities using a children's cookbook (have them pick dinner once a week and cook together) or try 1 new recipe every week
- Set a goal to learn 3 new words a week - practice making funny sentences (use magnetic letters on the fridge)
- Write note cards/letters to cousins and grandparents (you can write some of it and have them fill in the blanks)
- Use computer games to practice math facts
- Listen to math facts on tape or CDs while in the car, sing along tapes for various topics
- Match or sort coins or use them to add/subtract numbers
Secondary School Level

- Start on the required reading list for the upcoming year
- Use a “Word a Day” calendar, Reader’s Digest Vocabulary pages
- Figure mileage for various locations using a map scale and check it with Google maps, MapQuest
- Help plan menus and shopping lists
- Plan a family outing: cost, travel, clothes to wear
- Chart the daily weather
- Learn how to do simple sewing tasks, play chess, fold origami
- Go fishing, camping or hiking
- Attend local sport events or concerts
Pulling It All Together

Create a master schedule and add in:

- Work schedules
- Appointments
- Known travel or vacation schedules
- Out of town guests
- Check out the City and Library schedule of events
- Factor in thematic ideas/daily weekly chores
- Inventory games and supplies - you might have everything already on hand
- Have the family develop a shopping list together!
Possibilities

What we know – our children need to keep their brains and bodies occupied and summer gives families a great opportunity to engage in learning in so many non pressure ways....

Whether our children are looking for everything in the family room that has a square shape, counting red cars or all the Volkswagens on the road, playing “What am I?” or playing checkers with an older brother, reading to the dog or the dolls on a bed...or you’re setting the timer for a 15 minute silent reading time...
...there are so many simple and inexpensive ways to enhance language, math and critical thinking skills and they are great ways to stay connected with our children.

Don't forget that there are a wide variety of activity books that are available at stores like Walmart and Target...and coloring books are still popular - even for teenagers & adults.

It's time to pop up the popcorn and pull those games out of the closet - better yet, have them make the sandwiches and everyone head to the beach!!
The Summer Binder

playdoughtoplato.com

itsybitsyfun.com

thirtyhandmadedays.com
Fun Websites

- http://www.somewhatsimple.com/summer-schedule-for-kids/
- https://www.pinterest.com/lisageng/fun-activities-for-kids-including-special-needs/
- http://www.scholastic.com/parents/search?query=Travel%20Games
Fun Websites

Makalla’s recommendations:

- enchantedlearning.com (thematic activities)
- starfall.com (elementary reading)
- pbskids.com (educational games/elementary)
- abcmouse.com (preschool/early elementary)
- aaamath.com (grades 3 – 8)
- math.com (kinder to pre-calculus)
- brainpop.com (all content areas)

Did you know? Our middle schools have free audio and interactive books on their websites (listed under ‘library, reading resources)
Don’t forget those u-pick local farms for fresh fruit and vegetables!