

USE THE FUN OF SUMMER TO HELP FAMILIES GET SCHOOL-READY

Back-to-school can be easier and more successful by integrating little actions into summer plans.

Summer vacation: Three blissful months of no classes or books. However, many children suffer from a summer slide, where they may lose some of the academic and social skills they gained over the school year. Help parents prevent this loss — and keep kids on track — by sharing the information below.



Help friend connections stay strong.

Socializing is an important part of growing up, and how kids learn cooperation, trust, loyalty and being a good friend. When kids lose touch with friends over the summer, they lose the chance to keep building social skills. **Remind parents to talk to their kids about ways to keep them connected with their buddies.**

Slow the summer slide.

Children can lose a significant amount of their school-year progress over the summer, especially if they don't stay engaged and actively learning. **Encourage parents to seek out free or low-cost summer programs at their library, parks/ community centers or museums.**

Keep back-to-school top-of-mind.

Kids can have a full range of emotions about the upcoming school year, from happy and excited to anxious or sad. The month of August can be extra stressful, thanks to all the last-minute preparations. **Help parents think through re-establishing routines and schedules well before the first day of school, plus talk through kids' feelings to help them work through any fears.**

Use the *My Summer Badge Grab* activity materials

Designed to help kids keep practicing social and learning skills, the Summer Badge Grab gives parents and kids fun activities that help prevent the summer slide, plus include ways for parents and kids to connect and talk. **Share the materials and help parents get started!**

If you have summer classes or activities coming up, be sure to share these events with parents too so they can make the most of the services and connections your organization provides. You could even consider planning a special *My Summer Badge Grab* event to launch the season!