

Roberta's Corner

May, 2010

Here are some great websites for your kids to use all year long. They are especially good to have when they're out of school so they don't lose momentum. I also included Ms. Amanda's tips for summer learning activities.

Jack uses these a lot:

[starfall.com](http://starfall.com) - Phonics instruction fun

[tarheelreader.org](http://tarheelreader.org) - Interactive stories and free ebooks for beginning readers of all ages

[preschoolexpress.com](http://preschoolexpress.com) - Tons of free preschool resources

[news-2-you.com](http://news-2-you.com) - News-2-You is weekly news with photos that your child will understand. Games, too.

Here are some more from Jack's teacher:

[funbrain.com](http://funbrain.com)

[readwritethink.org](http://readwritethink.org)

[sheppardsoftware.com](http://sheppardsoftware.com)

[learningplanet.com](http://learningplanet.com)

I also like [hubbardscupboard.org](http://hubbardscupboard.org) and [makinglearningfun.com](http://makinglearningfun.com)

Those are not interactive but there are cute ideas and printable activities for the kids.

*As far as keeping students on track over the summer, I am a firm believer in keeping things fun for them and using everyday summer activities as teachable moments. Some of the best things are also the simple things.*

- *Read to your child as well as with your child. The more they hear language read in a fluent and expressive way, the more they will pick up on what good readers do when they are looking at a text. Read a book that is high interest for the child but a bit over their reading level. This way they can follow along with the parent, yet they can also hear the model of how the parent is reading. The parent should stop at certain points during the story to "think aloud" about the story. They can "think aloud" about what a certain part of the story made them picture in their head (visualization), talk through a word they thought was challenging, mention what they have read so far in a retelling/discussion structure.*
- *Have the students turn outside activities into literacy activities. Write with chalk out on the sidewalk. (words they know, words they see, words they would like to know how to write, family names, shape words, color words, sight words). Get messy! Use shaving cream outside to do the same thing as chalk. This can go for working on math problems or math skills as well.*
- *If the kids want to have a lemonade stand, have them make signs where they need to write where their address, what is for sale, and how much it is. This will practice writing as well as math skills. Have them count all the money they made as well as make change!*
- *When going for long drives, have the kids read the environmental print that is outside all around them.*
- *Take pictures of fun family activities where they can make it into a story to print off and read. The parents can help type/write the words as the child dictates the story. The child will be successful reading the story even if there are difficult words in it because they were the ones to come up with them (this is called a language experience activity).*
- *Record your child reading familiar and favorite books on tape and play them in the car. They can read or follow along with themselves and listen to their own reading. Many times kids will love to hear themselves read and will even catch their own mistakes and improve upon their skills.*
- *If going on a picnic, make a list of things they will need to pack up. Have the child write down what they would like to take and read the list as they are checking things off.*

*Hope this helps, Ms. Amanda*

Have fun learning! Let me know what you think and if you find other sites you'd like to share.

*Roberta*

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