



## Extended Break Activity Suggestions

While we are away from campus and you are awaiting your first instructional packet, your family may wish to engage in activities that support growth and learning for your children from home. Below you will find many helpful ideas, app suggestions, and links that can be used to pass the time in a meaningful way.

### Literacy Activities to Keep the Love of Reading Alive

During your child's extended break from school, it is important for them to spend time reading and writing on a regular basis—whether they are a very beginning reader or a fluent reader. Try some of these suggestions for making your child's extended break full of literacy fun.

- **Be a reader and writer yourself.** When you spend time reading books at home or even directions for how to put together the grill for all your in-home dining, you demonstrate for your child that reading is both fun and useful.
- **Set aside a consistent time each day for reading.** Depending on your family's schedule, reading time might be in the morning, afternoon or before bed. Whatever time you choose, stick to it, but also remember that flexibility around extenuating circumstances is OK.
- **Read aloud to your reader.** As school-aged children become better readers, parents often stop reading aloud to them. However, by reading more difficult books aloud to your reader, you help him learn new vocabulary words, concepts, and ways of telling stories or presenting information. You also enjoy the closeness of sharing a book with your child. Many classic books are often free to download to your Kindle or iPads!
- **Allow your child to choose books for reading.** While during the school year much of your child's reading is assigned, during an extended break it is important for them to read about topics that interest them, whether it is insects, dragons or a favorite fiction series.
- **Help your child select books at a comfortable level.** Listen to your child read. If they read smoothly, use expression and can accurately tell you what they read, the book is probably at a comfortable level. If you are having troubling judging, consult your child's teacher, who is an expert at matching books to readers. In addition, teach your child to use the "rule of five" in selecting books: if they make five or more errors in reading a page of about 50 words, the book is too challenging.

### Activities to Motivate Mathematics Retention during the Extended Break

While math can seem more daunting to continue learning in extended breaks, everyday activities can turn into wonderful math lessons and enrichment. The basis for Singapore math is teaching children in a way that will enable them to solve math in everyday situations. Here's your chance to assist your child in doing just that.

Here are some easy tips for extended break math learning:

- **Use everyday activities as learning opportunities.** While eating out is discouraged at this time, families will be cooking much more! Allow your child to read the recipe with you. Have them count scoops, measure ingredients, calculate cooking and baking times, etc.
- **Play with cash.** If you have cash or coins at home, practice creating various amounts or subtracting from various amounts. Play store or restaurant! Adding up amounts and paying for items, then making change.
- **Transform routine chores into fun lessons for young children.** When washing clothes, together sort colors, whites and darks, measure capfuls of laundry detergent and softener. Estimate the time needed to complete the load.
- **Turn children's collections into math lessons.** Children love to collect and gather items, especially at the park, on hiking trails, or even in the backyard. Encourage children to sort their items by size, color, shape or texture. If your child loves to be outside and observe nature, you could do a scavenger hunt where they have to find a specific number of leaves, rocks, sticks, etc. With an activity like this, your child is actively engaged in a real experience that is based on his specific interests.
- **Follow your child's interests to guide learning.** Children often thrive with visual examples, so if your child likes the backyard garden, allow them to measure plants' growth with another object and track its growth for a set amount of time. Record the growth in a chart, graph, or journal.
- **Play board games.** Children rolling dice and counting is an important skills, plus strategizing and predicting number of moves needed, etc.
- **Play.** In the end, it's important to play! Making things fun and playful when engaging in activities with children is the key.

The following lists are for additional activities that you can find in the App store for your devices or on websites. Please supervise your child while going to these sites or apps to make sure they are making choices that are appropriate for their age and developmental level and that you approve of.

## Math Apps for Children

### Math Training for Kids

Three difficulty levels and the four basic concepts (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division) in this simple app that teaches solid math fundamentals will help your child become more skilled. (Ages 3 and up; Free; Android)

### Kids Math

The main task here is to pass all eight levels within a certain time frame by answering 10 math questions at each level (including ones about fractions and greater than/smaller than numbers.). Each question allows 30 seconds of answering time; for correct answers, players are rewarded with an additional four seconds. Dynamically generated questioning means that kids get new questions every time they play. (Ages 3 to 5; Free; Android)

### Marble Math Junior

Solve a variety of math problems by collecting numbers and bonuses as you navigate a marble maze. With three difficulty levels and 16 marble styles, this app can be personalized to fit your kid's skills and personality. It also lets you customize games to concentrate on the areas in which your child needs the most help. (Ages 6 to 8; \$3.99; iOS)

### Crazy Times Tables

Your child will love this app because of its fun, games, and photo features, but you'll love it too. The app takes a personalized approach by identifying his learning stage to help him master his times tables. (Ages 5 to 10; \$2.99; iOS)

## Let's Do the Math

Keep kids busy for hours with 15 different types of exercises in three categories and 50 word problems that focus on addition and subtraction. The app can be used either as flash cards or as a series of puzzles to teach basic concepts. (Ages 6 and up; Free; Android)

## Mathmateer

Mathmateer, voted one of the top 10 best apps for elementary school kids by Appolicious (the app directory), appeals to kids' creative side. To build a rocket ship to launch into space, kids must earn money by completing basic math challenges while recognizing patterns and shapes, telling time, and working on fractions and square roots. (Ages 9 to 11; \$1.99; iOS)

## Great Resources for all Subject Areas:

### Android and Apple IOS Spalding Phonograms apps

The Spalding Phonograms app is designed for helping students learn the phonics connection between speech sounds and written symbols that represent those sounds (phonograms). Go to <https://www.spaldingeducation.org/spalding-app> to download the Spalding app to practice phonograms over the extended break!

### Brain Pop

<https://www.brainpop.com/> Brain Pop is giving free access for parents and teachers due to the large amount of school closures! They have resources for all subject areas.

### National Geographic for Kids

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com> Games, activities, photos, and information about animals, geography, and more.

### Cool Math 4 Kids

[www.coolmath4kids.com](http://www.coolmath4kids.com) Fun math puzzles, games, and exercises for kids.

### Math Game Time

<http://www.mathgametime.com/> Lots of math games categorized by subject and grade level!

### Fact Monster

<https://www.factmonster.com/math/flashcards> A great way to practice math fact fluency. You can choose between addition, subtraction, or a mix of both!

### Smithsonian Institute

<https://www.si.edu/kids> The Smithsonian Institute has a wide variety of science and history activities