



Tooele Education
FOUNDATION
SERVING TOOELE COUNTY SCHOOLS

Chalk Talk

Schools Out for the Summer

By Ed Dalton

The school bells will soon be silenced as school ends for summer vacation. TEF observes that students are working really hard to learn. We also recognize the challenge to retain knowledge and skills over the summer break. One objective of the education family is to help students reach a point where they learn because they want to, not because they have to. Summer is a time to enrich learning.

Children can lose up to three months of academic progress over the summer. Many years of research continually show this trend. Summer is a great time to increase learning, not let it slip. The learning may take a different form than regular school. That's actually good. Here are several tips to help avoid the "summer slide".

Read as much as you can. Research shows that reading just six books during the summer may keep a struggling reader from regressing. Take advantage of your local library. Encourage your child to take advantage of every opportunity to read. Read unusual things like



Ed Dalton encouraging Mrs. Aimee Stewart's 6th grade class at Middle Canyon Elementary to fill their summer with learning. Ed's suggestion - make a rock and mineral collection.

maps, the newspaper, and good magazines. Reading aloud benefits all children and teens, especially those who struggle.

Cook with your children. This is one of the best ways to integrate math, reading and following directions. Let your child design the menu too! Help your child put together their favorite recipes in a cookbook. Cookbooks can even be fun. Then cook - that's good science.

Plant a garden. Your child will gain responsibility and pride as they watch their plants grow and thrive.

Take a field trip to a museum, zoo or local park with walking trails.

Learn while on a vacation. New places, history, geography,

plants, animals, etc. all make ingredients for vacation learning. While you are at it, take pictures and make a summer scrapbook.

Learn locally. You'll find that Tooele Valley and the County offer hundreds of learning experiences, short field trips, history, geology, collecting. Well, you name it, we've got it. All one needs to do is wonder about something, inquire, and you'll never suffer the "summer slide".

Just like with playing a sport, reading and math are skills that must be practiced. Work with children to keep practicing things they learned during the school year. Yes! It is important to keep your child's mind engaged over the summer so they will not fall victim to the "summer slide".



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