

# PARENT'S EDUCATIONAL NIGHT PRESENTATION SCRIPT

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Summer Learning Program

THINKSTRETCH

A PARTNERSHIP  
 BETWEEN \_\_\_\_\_  
 PARENTS, STUDENTS AND TEACHERS  
 TO \_\_\_\_\_

STOP SUMMER BRAIN DRAIN

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Summer Learning Program

**Agenda**

ThinkStretch Summer Learning Program overview

Why is summer learning important?

Summer Learning Program details

THINKSTRETCH

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Summer Learning Program

STEP 1 PARENT EDUCATION NIGHT

STEP 2 ANIMATED STUDENT KICK-OFF ASSEMBLY

STEP 3 SUMMER LEARNING BOOKS

STEP 4 FALL AWARD CEREMONY

THINKSTRETCH

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Children lose up to 2.6 months of learning over the summer.

ACHIEVEMENT TEST SCORES

REGULAR SCHOOL YEAR

SUMMER VACATION

REGULAR SCHOOL YEAR

THINKSTRETCH

The Summer Learning Program is a fun way to help students keep all of their hard-earned learning over the summer months.

The ThinkStretch Program anchors one end of the school year to the beginning of the next school year.

The program begins with an animated in-school kick-off assembly, includes grade specific summer learning books, and concludes with a fall award ceremony.

The program has been reviewed and approved by dozens of teachers and administrators. All materials meet our state's standards for learning outcomes by grade level.

Why do children need to study over the summer?

All children lose math, reading and writing skills when they do not practice over the summer.

On average, elementary students lose 2.6 months of math skills over the summer.

Reading performance scores decline by an average of 1-2 months during summer.

In addition, all children lose from 1-2 months of reading comprehension skills.

Reading comprehension is understanding what you have read.

Reading performance is your ability to decode (or sound out) words.

Summer learning loss is NOT correlated to race, IQ or gender.

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Achievement gaps begin in THE SUMMER

THINK STRETCH

The achievement gap begins in the summer. How does this happen?

Imagine that this coming summer, John continues to read 20 minutes a day, 5 days a week. He left school in a level C reading group.

Ashley, however, does not read regularly in the summer. She also left school as a level C reader.

When the new teacher tests John and Ashley at the beginning of the new school year, John is still a level C reader, but Ashley has lost ground and is now a level B reader.

Ashley will learn at the same rate as John during the school year. But her consistent setbacks from summer learning losses will put her behind by up to 2 years for verbal skills and 1 1/2 years for math skills by 5th grade.

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**High School Outcomes Affected by Summer Losses**

2/3 of the achievement gap, at 9th grade, between middle income and low income high school students is the result of different summer learning experiences over the elementary years

Johns Hopkins University has established a National Center for Summer Learning to research the impact of summer learning losses on student achievement [www.summerlearning.org](http://www.summerlearning.org)

THINK STRETCH

The impact of summer learning experiences affect high school outcomes.

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For more information, go to <http://www.summerlearning.org>

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**Program Goals**

RETURN STUDENTS TO SCHOOL IN THE FALL WITH ALL OF THEIR SKILLS FROM THE SPRING

Normalize summer learning activities

Include **EVERY** student in a learning community

Review mastered skills, not teach new skills

Educate parents about summer learning losses

Reward and celebrate summer learning

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Currently all efforts aimed at summer learning are punitive or stigmatizing for our children.

From a kid's point of view - Either your mom has bought you a book and makes you do it - which feels like punishment; or your teacher has sent you home with a special packet of copied worksheets - which makes you feel singled out; or you are put in summer school - which makes you feel both singled out and punished.

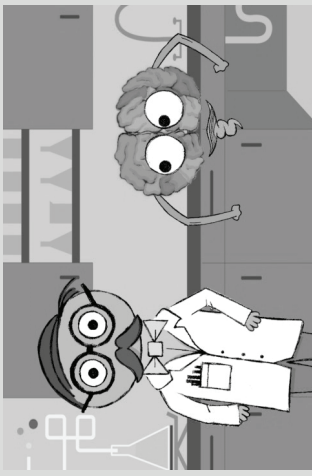
This program takes the burden off parents by following the example of normal school work - the summer learning books are coming home from your child's teacher and are returned to their new teacher. This takes a large burden off of parents who can feel isolated by trying to enforce a summer study time.


By including all students, we are removing the stigma of summer learning and making it a normal part of the school year.

We will remove the feeling of punishment by rewarding children's efforts with medals in the fall.

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**STEP TWO**  
**Student Assembly**



THINK  STRETCH

ALL ABOUT THE...  
SUMMER LEARNING BOOKS  
PROFESSOR'S ADVENTURE  
HONORARY AWARD CEREMONY

The first step is to excite the students about the Summer Learning Program.


The Professor and Brain humorously explain the importance of Summer Learning and the rewards of completing the Summer Learning Books.


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**STEP THREE**  
**Students complete workbooks**

8 WEEKLY LESSONS

Each lesson contains a reading log, a writing project, & two math worksheets  
Weekly bonus activities add science, exploration & fun  
Lessons require 1-2 hours to complete, not including reading time



THINK  STRETCH

ALL ABOUT THE...  
SUMMER LEARNING BOOKS  
PROFESSOR'S ADVENTURE  
HONORARY AWARD CEREMONY

The last week of school your student is given their grade specific Summer Learning Book. They will also come home with a Parent Guide to Summer.

Each student book contains 8 weeks of lessons – reading, writing and math plus a bonus activity. Answer keys and suggestions for summer activities are in the Parent Guide.

You should review your child's work and initial that it has been completed on pages 2 and 3 of their book each week.

**[Walk parents through Parents Guide.]**

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**STEP FOUR**  
**Award Ceremony**




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ALL ABOUT THE...  
SUMMER LEARNING BOOKS  
PROFESSOR'S ADVENTURE  
HONORARY AWARD CEREMONY

The first week of school students will return their books to their new teachers. A couple of weeks later, we will host an award ceremony. At the ceremony, students who have completed their books will be given medals for their effort.

**[Hold up medals to demonstrate.]**



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### You are the key to your student's success

Set aside workbook and reading time several days a week

Ask questions while your student is reading to help with reading comprehension

Practice math by including your student in:

- Grocery shopping, meal planning, recipe creation
- Trip planning
- Time scheduling

Provide lots of books (*public library, garage sales, thrift stores, swapping with friends*)


- Take educational trips. Most museums, zoos and science centers have a free or reduced entry day of the week. Local parks are a great way to learn more about nature. Plan ahead to consider learning opportunities for your trips.
- Consider a summer program. Camps offered by schools, YMCAs, universities and local groups could be an affordable way to explore new opportunities.
- Books, books, books. Fill your home with books. You can find a great selection of books at the library, garage sales, and thrift stores. Set up a book swap with your friends and neighbors.
- Ask questions. Encourage your child to investigate the world. Ask how he thinks the barcode works at the grocery store. Ask why she thinks her book ended the way it did. Ask what he plans on doing after lunch. Then listen!

Parents are key to Summer Learning


Every day you have chances to help your child keep their school year learning fresh.

**[Choose several ideas to share from below. Ask Parents for their ideas for Summer Learning.]**

- One of the most important things you can do this summer is talk with your child about what they are reading. Research shows that parents who ask meaningful questions about a child's reading have kids who are more likely to keep or gain reading skill. The Parent Guide has questions for all levels of reading.
- Quiet time. Set aside time several days a week for quiet reading and study.
- Choose educational computer games. The internet can be a safe place to find educational math, science and language arts games.
- Visit the library. Participate in the public library's summer reading program. Public libraries are the best place to find books for every child during the summer. Just Read, Read, Read, Read!
- Keep a schedule. Daily routines during the summer provide structure and balance.
- Go outside and play. Physical activity engages both the mind and body. Limit time spent in front of the TV and with video games.
- Practice math. Measure recipes, guess the total at the grocery store or have a math fact race. Include children in trip planning and time scheduling.



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### Please volunteer for a playground study session


To help all students to complete the program, a playground session with staff and parent volunteers will be held every week

The playground session provides help with the lessons & popsicles


These sessions **NEED VOLUNTEERS**

Please consider volunteering for two or more sessions

**[Optional slide if hosting playground study sessions.]**

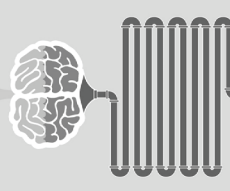



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THINK  STRETCH  
READ. THINK. LAUGH. GROW


TOGETHER WE CAN STOP

**summer brain drain**





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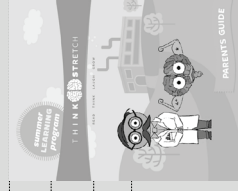
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### Extra Support from ThinkStretch

Parent Guide to Summer

[facebook.com/ThinkStretch](https://facebook.com/ThinkStretch)

[www.thinkstretch.com/extra-extra/just-for-parents](http://www.thinkstretch.com/extra-extra/just-for-parents)



As the weeks go by, you may find yourself needing a few extra ideas for the kids. Your Parents Guide to Summer has all of the ideas we have discussed plus many more.

If you are just looking for a quick idea for today or a big idea for the weekend, ThinkStretch posts on Facebook twice a week with enough ideas to keep you busy - including reading lists and fun outdoors. You can even share ideas with fellow parents.

Looking for even more? Go to ThinkStretch.com and check out the Just for Parents section. Loads of tips, suggested online activities, and more.