

learning links

Helping Kids Learn

www.learninglinks.org.au

Information Sheet 2



Holiday learning ideas for School Age Children

By Samantha Hornery, Director Southern Suburbs Branch

During the year your child has been taught many important skills. The Christmas period is long enough to relax and have fun but it is also long enough for those important skills to be forgotten.

To avoid this we have compiled a list of suggested activities, games and computer software to keep your child thinking during the holidays.

You can use these ideas anytime as they are fun and help your child practise the wonderful skills they've learnt this year.

The activities suggested here are fun for any school age child – some good ideas for a rainy or very hot day!

Fine Motor Skills and Handwriting – fostering nimble fingers and correct pencil grip and control

- Play tennis with a balloon.
- Throw and catch bean bags.
- Play Simon Says (touch your head, hop on one foot).
- Use Play dough – squeezing, poking, rolling, pinching, twisting, finding coins hidden inside play dough.
- Thread beads or macaroni on pipe cleaners or string – use tweezers to hold beads to make this task more challenging.

- Finger Painting (messy, but great fun).
- Dot-to-Dot drawings or mazes.
- Fold paper to make paper aeroplanes.
- Colouring in using triangular pencils (these can be bought from Australia Post or Dominie 9905 0201).
- Any fine motor craft activity (making models, gluing, cutting).
- Make Christmas decorations and cards.
- Write good copies of letters or postcards for family and friends.
- Play games – Marbles, Tricky Fingers, Pick Up Sticks (Fiddle Sticks), Operation and any Card Games.
- Cook – mixing, rolling, measuring.
- Build models with Lego and Blocks.

Oral Language and Speech – encouraging children to speak clearly so words and meaning can be understood

- Recount a day out with details of When, Who, Where and What.
- Ask your child questions if the meaning of what they've said is unclear.

- Games (these are great for in the car) – Shopping List (I went shopping and bought bread – milk – sugar and the child has to remember what has been said before), I Spy (modify by giving clues about what the item looks like and what you do with it rather than saying the sound it starts with), Guess Who, Celebrity Heads, Charades.
- Barrier Games (place a barrier between you and your child and they must use language to make sure both sides of the barrier are the same). For example your child draws a simple picture and then tells you how to make the same picture – you could also use block towers or bead patterns to describe.
- Play games where your child has to listen to directions or answer questions.
- Oral sequencing activities – ask your child to order the steps needed to complete a routine activity such as bathtime, getting dressed, a shopping trip, cleaning or cooking.

Learning Links is a non-profit charity assisting children who have difficulty learning and their families.

We raise funds to help children from birth to 18 years by offering a range of services including the following.

Early Childhood Services for children from birth to six years.

- Early childhood intervention and support for very young children.
- An inclusive preschool for children with and without special needs.
- An assessment and consultancy service for families who are concerned about their young child's development.
- Specialist early childhood teaching and therapy.

School Age Services for children from Kindergarten to Year 12 who have low support needs.

- Comprehensive assessments.
- Small group tuition and therapy.
- Occupational and speech therapy programs combining specialist education services and therapy.
- Outreach programs.
- The Ronald McDonald Learning Program for seriously ill children and the Reading for Life Program for children falling behind in their reading.

Family Services helping and supporting families and health professionals.

- Centre and home-based family counselling.
- Parenting Programs and groups for families.
- Case Management Services.

Professional Development for teachers and health professionals.

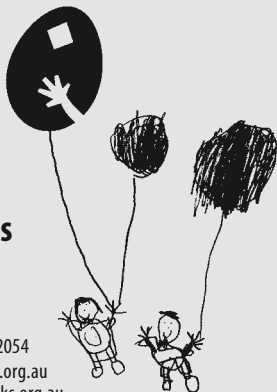
Presentations, workshops and advice on identifying and helping children with learning difficulties, learning disabilities and developmental delays.

Learning Links has branches in six Sydney locations at Peakhurst, Penshurst, Fairfield, Miller, Dee Why and Randwick. We also offer some services to children in country NSW, the ACT, Victoria and New Zealand. A complete list of branch locations and contact numbers is on the back cover.

Learning Links

Head Office

12-14 Pindari Road
Peakhurst NSW 2210
Tel: 9534 1710 Fax: 9584 2054
Email: mail@learninglinks.org.au
Website: www.learninglinks.org.au



Enquiries regarding this Information Sheet should be directed to Robyn Collins
Tel: (02) 9534 1710 Fax: (02) 9584 2054 Email: rcollins@learninglinks.org.au

© Learning Links 2006. The material in this publication cannot be reproduced without the written permission of Learning Links.



Reading

- Pick an interesting book (fact or fiction) and read to your child every day – show by example a love of books and reading.
- Read purposeful texts with your child (train timetables, movie guides, holiday brochures, recipes).
- Encourage a short 10 minute reading time every second day to sit and read with your child. They can use a text they have worked on through the year or pick a new one.
- Revise sight words in a fun way write them on cards and play games with them – memory, fish, snap, bingo, old mail and rummy.
- Play board games such as Scrabble (you can purchase modified versions for young children) and Up Words.
- Find A Word and Cross Word Books can be a fun activity for you and your child to complete together.
- Play Scategories and Hangman with you children – the whole family can enjoy this too.

Mathematics – Basic Number Facts

Writing

- Keep a holiday journal once a week (or more if you can manage it) with details of When, Who, Where and What. Have your child draft it on scrap paper and then present it in a project book or type it on computer. Add souvenirs of the day (movie tickets, pictures, trinkets) to assist your child when telling their holiday stories next year when they go to school.
- Write a joke book with your child. Tell jokes to each other and write them down.
- Make a recipe book. Cook with your child, talk about the recipes and put them in a book for your child.
- Write letters or postcards to family and friends even if you don't go away. Your child can read the replies.
- Use the chat lines on the internet (with very close parental supervision). Children enjoy being on the computer and are happy to type with their friends.
- All children would benefit from revising times tables – listen to a tape, sing the song in the car, play bingo and snap with the times tables written on cards.
- Practise basic maths facts using board games. All you need is a blank board game, die, counters and a 12 sided spinner (or number cards).
- Use cards and dice lying around the house to play maths games. Simply flip two cards or roll two dice and add, subtract or multiply the numbers. The answer can be used to move around a game board or score points for the highest or lowest answer. These games can be made more challenging by increasing the number of cards or dice thrown at any one time.
- The computer is a wonderful way for children to practise their basic maths facts. Games such as James Discovers Maths (Broderbund), Edu Maths (Edu Corp), Maths Workshop (Broderbund) and Maths Goes Mental (DataWorks) are fun and your children will enjoy using them.
- Board Games – Snakes and Ladders, Dominoes – basically anything involving counting dice and moving spaces is another opportunity for your child to practise their basic maths facts.

Spelling

- Spelling is not the most interesting activity for the holidays – so use the computer. Programs like "Super Spell" (Hoopers), "Spell It Deluxe" (Broderbund) and "Phonics Alive 3: The Speller" (Advanced Education Software) are a fun way for your children to be practising their spelling.
- Design you own games. Children enjoy being creative and can design their own board, materials and rules – lots of skills are practised with this fun activity.



www.learninglinks.org.au

Early Childhood Services
– all enquiries to Head Office

School Age Services
– contact your local branch

Family Services
– contact your local branch

All other enquiries
– Head Office

Head Office
12-14 Pindari Road
Peakhurst NSW 2210
Telephone: (02) 9534 1710
Preschool: (02) 9533 3283
Facsimile: (02) 9584 2054
Email: mail@learninglinks.org.au

Northern Suburbs Branch
2 Alfred Road
PO Box 634
Brookvale NSW 2100
Telephone: (02) 9907 4222
Facsimile: (02) 9907 4244
Email: nsb@learninglinks.org.au

Western Suburbs Branch
Unit 7/9 William Street
PO Box 1026
Fairfield NSW 1860 (2165)
Telephone: (02) 9754 2377
Facsimile: (02) 9755 9422
Email: wsb@learninglinks.org.au

Southern Suburbs Branch
10 Railway Parade
Penshurst NSW 2222
Telephone: (02) 9580 4888
Facsimile: (02) 9580 4788
Email: ssb@learninglinks.org.au

South West Sydney Branch
88 Shropshire Street
PO Box 42
Miller NSW 2168
Telephone: (02) 8783 7111
Facsimile: (02) 8783 7222
Email: sws@learninglinks.org.au

Eastern Suburbs Branch
1/20 Silver Street
Randwick NSW 2032
Telephone: (02) 9398 5188
Facsimile: (02) 9326 5364
Email: esb@learninglinks.org.au

Please help us help children

Please PRINT

- I would like to donate \$_____ to help kids who have difficulty learning.
- I would like to be a member of Learning Links. *Please tick appropriate box below.*
 - Individual or Family \$45 (including GST)
 - Professional \$45 (including GST)
 - Not for profit Organisation \$55 (including GST)
 - Corporate \$70 (including GST)

Individual, Family and professional membership includes one copy of *Learning Links News*

I enclose my: Cheque Money Order **or**

Charge my: BANKCARD VISA MASTERCARD AMEX

Account No: _____ CCV*: _____

Visa and Mastercard last 3 digits on back of card.

Account Name: _____ Expiry Date: ____ / ____

Signature: _____

Name (Dr, Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms): _____

Organisation/Business: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Tel: (Home): _____ (Business): _____

Please post to Learning Links: 12-14 Pindari Road, Peakhurst NSW 2210. *Donations over \$2 are tax deductible and will be receipted.*

