



### Summer Learning

With summer beginning, your children are probably going to enjoy the care-free days of no school! This break from school does not have to also be a break from learning. Read on to learn how to keep your children's brains active over the summer.

#### Reading

- Every day read a book to your child, and if they are old enough, have them read to you!
- Visit your local library. They often have free programs during the summer.
- Play "I spy" to find things that start with certain letters.



#### Math

- Cook with your child, have them practice measuring ingredients and talk about fractions.
- Count with your child, whether it is how many blue cars you pass, or how many bananas you need to buy.
- Do math while doing chores, have children count how many pairs of socks are folded, ask them to get four spoons.
- Have your child keep score or be in charge of money for board games.



#### Science

- Plant a small garden. Talk with your child about how plants grow, and guess how large the plant will grow.
- Talk about the different kinds of weather, and keep a daily log.
- Visit a park and talk about the trees, animals, and insects you see.
- Visit a zoo or museum. Over the summer they often have free or reduced cost days.



#### Physical Activity

- Be sure to take advantage of the nice weather. Ride bikes, play sports, go swimming. Not only will this help with gross motor skills, but it can also help with math skills in terms of keeping score, or self-regulation by encouraging your child to remember the rules.



For more articles like this one see

**Oregon Parenting Together**

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**Father's Day is June 17th**

**Need a fun activity to do with your young children? Try this!**

**FUN WITH YOUR KIDS**

Create a Bug-catcher for  
your Nature Walk



Before you head to the park, create a bug-catcher! Take an empty plastic jar and clean it out. Carefully poke a few holes in the lid and have your child decorate it with his/her name and drawings. Take it with you on your next outdoor adventure!



### **Choosing a Preschool or Childcare Center**

Choosing your child's childcare center or first school is both an exciting and stressful time. Regardless of the qualities you're looking for, it's smart to start researching early and apply to multiple programs, because space is often limited and programs fill up fast.

Here are some questions to ask and things to look for to ensure that the school will be a good fit for your family. Be sure to call in advance to arrange a tour.

#### **Before You Go:**

- Ask yourself "What kind of childcare or school environment am I looking for? School-based, center-based or in-home?"

### **When You Get There:**

- Spend time observing the classroom.
- How large are the classes and what is the teacher-child ratio?
- What is the look and feel of the school?
- Is the atmosphere exciting?
- What kinds of activities are children doing?
- What is the focus on reading and literacy?
- Consider if the program is a good fit for your family and reflects the values you hold.

### **More Questions to Ask When Choosing a Program:**

- Are children working all together or individually?
- How do parents get involved in the school?
- How is information communicated to parents?
- How does the school address social-emotional and behavioral issues?
- What are the discipline policies?
- Request a copy of the class schedule?
- What are the illness policies?
- Is the space safe?

**[Click here see a list of Free Preschool Programs in Marion & Polk County!](#)**

*Choosing a Preschool or a Childcare Center (n.d.) Retrieved and adapted from: <http://www.pbs.org/parents/education/going-to-school/choosing/preschool/>*

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### **Blog of the Month**

If you're a caregiver to a young child I'm sure you've heard this many, many times already: "Oh, I wish my kids were still little... make sure to cherish every moment!" It's very well-intentioned and the implication is that children grow up before you know it, but sometimes it is really hard to enjoy certain moments.

**-- Read More --**

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## Kindergarten & Preschool Registration is OPEN NOW!

By enrolling your child early, your school is able to prepare the best possible education for your child. Many schools offer a kinder jumpstart program to assist with transition into kindergarten. Find your local [elementary school](#) on our website.

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## Free Summer Events for Families

### Public Works Day- Salem

Thursday, June 21. 10:30-2:00pm

Riverfront Park

200 Water St NE Salem, OR 97301

Bring the family! Play with an augmented reality sandbox, repair a water main, sit in Public Works equipment, listen and watch presentations

### Family Night Out- Grand Ronde

Thursday, June 21. 4:00-8:00pm

Grand Ronde Campus-

9164 Grand Ronde Rd. Grand Ronde, OR 97347

Food, prizes, candy walk, 100-foot slide, rat race obstacle course and more.

### Summer Block Party- Salem

Monday, June 25. 10:00-2:00pm

Gilbert House-

116 Marion St NE Salem, OR 97301

Join us for a day of family fun to celebrate summer learning! Free admission to the Gilbert House Children's Museum! Learn about local summer resources.



### Kids: Alex Zerbe the Zaniac Comedy

Thursday, June 28. 4:00-5:00pm

Stayton Library- 515 N. 1st Avenue

Bring the family! The Zaniac shines like a comedy beacon as he bounces from one end of the stage to the other like an untamed rubber band. Jaws will drop as Alex juggles bowling balls, flaming torches and slices vegetables in half with a flying playing card!

For additional events in Marion and Polk County visit our [calendar!](#)



### **Vroom Tip**

Do you want fun easy activities that help your child learn? Download the **FREE** Vroom smartphone app for activities and learn the science behind early brain development. Available in English and Spanish.

Invent a super secret handshake for your and your child. Take turns adding a step (like shaking twice). Repeat it until you both have it down. Now change one of the steps. How do they respond? Go back and forth between the new and old way.

### **More Vroom Tips**

Search for the Daily Vroom app in the iTunes, Google Play or Amazon Fire stores.

**OR**

Sign up for weekly brain building text message by texting CHILD to 48258.

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