

*"Parents and families are the first and most important teachers. If families teach a love of learning, it can make all the difference in the world to our children." - Richard W. Riley*

Dear parents/guardians,

Summer shouldn't mean taking a break from learning. Studies show that most students experience a slight loss of skills over the summer months, but children who continue to read and practice skills will actually gain skills. During the summer, parents can help children sustain (and even bolster) academic skills, strengthen their vocabulary and reinforce the benefits of reading and learning for enjoyment.



Remember that children need free time, away from structured academic learning, and the summer is the perfect time to relax and enjoy the pleasures of childhood. So summer reading should be fun. The following are a few tips to make summer reading enjoyable for your children:

**Read aloud together with your child every day.** Make it fun by reading outdoors - on the front steps, patio, at the beach or park. Also, let your children read to you. For younger children, be sure to practice letter-sound correspondence, do lots of rhyming and clapping out syllables, and explore the relationships between oral language and print. Practice reading in funny voices, perhaps characters from the story, or even imitations of people you know!

**Act it out!** After reading a good story, help your child write a script and make the story into a play for your family to act out for others. If you have the time and supplies, your child can even make costumes and a set. If possible, record it and play it again later.

**Set a good example!** Keep lots of reading material around the house. Turn off the TV and have family reading time (including mom and dad). Let your children see that reading is a big part of your life by letting them see you read the newspaper, magazines, book, or any print material. If you find an interesting part, share it with them and discuss what makes it so interesting to you.

**Let kids choose what they want to read,** and every so often, read the same book your child is reading and discuss it. Don't force them to finish a book they have decided they don't like. Allow them to put it down and choose a new one. Show them how they might pick a book that is both appropriate and enjoyable.



**Buy books on tape or check them out at the library.** This can be especially helpful for a child with a learning disability. Listen to these recordings in the car, or turn off the TV and have the family listen to them together at home.

**As you go through the day** - cooking, gardening, grocery shopping, playing games - utilize this time as an opportunity to engage in verbal word play, vocabulary building, recognizing new and familiar words or attaching meaning to words and sentences. The more words a child hears in his or her everyday life, the more words he or she will have in his or her vocabulary to pull from later.

**Take your children to the library regularly.** Most libraries sponsor summer reading clubs with easy-to-reach goals for pre-school and school-age children. Check the library calendar for special summer reading activities and events. Libraries also provide age appropriate lists for summer reading, and are a great place to go to get out of the house and escape the summer heat.

**Subscribe, in your child's name,** to magazines like Sports Illustrated for Kids, Highlights for Children, or National Geographic World. Encourage older children to read the newspaper and current events magazines as a way of keeping up the reading habit over the summer and enhancing a growing vocabulary. Ask them what they think about what they've read, and listen to what they say.

**Ease disappointment** over summer separation from a favorite school friend by encouraging them to become pen pals. Present both children with postcards or envelopes that are already addressed and stamped. If both children have access to the Internet, e-mail or instant messaging is another option. Family members in other cities/states are also great options for summer pen-pals.

**Trips can be a fun way to encourage reading.** Ask your children to read traffic signs and billboards aloud. Show them how to read a map, and once you are on the road, let them take turns being the navigator. Let them read and explore travel brochures, and maybe even allow them to compare a few and choose one that they want to go visit!

**Encourage children to keep a summer scrapbook.** Tape in souvenirs of your family's summer activities - picture postcards, ticket stubs, photos. Have your children write the captions and read them aloud as you look at the book together.

**Gather maps to favorite places** such as the library or the park. Allow your child to help navigate by plotting the course before leaving the house.

**Connect to current events** by posting a world map or a globe near the TV. When something on TV mentions a place, help your child find the location on the map/globe and see where it is going on in relation to where we live.

**Create funny stories** by cutting out funny or interesting pictures out of magazines. If they are able, have them write the story down or add a few more pictures with it and create a book using the cut out pictures as illustrations.

**Write notes** to your child. Leave notes for them at the breakfast or dinner table, under their pillow, or anywhere else you can think to leave them. Encourage your child to write back and leave the note for you to find as well.

**Let your child make dinner.** Help him or her search through recipes to decide what to make. Have them create a shopping list based on what ingredients you already have and what you need to purchase. While in the grocery store help your child compare prices to determine what the best buy is. Once home, help them to determine how to measure the ingredients to make the recipe. Added points if you are doubling or halving a recipe!

**Chart the weather.** Use the newspaper or a home weather station to chart the temperature, rain, or other weather-related items. Put them on a graph (line graph or bar graphs work well) and see what trends there are.

**Travel abroad while never leaving home.** Visit ethnic shops and restaurants and discuss the cultures and customs of that country. Find the country on a map or globe and encourage your child to discuss each “trip” talking about what they liked or didn’t like and what was the most interesting thing they saw or learned.

**Allow computer time.** Children love technology, especially the computer. There are many wonderful internet sites that students can get on to help them with reading, math and other skills as well. Some of these include:

[www.starfall.com](http://www.starfall.com) helps with phonics and beginning/early reading.

[www.studyvillage.com](http://www.studyvillage.com) will work on many different skills.

[www.kidsknowit.com](http://www.kidsknowit.com) has educational movies, games, music and worksheets for a variety of topics.

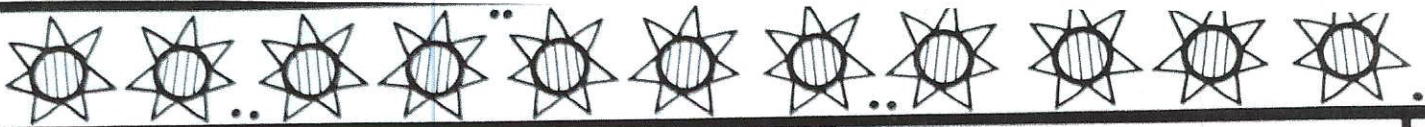
[www.coolmath-games.com](http://www.coolmath-games.com) has exactly what it says it has – cool math games!

[www.hoodamath.com](http://www.hoodamath.com) reinforces math skills with fun games – the kids LOVE this site!

A simple internet search will also provide you with many more, including sites where you can print off fun worksheets/games/puzzles, writing/tracing paper to work on handwriting and fun research on any topic you can think of!

*Have a great summer!*

*Mrs. Santamaria/2-1*



# Summer Reading Challenge

Exercise your brain all summer!

Read a book with yellow (like the sun) on the cover.

Title:

Read a book on a pillow.

Title:

Read a book with an animal in it.

Title:

Read a book in the shade.

Title:

Read a non-fiction (true) book.

Title:

Read a book next to a toy.

Title:

Read a book about friends.

Title:

Read a book in your pajamas.

Title:

Read a book with blue (like the summer sky) on the cover.

Title:

Free choice. Read any book you want.

Title:

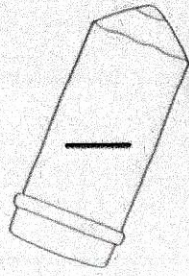
Write each book title in only one box. An adult or bigger kid can help you read the books. When school starts, bring this to your teacher or librarian for a prize!

Parent Signature **4**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_



Add:

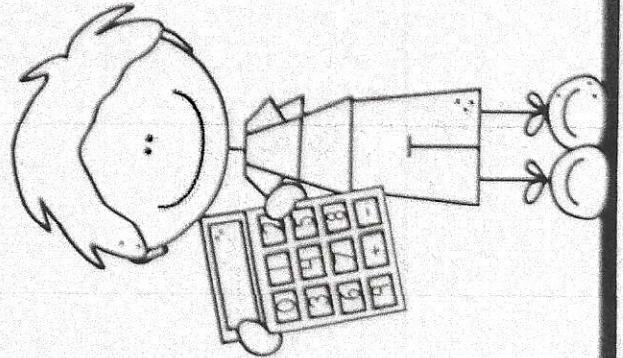
1.  $3 + 4 =$  \_\_\_\_\_

2.  $6 + 11 =$  \_\_\_\_\_

Subtract:

3.  $12 - 7 =$  \_\_\_\_\_

4.  $17 - 9 =$  \_\_\_\_\_



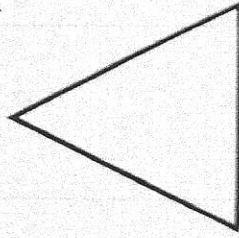
5. Fill in the missing number.

$3 + \underline{\quad} = 10$

6. Compare the two numbers by writing  $>$ ,  $<$ , or  $=$  in the circle.

**12** ○ **14**

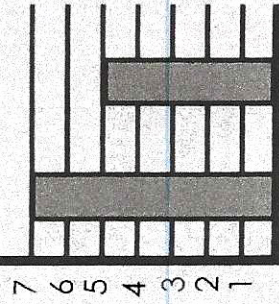
7. Name this shape.



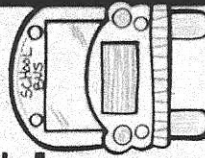
8. The classroom is 60 steps away from the gym. It is 50 steps away from the library. How many more steps does it take to get to the gym than the library?

9. How many kids ride the bus to school?

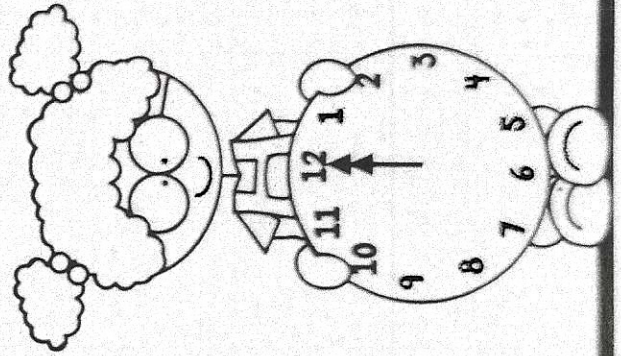
How Students Get to School



walk bus



10. What time is it?



#	answer
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_

Add:

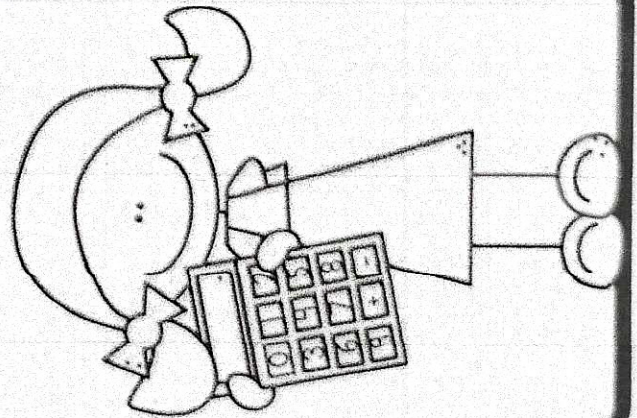
1.  $4 + 7 =$  \_\_\_\_\_

2.  $3 + 6 =$  \_\_\_\_\_

Subtract:

3.  $15 - 6 =$  \_\_\_\_\_

4.  $17 - 4 =$  \_\_\_\_\_



5. Which is another way to write  $2 + 3 = 5$

$5 + 2 = 3$

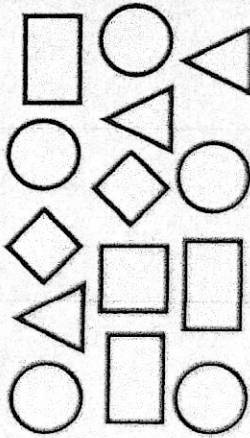
or

$3 + 2 = 5$

6. Are the numbers in order?

13 14 15 16

7. How many circles?



8. There were 18 erasers in the box.

We used 12 erasers.

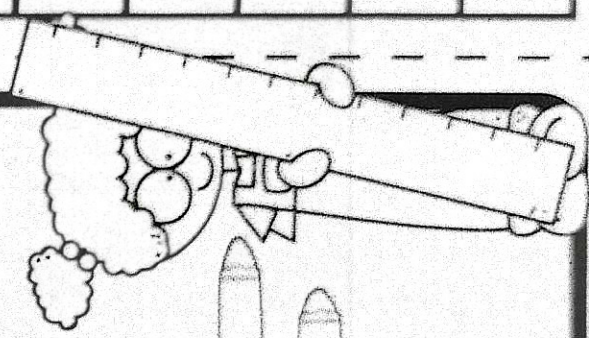
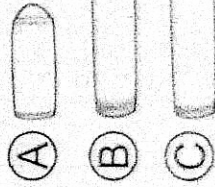
How many erasers are left in the box?

9. How many kids like paint the best?

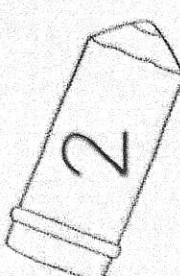
Favorite Art Supply

crayon	marker	paint

10. Which crayon is the shortest?

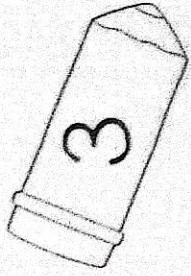


#	answer
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_



Add:

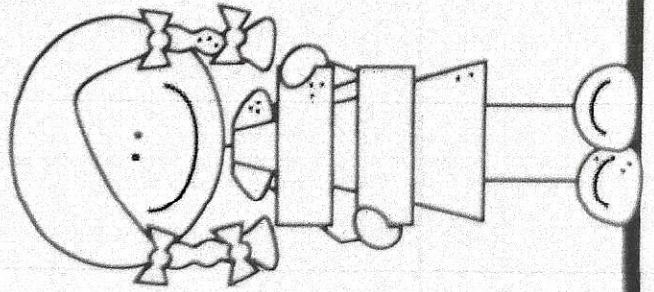
1.  $8 + 3 =$  \_\_\_\_\_

2.  $2 + 17 =$  \_\_\_\_\_

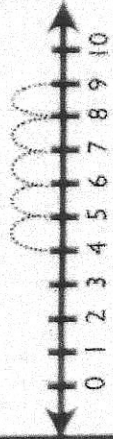
Subtract:

3.  $20 - 11 =$  \_\_\_\_\_

4.  $19 - 8 =$  \_\_\_\_\_



5. Use the number line to find the sum.

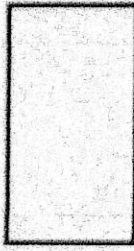


$4 + 5 =$

6. Write the missing number.

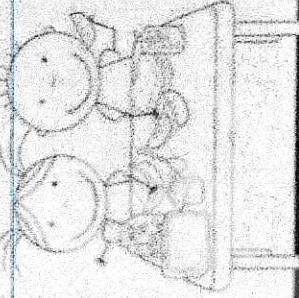
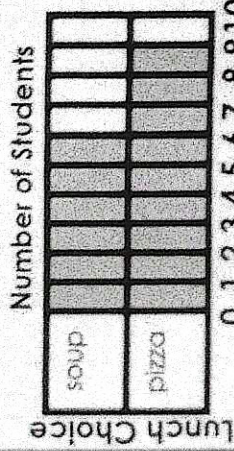
22	23	25	26
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7. How many sides does the shape have?

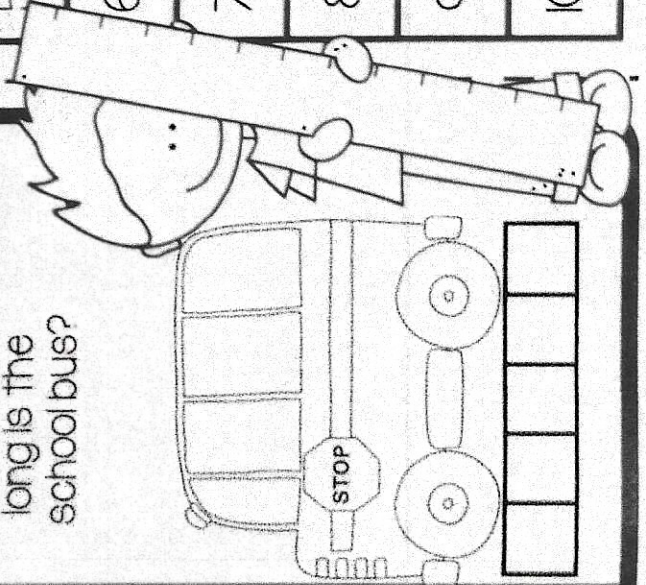


8. There are ten buses that leave the school each day. Four go right and the rest go left. How many buses turn left?

9. How many students ate pizza?



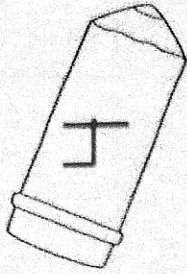
10. How many squares long is the school bus?



#	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	answer

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_



Add:

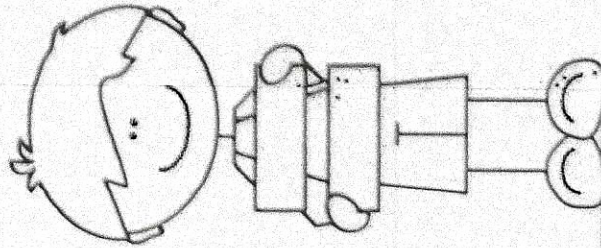
1.  $4 + 6 =$  \_\_\_\_\_

2.  $7 + 12 =$  \_\_\_\_\_

Subtract:

3.  $12 - 6 =$  \_\_\_\_\_

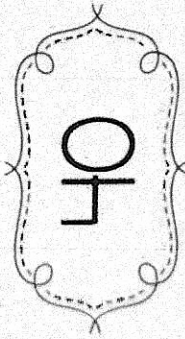
4.  $13 - 5 =$  \_\_\_\_\_



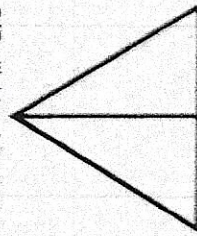
5. Is the equation true or false?

$$2 + 3 = 0 + 5$$

6. What number is 10 more?



7. Is the shape cut into halves or thirds?



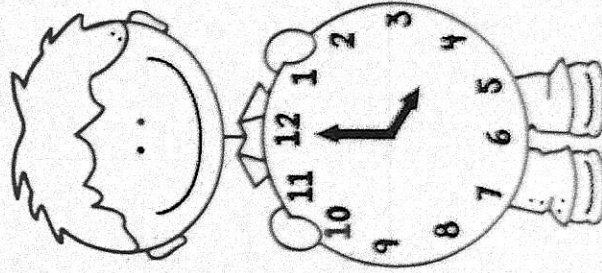
8. There are 3 kids on the swings, 4 at the slide, and 6 playing tag. How many kids are there in all?

9. How many girls are in the class?

Students in Our Class

girls	### ##
boys	### ##

10. What time is it?



#	answer
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	