

The National Center on Afterschool and Summer Enrichment (NCASE) has developed a number of resources focused on promoting school-age children's learning and development in the summer months. This publication is part of a series compiling NCASE resources on a particular theme for the benefit of state, territory, and tribal Lead Agencies and their designated networks. The goal is to promote professional development and capacity building.



NCASE RESOURCES ON SUMMER

Review these resources in preparation for discussion and planning.

Promoting Learning and Growth for School-Age Children During the Summer Months

NCASE facilitated a webinar to share strategies and introduce new resources aimed at mitigating and preventing the "summer slide" of lost academic progress that many school-age children experience during the summer months. Highlighting the value of summertime child care programming, the webinar discussed the importance of the summer months in promoting school-age children's growth and development; strategies for school-age child care providers and parents to prevent the summer slide, including tip sheets from NCASE; and ways that Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) agencies can share information on promising practices with providers and parents.

Summer Learning Tips for School-Age Care Providers and Parents/Caregivers

School may be out for the summer, but children's learning needs don't take a vacation. Children learn best when they have opportunities to build skills and knowledge across settings. These include summer child care programs as well as time spent at home. NCASE published [Summer Learning and Enrichment: Tips for School-Age Care Providers](#) to share ideas with summertime child care providers for: creating a plan for the summer months, building a relationship with families, engaging children in activities to help prevent the summer slide, and keeping children healthy and active during the summer. A companion NCASE resource, [Summer Learning Fun: Tips for Parents and Caregivers](#), is designed to support parents and caregivers with specific ideas for engaging their children in fun, meaningful learning activities throughout the summer.



Questions for Reflection

Use these prompts to capture insights from the resources...

- › What does the research show about the importance of summer learning for school-age children and their families?
- › What are the promising practices that states and programs are pursuing to prevent and mitigate summer learning loss?
- › How are OST programs uniquely suited to promoting school-age children's learning and development in the summer months, and to addressing COVID-19 learning loss?



Action Steps

Consider what specific steps your organization can take...

- › What strategies does your program use to promote school-age children's learning and development in the summer, and how do you measure their effectiveness?
- › What partners can you involve to help you meet children's needs for enrichment opportunities in the summer months?
- › What additional resources, such as professional development or funding, would allow you to enhance your summer programming?

Discoveries and Innovations in Summer Learning

NCASE hosted a webinar on Discoveries and Innovations in Summer Learning to explore the most current developments in summer learning. The presenters highlighted success strategies from states and programs, shared successes and challenges, and identified technical assistance supports. Discussion also included action steps participants might take to improve program quality, workforce development, and policies toward closing the current opportunity gap.

School-Age Consumer Education Toolkit

The School-Age Consumer Education toolkit shares consumer education information, including state examples and resources, on the physical, social, and emotional health and development of school-age children and on engagement efforts with their parents and families. In addition, the toolkit features a video that shows the importance of afterschool and summer care for families with data and details about the experiences of children served through federal subsidies. A Spotlight on Summer section, added as part of the updated version of the toolkit, provides state examples and resources relevant to summertime care.



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Afterschool and Summer Enrichment

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