



**NATIONAL CENTER ON**  
Afterschool and Summer Enrichment

## **Promoting Learning and Growth During the Summer Months**



**May 16, 2019**

# Presenters



NATIONAL CENTER ON  
Afterschool and Summer Enrichment

**Heidi Rosenberg**  
NCASE



**Jennifer Rinehart**  
Afterschool  
Alliance



**Leslie Gabay-  
Swanston**  
NCASE



**Lori Jones**  
Southwestern  
Child Development  
Commission



# Session Objectives



NATIONAL CENTER ON  
Afterschool and Summer Enrichment



- Understand the importance of quality summer programming in preventing the “summer slide”
- Learn strategies for promoting summer learning experiences and strong program–home connections
- Learn how CCR&Rs and other organizations can help inform providers and families

# Agenda



NATIONAL CENTER ON  
Afterschool and Summer Enrichment

- CCDF and summer
- Summer slide issues
- Importance of engaging providers and families
- New NCASE tip sheets
- CCR&R perspective
- Q&A



# CCDF and Summer



NATIONAL CENTER ON  
Afterschool and Summer Enrichment

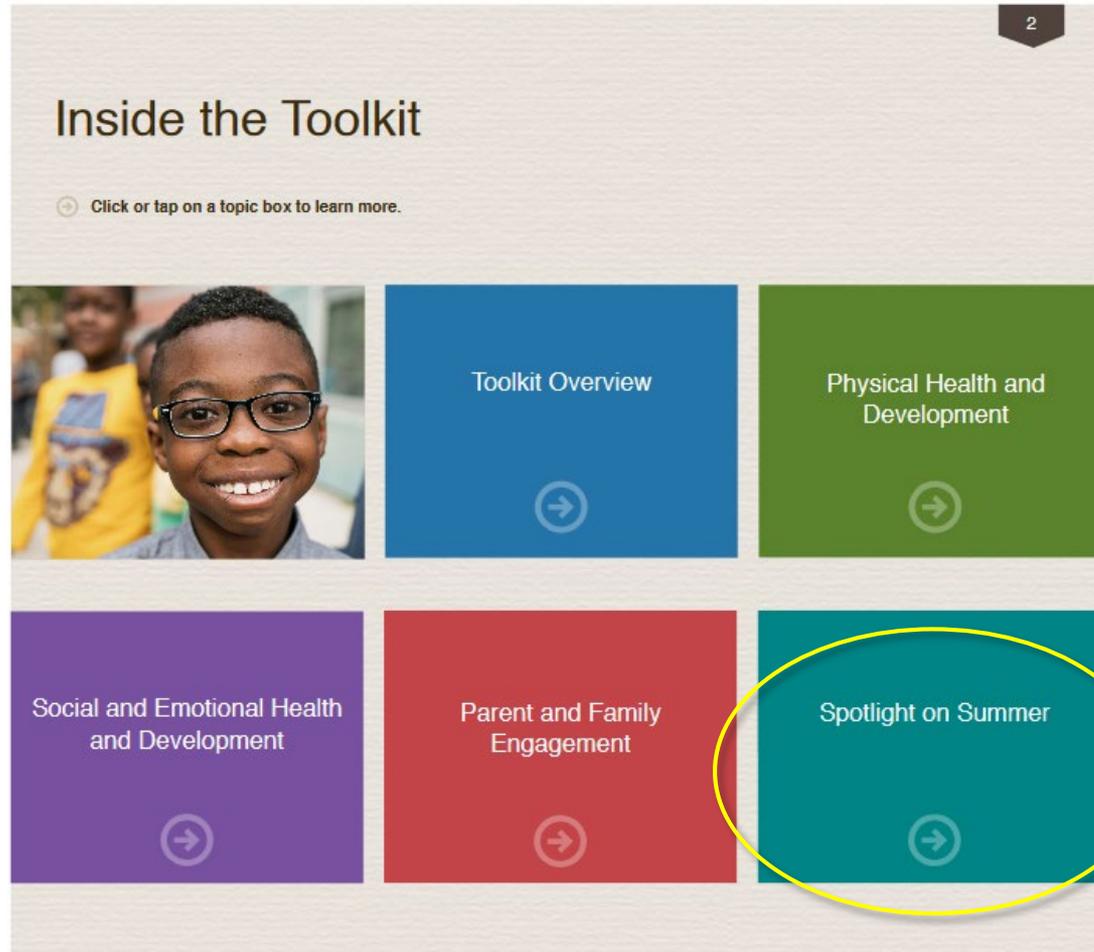
- Transition from part-time to full-time child care during summer months
- 8% increase in number of school-aged children served through subsidies during the summer months
- Many CCDF child care providers are not specialty “summer programs”



# Consumer Education Toolkit: Spotlight on Summer



NATIONAL CENTER ON  
Afterschool and Summer Enrichment



# Spotlight on Summer



NATIONAL CENTER ON  
Afterschool and Summer Enrichment

*School-Age Consumer Education Toolkit*

## Spotlight on Summer

Summer learning programs have the opportunity to support the growth and development of school-age children in a relaxed environment. They can take advantage of the warmer weather to engage children and families in outdoor and other activities.



7

**i** What is it?

State Examples

Resources

Many child care programs for children under 5 provide services year round, from early morning until the evening. However, once children enter school, many parents find themselves looking for summer programs that meet their needs and the interests of their children. Studies show that without quality summer programs, children from low-income families run the risk of falling behind in reading and math skills.<sup>1</sup> In addition to supporting parents as they continue to provide for their families, summer programs can help prevent learning loss, promote healthy habits, and provide a safe, nurturing environment.

<sup>1</sup> Cooper, H., Nye, B., Charlton, K., Lindsay, J., & Greathouse, S. (1996). The effects of summer vacation on achievement test scores: A narrative and meta-analytic review. *Review of Educational Research*, 66(3), 227-268.

Toolkit Overview

Physical Health and Development

Social and Emotional Health and Development

Parent and Family Engagement

Spotlight on Summer

# Poll



NATIONAL CENTER ON  
Afterschool and Summer Enrichment

Are you familiar with the concept of the "summer slide?"



## Jennifer Rinehart

Senior Vice President, Research &  
Policy



**Afterschool  
Alliance**

# Why Summer Matters



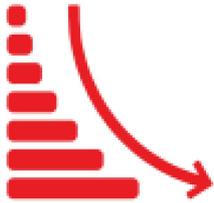
NATIONAL CENTER ON  
Afterschool and Summer Enrichment



**From Smarter Summers to Brighter Futures**

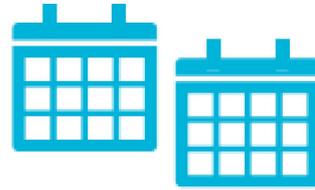
#KeepKidsLearning  
Smartersummers.org





## THE “SUMMER SLIDE”

is what often happens to disadvantaged children during the summer months. They tread water at best or even fall behind, while higher-income children build their skills steadily over the summer months.

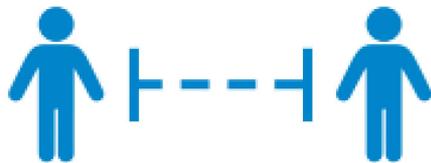


Most students lose **TWO MONTHS** of mathematical skills every summer, and low-income children typically lose another two to three months in reading.<sup>1</sup>



Summer learning loss during elementary school accounts for two-thirds of the achievement **GAP IN READING** between low-income children and their middle-income peers by ninth grade.<sup>2</sup>

*Based on a study by Johns Hopkins University*

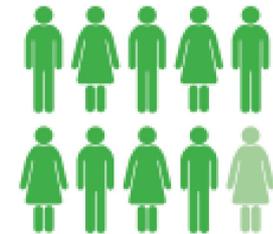


## THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP

between children from high- and low-income families is roughly thirty to forty percent larger among children born in 2001 than among those born twenty-five years earlier.<sup>3</sup>



Elementary school students with high levels of attendance (at least five weeks) in voluntary **SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAMS** experience benefits in math and reading.<sup>4</sup>



## 9 IN 10 TEACHERS

spend at least three weeks re-teaching lessons at the start of the school year.<sup>5</sup>



# Why Summer Matters



NATIONAL CENTER ON  
Afterschool and Summer Enrichment

90% of teachers  
spend **3 weeks**  
reteaching  
lessons at the  
start of each  
school year.

**Summer Learning is changing that.**



[Smartersummers.org](http://Smartersummers.org)



Afterschool Alliance

# Why Summer Matters



NATIONAL CENTER ON  
Afterschool and Summer Enrichment

## BOOSTING READING SKILLS

in a 6 week program over the summer



[Source: \*Average Summer Learning Loss, Disadvantaged Students Without Summer Learning Opportunities  
McCombs et al. (2011). Making Summer Count: How Summer Programs Can Boost Children's Learning. Rand Education & The Wallace  
Foundation. Cooper, Harris (2003). The Problem and Some Solutions. ERIC Clearinghouse on Elementary and Early Childhood Education.]

# Why Summer Matters

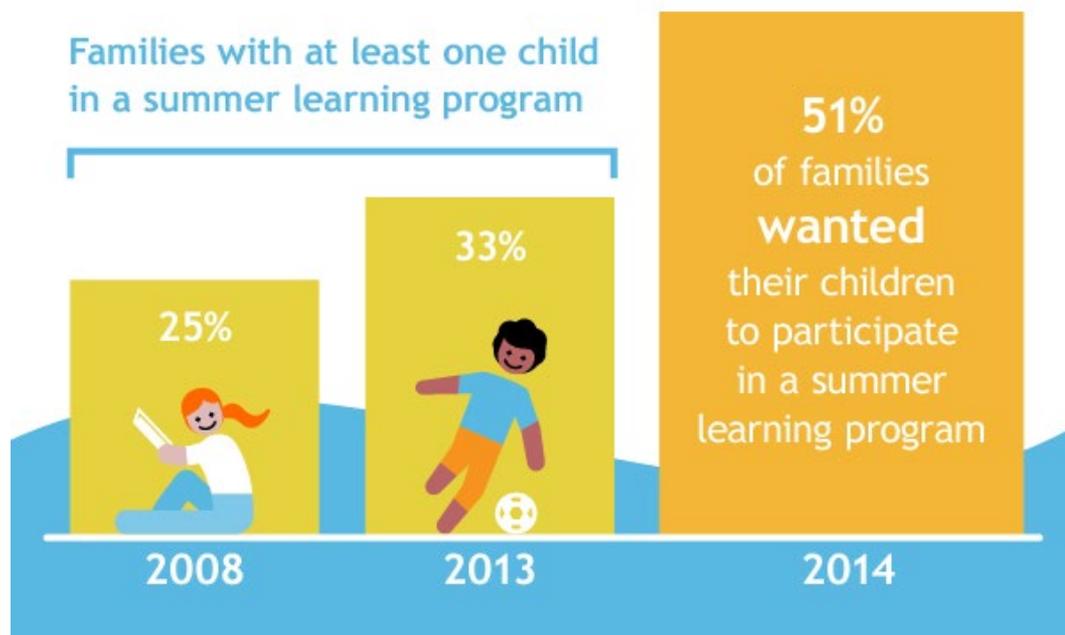


NATIONAL CENTER ON  
Afterschool and Summer Enrichment

## DEMAND IS GROWING

Summer learning programs are in high demand.

Families with at least one child  
in a summer learning program



Learn more at [www.afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM)

Source: [www.afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM)



Afterschool Alliance

# Why Summer Matters



NATIONAL CENTER ON  
Afterschool and Summer Enrichment

## SUPPORT IS STRONG

Parents & teachers value summer learning programs.

### AMONG TEACHERS\*



**88%** say summer learning programs are important to students' success

### AMONG PARENTS



**73%** say it's important for their child to have summer activities that help them learn



Learn more at [www.afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM)

\*surveyed by the National Summer Learning Association

Sources: [www.afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM)

[http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.summerlearning.org/resource/resmgr/Publications/Impact\\_on\\_Teaching\\_and\\_Learn.pdf](http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.summerlearning.org/resource/resmgr/Publications/Impact_on_Teaching_and_Learn.pdf)



Afterschool Alliance

# Support Goes Beyond Parents

9 in 10

Nearly **9 in 10** adults think children should have opportunities outside the school day to explore topics that interest them, try out new things, and gain skills like communication and teamwork.



Afterschool  
Alliance

# State Efforts



NATIONAL CENTER ON

Afterschool and Summer Enrichment

- CA – Summer Matters ([summermatters.net](http://summermatters.net))
- CT – Recommendation for Summer Learning Grant Program that would serve 7,500 children
- WV - Energy Express, a six-week AmeriCorps summer reading and nutrition program at eighty sites across the state.
- OR - Summer Learning, Summer Library, Summer Lunch (SL3) program started at 4 school libraries in 2012 and has since operated at over **30 sites around Oregon, having reached more than 7000 youth.**



Afterschool Alliance

# Resources on Summer



NATIONAL CENTER ON  
Afterschool and Summer Enrichment

- National Summer Learning Association
  - » Celebrate Summer Learning Week – July 8-13
  - » [www.summerlearning.org](http://www.summerlearning.org)
- The Wallace Foundation
  - » Recruitment Guide, Summer Toolkit, research on summer and much more
  - » [www.wallacefoundation.org/knowledge-center/summer-learning](http://www.wallacefoundation.org/knowledge-center/summer-learning)
- Statewide Afterschool Networks
  - » [www.statewideafterschoolnetworks.net](http://www.statewideafterschoolnetworks.net)
- Afterschool Alliance
  - » [www.afterschoolalliance.org](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org)



# Summer vs. School Year Child Care



NATIONAL CENTER ON  
Afterschool and Summer Enrichment

- What's the same?
  - » Need for high-quality programming and staff development
  - » Connection to school-based learning
- What's different?
  - » Full-time vs. part-time care
  - » Need for intentional strategies to combat summer slide



# Summer Slide Tip Sheets



NATIONAL CENTER ON  
Afterschool and Summer Enrichment

- Designed as a companion set for providers and parents
- Focus on intentional planning, individualizing summer experiences to fit children's interests and needs, and promoting program-home connections
- Before/during/end of summer sections to promote summer as part of a continuum of year-round learning

# Summer Learning & Enrichment

## TIPS FOR SCHOOL-AGE CHILD CARE PROVIDERS



Summer is a time for sun and fun, but children's learning is too important to take a vacation! Many school-aged children lose up to 3 months of grade-level equivalency in math and reading skills over the summer months.<sup>1</sup> This phenomenon is known as the summer slide. As a summertime child care provider, you can help school-age children and their families make the most of the summer months and avoid the summer slide. Here are some things to think about as you plan for summer.



## BEFORE SUMMER:

### Get to know your families! Talk to parents/caregivers about:

- What they are looking for in summertime child care programming. What experiences do they hope their child will have?
- Their child's special skills and interests. Any ideas from their child's teacher about summer activities? Any concerns that you can help to address?
- Any aspects of their cultural or linguistic background they would like you to know. Think of ways to honor families' cultural heritage and traditions in your programming, and strive to be inclusive of children of different backgrounds and abilities.

- Their child having a library card. If not, consider helping them obtain one.
- Needing assistance with accessing healthy meals and snacks during the summer. Does their child need transportation to and from your program? If needed, help families obtain transportation vouchers and share information about summer meal programs.

### Create a plan for the summer months:

- What do you hope to accomplish with the children you'll be serving? Write down goals related to academic learning, social and emotional development, and other areas of skill building. Seek input

from children and families about what they hope to get out of your summertime programming, and include with your own goals.

If you are a year-round provider, think about what you will do during the summer months that's different from the school year. How will you make use of the longer full-day program time? Think of ways to engage in more extended hands-on learning activities, such as inquiry-based projects.

Create a list of activities in support of your goals to inspire you and the children you serve. Determine which resources, materials or supports you will need to carry out those activities. Identify professional development and training opportunities that can help you deepen your understanding of how to support children's learning and development in different areas.



MAY 2019

<https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/centers/ncase>

## BEFORE SUMMER:

### Continued

- Collect information on fun, family-friendly summer activities and events in your community. Share this information with families on an ongoing basis so they know when something is coming up.
- Collaborate with family child care networks, libraries, museums, and other organizations in your community. Work with these partners to generate ideas for enriching summer activities and opportunities. Identify ways to share resources to help you achieve your summer goals.
- The summer months are a great opportunity to build activities around special themes! Is it an Olympics year? If so, consider a one- or two-week theme related to the Olympics. Other popular summer program themes include space, superheroes, or the ocean. Weave the theme throughout as much of the day as possible—books, games, activities, and even snacks. This helps the theme come to life! Themes make summer child care feel special and different from school-year routines and activities.
- Plan a project that children can work on over the summer—something that will showcase what they learn, which topics they explore, and what they accomplish. Sharing a product or performance allows children an opportunity to reflect and celebrate.



## DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS:

### Build a relationship with parents, caregivers, and children:

- Share news about your activities and themes with families on a weekly basis—via email, a handout, or online through a parent communication portal. Also invite parents/caregivers to share noteworthy accomplishments or events that their child experiences (e.g., finishing a book on their reading list, jumping off the diving board for the first time, or visiting the zoo together as a family). Find a way to recognize these special occasions at your program.

- Explore ways to share pictures with families. Photos can help parents feel connected to what their children are doing and spark conversations about their day.
- Have children pick one thing about the day to discuss with their families. Make this part of a pre-pickup routine or another time when children come together before heading home.
- Find ways to celebrate children's reading successes. For example, let children place a special sticker next to the name of each book they read on their book list, and recognize milestones such as a child completing the final book from their summer reading list.
- Consider organizing a family potluck or picnic dinner so families can meet other parents/caregivers and see what the children have been working on. Help children organize games or put on a performance for their families.



MAY 2019

<https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/centers/ncase>

**DURING THE  
SUMMER MONTHS:**  
*Continued*

**Engage children  
in activities to  
help prevent the  
summer slide:**

- Find ways to engage children in activities related to the skills and interests their parents/caregivers and teachers identified. Summer is a wonderful time to give children opportunities to expand on what they learned during the school year and to explore new ideas.
- Help children put together a list of books they'd like to read from your program's collection. Consider a field trip to the library to help children choose additional books to add to their reading list. Post children's reading lists where they can see them and celebrate the completion of each book.



- Engage children in activities and games that promote math learning, as it is one of the areas most affected by the summer slide. Board games and card games are fun ways to help children strengthen and retain math skills. Many games are suitable for children of multiple ages.



- Create reading routines so children have a built-in opportunity to read every day. Remember that all forms of reading count: whether you read to the child, the child reads silently, or the child reads aloud to other children. Daily reading is one of the best ways to help children retain language, vocabulary, and reading comprehension skills over the summer.
- When it comes to screen time—TV, video games, and other devices—use sparingly and consider what parents would find appropriate. If you do include screen time as part of your programming, integrate simple uses of technology in hands-on projects or focus on age-appropriate interactive games and apps that have educational value. There are many games and apps that help build literacy, science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) skills; and problem-solving skills. Some even promote physical activity.

**PLAN CULTURAL AWARENESS  
ACTIVITIES**

Exploring cultural stories and traditions is a great way for children and families—as well as your staff—to learn more about each other and to make a connection between your program and the community you serve. Take a field trip to a local historical site, invite a community elder to come speak or explore the origins of various foods, music or other cultural traditions. The goal should be to celebrate diversity and make all feel included.

MAY 2019

<https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/centers/ncase>

**DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS:** *Continued*

**Keep children  
healthy and  
active during the  
summer months:**

- Start a small garden and involve children in growing and caring for the plants. This is a great way to connect them to nutritious food sources and to promote conversations about healthy eating.

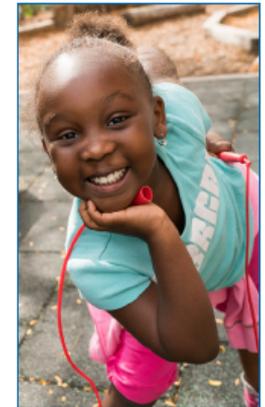


You can help children have a fun, healthy, and enriching summer!



**AT THE  
END OF  
SUMMER:**

- Hold an end-of-summer celebration event with families. Use this chance to give parents/caregivers a sense of what their children experienced over the summer, and how it will help them start the new school year ready for success.
- Make a plan to connect with the children and families from your summer program during the school year. Sending children a postcard during the winter is a great way to keep in touch—plus they will love receiving mail!



<sup>1</sup> National Summer Learning Association. (2014). Doesn't every child deserve a memorable summer? Retrieved from <https://www.summerlearning.org/knowledge-center/doesnt-every-child-deserve-memorable-summer/>

This document was developed with funds from Grant #90TA00001 for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Care, by the National Center on Afterschool and Summer Enrichment. This resource may be duplicated for noncommercial uses without permission.

MAY 2019

<https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/centers/ncase>

# Tips for Providers



NATIONAL CENTER ON  
Afterschool and Summer Enrichment

- Before summer
  - » Get to know your families
  - » Create a plan for the summer
- During summer
  - » Build a relationship with parents and children
  - » Engage children in activities to help prevent the summer slide
  - » Keep children healthy and active



# Tips for Providers



NATIONAL CENTER ON  
Afterschool and Summer Enrichment

- At the end of summer
  - » Celebrate the end of summer
  - » Make plans to keep in touch during the school year



# Summer Learning Fun!

## TIPS FOR PARENTS/CAREGIVERS



School may be out for the summer, but your child'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. Read on for tips on how to engage your child in fun, meaningful learning activities throughout the summer.

### Meet with your child's summer child care provider to:

- Talk about your goals for your child's summer child care. Share the information you got from your child's teacher, including your child's skills and interests.
- Find out what themes and activities the provider has planned. You can use this information to come up with fun ways to build on program activities when you are home with your child.
- Let them know the best way to share information with you about your child's activities.
- Share information about your family and culture, and discuss aspects of your child's background that the provider should be aware of to enrich the program. Many providers love having families share stories, traditions, cultural celebrations, or other activities with the children in their program!
- Find out where your child can access healthy meals and snacks during the summer months. Ask your child care provider if they are connected to a summer meals program. Summer food programs can help to provide your child with healthy meals when school is not in session.

### Meet with your child's teacher to:

- Get a list of recommended books for summer reading. Your child's teacher can identify books that match your child's reading level and interests.
- Ask about specific skills your child could pursue over the summer, and explore ways to align those skills with your child's interests. Focusing on what your child already enjoys and feels confident about can make them more excited to learn.
- Discuss what your child can write about during the summer—alone or with your help—such as a journal or letters to relatives.

### Talk with your child to:

- Find out what they would like to learn about or experience during the summer.
- Share details about summer plans. What kinds of activities will your child get to do? Are any of their friends attending the same program? Consider visiting the program with your child ahead of time so they are familiar with the setting and staff.
- Learn what kinds of books your child would enjoy reading over the summer and help them create a reading list.



MAY 2019

<https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/centers/ncase>

## DURING SUMMER:

### Make reading a regular routine:

- Have your child read every day—either independently or with you or another caregiver, such as an older sibling. Also, continue reading aloud to your child, even after they begin reading independently. Reading to your child helps them build listening comprehension skills and can expose your child to new and richer vocabulary.
- Ask your child questions about the plot or storyline of the book they're reading, to summarize what's happened to that point and to predict what they think will happen next. These steps promote reading comprehension and make the reading experience more meaningful. Prompt your child to tell you if they come across a word or phrase they don't understand.

### Promote math learning:

- Play games together. Board games and card games are fun ways to help children strengthen and retain math skills. Games also help your child develop cooperative play skills and problem-solving skills. Many games are suitable for players of all ages, so you can include the whole family.
- Cook together. Involving your child in meal preparation is a great way to promote math learning as you measure out ingredients, set baking temperatures, and calculate cooking times.

### Turn your child care drop-off and pickup into learning opportunities:

- Play "I Spy" with shapes, numbers, letters, words, and other objects on the drive or walk to your child care provider. Find patterns in the designs of buildings and fences you pass by.
- Talk about your child's favorite part of the book they read the night before. It's just one way to turn everyday activities into fun brain-building exercises.

### Stay active and have fun:

- Take advantage of the longer days to play an extra game of tag or to go for a long walk together. Children get less exercise when school is not in session, which may lead to unhealthy weight gain. There are many fun ways to help your child stay physically active all summer long!
- Seek out educational and interactive games and apps. Letting your child have some screen time can be beneficial, but try to balance your child's passive viewing screen time (e.g., watching TV, movies, or online videos) with more interactive games and apps that are fun as well as educational.



## END OF SUMMER:

Throughout the summer, find ways to celebrate your child's successes (e.g., finishing a book, learning to ride a bicycle, or swimming in the deep end of the pool) and share their accomplishments with your child care provider. As a parent or caregiver, you can help make these months a summer to remember and ensure your child will start the new school year ready for success!

This document was developed with funds from Grant #90TA00001 for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Care, by the National Center on Afterschool and Summer Enrichment. This resource may be duplicated for noncommercial uses without permission.

MAY 2019

<https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/centers/ncase>

# Tips for Parents



NATIONAL CENTER ON  
Afterschool and Summer Enrichment

- Before summer
  - » Talk to your child to prepare them for summer
  - » Talk to your child's teacher to get recommendations
  - » Talk to your child care provider to find out what the summer will look like



# Tips for Parents



NATIONAL CENTER ON  
Afterschool and Summer Enrichment

- During summer
  - » Make reading a regular routine
  - » Promote math learning
  - » Turn drop-off and pick-up into learning opportunities
  - » Stay active and have fun!
- At the end of summer
  - » Find ways to celebrate your child's accomplishments over the summer



# Discussion



NATIONAL CENTER ON  
Afterschool and Summer Enrichment

What summer-related questions or concerns do you hear from child care providers and/or parents?



# CCR&R Response



NATIONAL CENTER ON  
Afterschool and Summer Enrichment

## Lori Jones

Regional Programs Manager

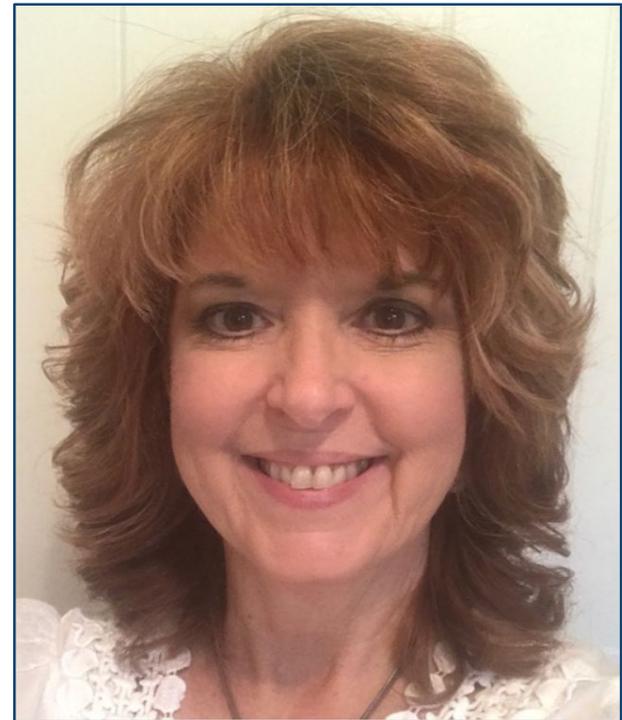
Southwestern Child Development  
Commission

North Carolina Child Care Resource &  
Referral Council

Phone: (828) 586-5561

[jones.lori@swcdcinc.org](mailto:jones.lori@swcdcinc.org)

[www.swcdcinc.org](http://www.swcdcinc.org)

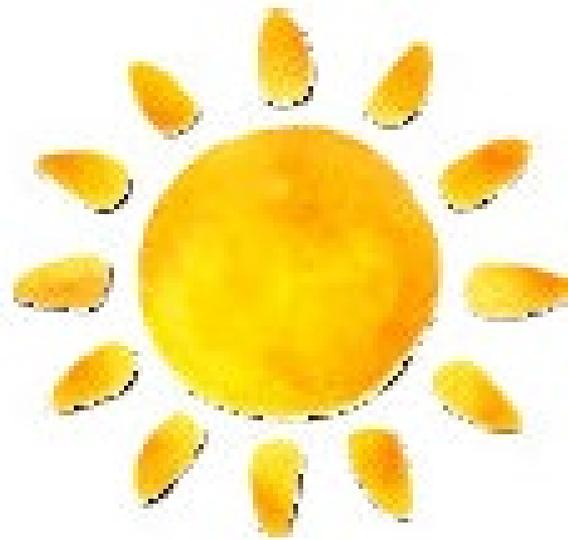


# Questions?



NATIONAL CENTER ON  
Afterschool and Summer Enrichment

## Q & A





NATIONAL CENTER ON Afterschool and Summer Enrichment

# RESOURCE LIBRARY



The NCASE Resource Library connects you with tools, profiles, and information on a range of key topics in Out-of-School Time.

## FEATURED RESOURCES

### State Early Care and Education Updates for 2015

This brief provides a state-by-state update on budget changes that will impact access to affordable, high quality early care and education.

### Afterschool Programs Close Achievement Gap

This infographic summarizes Dr. Vondra's research that shows afterschool is linked to narrowing the gap in math achievement by Grade 5.

### What makes a quality summer reading program?

This issue brief identifies the practices associated with program quality in both formal and informal summer learning programs. It includes basic tips on summer reading and links to related research.

## SEARCH FOR RESOURCES

Apply

Reset Selections

TOPICS/SUBTOPICS +

RESOURCE TYPE +

## RECENTLY ADDED

### Can After-School Programs Help Level the Playing Field for Disadvantaged Youth?

This journal article explores afterschool access and program outcomes for youth from disadvantaged backgrounds. It outlines recommendations for policymakers, administrators, and staff on ways to increase access and improve program quality for this population. It includes an extensive literature review and outlines a research agenda for the future.

Visit the NCASE Resource Library:  
<https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/ncase-resource-library>

# National Summer Learning Week



NATIONAL CENTER ON  
Afterschool and Summer Enrichment



NATIONAL  
SUMMER  
LEARNING WEEK  
JULY 8-13, 2019

# Thank You!

Visit the NCASE website at:

<https://childcareta.acf.hhs.gov/centers/ncase>

To contact NCASE, please email us at:

[ncase@ecetta.info](mailto:ncase@ecetta.info)

Thank You!



**NATIONAL CENTER ON**  
Afterschool and Summer Enrichment

This document was developed with funds from Grant #90TA00001-01 for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Care, by the National Center on Afterschool and Summer Enrichment. This resource may be duplicated for noncommercial uses without permission.