2019

Summer Vacation & Travel Activities

Kimberly Baumgardner, M.Ed.
Consultant, Family Engagement, ESC-20
kimberly.baumgardner@esc20.net
210-370-5431

Summer Parent Learning Guide
Learning FUN!

- Vacation Survival Guide
- Virtual Field Trips
- Travel Activities
- Geography Lessons
- Practicing Math While Traveling
Summer Vacation

• Think of your summer vacation as a teachable moment. Sort of like tricking your kids into learning. Let your kids go online to sites such as MapQuest or one of the travel sites to help “research” the journey to and from the vacation site, as well as activities surrounding where you will be spending your summer vacation.

• Even if you can’t leave town for vacation, have your child compile a “virtual vacation” by doing some research and downloading pictures of events that he or she would like to take part in. Who knows, maybe next summer they will be able to actually visit the location.
MORE Virtual Field Trips

http://www.middleschool.net/curlink/virtual.htm

Field Trips & Exhibits

*A Time Travel into History
http://www.twarp.com/titr/timetrav.htm

*A White House History
At this site explore any of the 12 accessible rooms. You may start with the Library and use the arrows at the bottom of the page for a structured tour. Every page has links to biographies of presidents. The site provides information at the bottom of each page about the the room's furnishings and history.
http://www.whitehouse.gov/history/whtour/

*Albert Einstein's Image and Impact Exhibit
http://www.aip.org/history/einstein/

*American Treasures - Library of Congress
http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/treasures/

*American Museum of Natural History

*American Museum of Photography Guided Tour
http://www.photographymuseum.com/guide.html

*Amazing Travel Bureau
http://www.nationalgeographic.com/features/97/bureau/

*American Treasures - Library of Congress
http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/treasures/

*Ancient Roman Villa
http://www.dhm.de/museen/stein/tour/toure.html

*Asian Art Treasures
http://sgwww.epfl.ch/BERGER/First/

*Art Works
San Francisco art museums
http://www.thinker.org

*At the Tomb of Tutankhamen

*B-17 Flying Fortress Virtual Tour
QuickTime VR is required to tour this World War II bomber, courtesy of the Lone Star Flight Museum in Galveston, Texas. Visit all five sections, inside the plane: Nose, Turret, Cockpit, Radio and Waist.
http://www.b-17.com

*Canadian Museum of Civilization
http://www.civilization.ca/membis/lobby.html

*Central Park
This web tour allows you to head north, south, east, or west from your current position. You may also go to the Met, Bowling Green, Puppet House or other park favorites.
http://www.centralpark.org/home.html
• Get your child to write to the Chamber of Commerce for brochures about places you can go to on your trip.
Travel Activities

Free Printable Travel Games for Kids

Make a “Bingo Card” for things that might be seen on our trip. Use picture for younger children, or have them cut pictures from magazines or newspapers. Reward the “Bingo” players with comic books or other fun reading materials for vacation.


http://print-bingo.com/

http://www.dltk-cards.com/bingo/
• The number game: Look out the window and call out when you see one, two, three, or four of something, and so on.

• The alphabet game: One person chooses the right side of the road, and the other chooses the left. Call out objects that you see in alphabetical order (you can use a sign only for one letter). The first person to get to the letter "z" wins.
Geography Lessons

• While you are planning your vacation trips, let your child help in the planning. Viewing maps of your intended vacation spots with them will allow your child to get comfortable with locating points of interest on a map. They will become familiar with the symbols that are on maps and know how to navigate to the different areas. Discuss with them how road patterns change and the changes in landscapes as well.
Before your trip begins, sit down with your child, a map and a ruler. Help him figure out the key so that he knows how many inches equals a mile. Show him where you are starting and where you wish to go. See if he can find the shortest route using the map and the key.

Compare your child's route with your chosen route. Ask: How do they compare in terms of distance? What are the advantages to each route? Do road conditions or speed limits make a difference?
• Get road maps for older children. Have each child use a highlighter pen to mark your route as you go. See if children can predict the next city that you will pass. “are you going North, South, East or West? What road are you traveling on?

• As children get older, make the questions more difficult to answer.
Since you will have to develop a budget for your vacation trips, having your child assist you in doing this will help to brush up on their math skills. Eating out at restaurants and figuring out what tip percentage should be left is a great way to get them to use their calculating skills. Joining in on fun games like counting the number of colors they see while traveling and then making a graph to display the color is a way to get them to learn creatively. They will have so much fun and never suspect that you are actually giving them homework during summer vacation.
Estimating Time and Distance

• Next time your child asks, “Are we there yet?” help her figure it out. Using tools like a map or road signs, ask her to estimate how far you’ve traveled and how much longer it will take to reach your destination. On routine trips, ask questions like “It’s 2:15, and it will take 25 minutes to get to the doctor’s office. Will we arrive before your 3:00 appointment?”
• Have your child note the time you are leaving on your trip. Tell him approximately how long the trip will take and ask him to figure out what time you should arrive. Periodically during the trip, tell him what time it is and ask him to use your start time to figure out how long you have been traveling.

• Teach older children the equation to figure out distance, rate and time questions. The algebraic equation is $d = rt$ where $d$ stands for distance (number of miles), $r$ stands for the rate of speed (speed limit), and $t$ stands for time (hours of travel). If you know two of the following: the speed limit, how far you have (or will) travel or how long you have been (or will be) traveling, it's easy to figure out the other variable. This is helpful when your child asks how much longer it will be or how much further you have to go.
Have students estimate in advance what the gas bill will be the next time you fill up. With the current gas situation, it’s an excellent opportunity to talk about “bigger issues” like inflation and profits, etc.
License Plate Learning

• When you’re on the road, have your kids study the license plate on the car in front of you. Have them rearrange the numbers on the plate to make the largest three-digit number possible. The person with the largest number wins the round. Change it up by asking for the smallest number possible.

• Introduce algebra by using plate numbers to solve math problems. For example, add two numbers to get the answer 6 (for example, 3 + 3). Or use three numbers to get 6, such as (3+3) x 1 = 6.
License Plate Learning

• Have each family member look for and choose a license plate and write it down. Remove the non-numerical symbols. Everybody compare numbers and decide whose license plate has the largest number. Extension questions: By how much? What would that number round up to? Round down to? What number is in the tens place? The hundreds? What's the largest place value on the license plate?

• Use a simple alpha-numeric substitution code to translate the letters on license plates to numbers. The simplest code to use is that which assigns each letter of the alphabet a digit based on its position in the alphabet. (A=1, B=2, C=3...) Add your license plates to find out whose plate is worth the most.
More Auto Travel

• Play games such as “Count the Cows”. Each child counts the number of cows they see on their side of the car, but if they pass a cemetery, they lose all their cows and have to start over.

• [http://www.momsminivan.com/](http://www.momsminivan.com/) -- LOTS of other fun driving games
  – Printable travel bingo cards
  – Travel scavenger hunt
  – Aluminum foil activities, etc....