Summer Enrichment Ideas
By The Biome teachers for The Biome learners

Math Practice:
• Count food items at snack time.
• Use a calendar to count down the days to a birthday or special holiday. Help your child see the connection between a numeral like “5”, the word “five”, and five days on the calendar.
• Practice simple addition and subtraction using small toys and blocks.
• Play simple board games where your child moves a game piece from one position to the next.
• Have your child name the shapes of cookie cutters and blocks.
• Arrange cookie cutters in patterns on a cookie sheet or placemat. A simple pattern might be: star-circle-star-circle.
• Let your child help you measure ingredients for a simple recipe—preferably a favorite!
• Measure your child’s height every month or so, showing how you use a yardstick or a tape measure. Mark his or her height on a “growth chart” or a mark on a door frame. Do the same with any siblings. Help your child compare his or her own height to previous months and also to his or her siblings’ heights.
• Talk through games and daily activities that involve math concepts.
• Have your child name numbers and shapes.
• Help him or her understand and express comparisons like more than/less than, bigger/smaller, and near/far.
• Play games where you direct your child to jump forward and back, to run far from you or stand nearby.
• Use songs with corresponding movements to teach concepts like in and out, up and down, and round and round.
• Make a 1-10 book of summer things: 1 sun, 2 sandals, 3 watermelon slices, etc.
• Measure something without a ruler. Use paperclips, cereal pieces, coins, or anything else you can find. Record your measurements in a notebook and compare.

Literacy Practice:
• While out shopping, have your child look for letters from their names in the store.
• Use a book at your child’s reading level, (example Flat Stanley), you read a page and the child reads a page, etc. Have your child read to the dog, to grandma, to the baby—in other words: Read, read, read! Listen to your child read and ask questions about what they read. Ask the child to retell or summarize the story. Which was your favorite character and why? What was the best part of the story?
• Talk about your favorite books when you were a kid. Go to the library together and read the book to them. Let them see you reading!
• Read labels and signs at the store, at the zoo, at the movies, everywhere!
• Practice writing first and last names.
• Make an ABC book of your family. M is for mom, D is for dad, etc. Include fun things you have done this summer.
• Sing songs.
• Sit and look at books.
• Make up a story with your family. “Once upon a time there was a dragon who...”
• Go to the park. Talk about what you did.
• Trace letters in sugar or sand.
• Use play dough to create letters.
• Sound out words. Clap out sounds. Talk about similarities in rhyming words.
• Write a letter to your favorite author. A librarian can help you fine a postal or e-mail address.
• Word game! How many smaller words can you find in the word watermelon?
• An animal has escaped from the zoo! Make up a story about it. Tell it to a friend or family member - or write it down. Add pictures, if you’d like.
• Make your own joke book. Collect jokes and riddles from your family and friends.
• Read aloud the names of some of the cars in the classified section of the newspaper. Design a new car and name it.
• Use flashcards to match upper case and lower case letters.
• Take turns thinking of two words that begin with the same sound (e.g. man, mop; duck, dog; fat, furry)

**Extra Practice:**
• Take a walk and talk about what you hear, smell, see, and touch. If you experience something new, do more research into it.
• Become a scientist and make predictions. Set an ice cube out and predict how long it will take to melt. Compare the melt rate of an ice cube inside to one outside.
• Predict the weather like a meteorologist. Use a notebook and graph the weather.
• Finger paint.
• Go to the park. Talk about what you did.
• Invent a tool to help you do chores more easily. Draw a picture of it or make it from some old junk.
Resources:

• Take part in Reading Rockets program, 10 weeks of summer reading adventures for you and your kids.
  http://www.readingrockets.org/article/10-weeks-summer-reading-adventures-you-and-your-kids

• Book lists and recommended reading from greatschools.org:

• Visit abcya.com or pbskids.com for fun and educational online games.

The Secret to Finding the “Right” Book
Help your learner find just the right book, not too hard and not too easy.

Have your learner try the Five Finger Rule:
• Choose a book you think will be enjoyable.
• Read the 2nd page
• Help up a finger for each word you are not sure of or do not know.
• If there are five or more words that you do not know, you should choose an easier book.

Picking a book that is a good fit:
Read 2-3 pages and ask yourself these questions:
• Do I understand what I am reading?
• Can I read it smoothly?
• Is it interesting to me?

Plan for Summer Reading:
• Children work best with a schedule and routine.
  o Make a plan with your learning and schedule 20 minutes to an hour of reading every day.
• Help your child set a summer reading goal.
  o Have your learner keep a reading log and celebrate when your child meets the goal.
• Going away during break?
  o Have your learner research and read about the places you will be visiting.
• Check out reading games and activities on the computer.
• Read aloud together!

Remember to visit the public library!
Help develop life-long reading habits!
Read, read, read!!!