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Five Tips to Keep Kids Learning On School Breaks

School downtime is often the time when good school habits start to slide. That's why it's important that students maintain their academic momentum during school breaks. Students can stay sharp with these five easy tips:

- 1. Read a book together.** Parents can help young children develop better reading comprehension skills by reading and discussing books together.
- 2. Play board games.** Board games can help children learn to be organized, to plan, to be persistent, and to think strategically. Children can also develop problem-solving abilities and memory skills. Games that use money can teach essential mathematical skills like addition, subtraction, multiplication, and even concepts like estimation.
- 3. Set a work schedule.** Agree to a time when everyone can come together to work on projects—school or otherwise. Children are used to following a routine during the school day, so sticking to a routine during vacation time is natural.
- 4. Hit the Books.** Upcoming projects, essays, assignments, and readings can be easily chipped away at during the break. Students should take advantage of the spare time afforded by the break to make some headway into upcoming schoolwork.
- 5. Avoid the Slip-Slide.** Days have a way of blending into one another, especially during school breaks, so students should continue to use a school agenda, calendar, or day planner. Agendas are a great way to practice time management skills and remain focused.