

Hey Mom! There's No School Today!

Oxford Learning's Top Ten Ways to Keep Learning on School Breaks

- Play games and puzzles.** Whether playing Sudoku, crosswords, search-a-words, or traditional puzzles, games are a fun way to challenge your mind and learn skills such as persistence and problem solving.
- Read.** It doesn't take science and research to know that reading keeps the mind active. It also helps develop vocabulary and increases reading comprehension, which pays off in the classroom.
- Write.** Reading and writing go hand in hand. The more a person reads, the better his/her writing abilities. So grab a pen and paper and start writing.
- Think actively.** Turn any activity into an active learning opportunity simply by asking the right kind of questions. Avoid any "yes/no" questions and focus on "what do you think?" questions.
- Stick to habits.** Studies show that even a small deviation from the routine makes it harder to re-adapt to normal schedules.
- Exercise.** Studies show that exercise increases blood flow to the brain, which feeds brain cells and helps to keep neural connections strong.
- Discover something new.** Breaks are an opportunity to learn about something that school doesn't normally teach, such as changing a car tire, or rowing a canoe.
- Keep working.** In the absence of assigned work, work ahead in text books using the course syllabus if there is one, or by going online to find instruction videos and worksheets.
- Focus on trouble areas.** Take advantage of the opportunity that school breaks afford and really focus on improving trouble areas and bettering skills.
- Get outside help.** Sign up for a course with Oxford Learning and forget about worrying about losing academic momentum. On school breaks—and the whole year through—we keep kids focused on school work and up-to-speed with the school curriculum.

