

# Celebrating Our Child's Learning

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It's funny once you hit Spring Break blink and it is summer break. Where did the year go? How was the year? Before rushing into vacation mode, here are a couple of things you can do to make sure the year ends on a good note and set up our children for success next year.



## Celebrate Growth—Big and Small

One of the best ways to wrap up the school year is by celebrating your child's growth. This doesn't mean just focusing on report cards—progress is about so much more than grades! Think about all the ways your child has grown, whether it's mastering new sight words, improving their social skills, becoming more independent, or developing a better attitude toward learning.

## How You Can Celebrate:

Make a "Proud of You" List: Sit down together and

list five things your child accomplished this year, big or small.

Create a Memory Box: Save special schoolwork, drawings, or projects in a box to look back on.

Write a Letter to Your Child: Tell them what you've noticed about their hard work and growth this year.

Taking time to acknowledge progress boosts your child's confidence and helps them see that learning is about the journey, not just the destination.

## Keep Communication Open with the Teacher

If you have any lingering concerns about your child's progress, now is the time to connect with their teacher. Most teachers are happy to offer insights and suggestions to help your child continue growing over the summer.

### What to Ask:

What progress has my child made this year?

What areas should we focus on over the summer?

Do you have any recommendations for summer learning activities?

If your child has an IEP or receives special education services, ask about any progress toward their goals and what skills they'll be working on next year.

# If Your Child Struggled Academically: Be Proactive

If your child had a tough time this year, don't panic! The end of the school year is a great time to put together a plan so they don't feel overwhelmed when school starts again.

## Steps You Can Take:

**Request a Meeting or Updated Progress Report:** If you're concerned about academics, ask for an update on your child's progress so you have a clear picture of where they stand.

**Consider Summer Tutoring or Learning Support:** A little extra help over the summer can make a big difference. Look into tutoring services, online programs, or even summer school options.

**Make Learning Fun at Home:** Find ways to sneak in learning through fun activities like reading together, playing math games, or exploring educational apps.

## Keep a Routine Going

Summer break often means a big shift in routine, which can be challenging for some kids—especially those who thrive on structure. Keeping a loose but predictable routine can make the transition smoother and help prevent a back-to-school slump.

## Simple Ways to Keep a Routine:

**Maintain a Regular Sleep Schedule:** Try to keep wake-up and bedtime within an hour of the school-year schedule.

**Set Aside Time for Learning:** Even 15-30 minutes a day of reading, writing, or problem-solving can help keep skills sharp.

**Plan for Social Interaction:** If your child struggles with social skills, set up playdates or group activities to keep practicing those skills.

## Get Ready for Next Year

As summer winds down, start preparing for the next school year early to reduce stress for both you and your child.

## Things You Can Do:

**Talk About Next Year Positively:** Even if your child struggled this year, frame next year as a fresh start with new opportunities.

**Visit the School If Possible:** If your child is transitioning to a new teacher, classroom, or school, see if you can visit before the year starts.

**Organize School Supplies Together:** Let your child help pick out supplies and set up their backpack. This builds excitement and gives them a sense of control.

The end of the school year is a time for reflection, celebration, and planning. Whether your child had a

great year or a challenging one, they've grown in ways you may not even realize. By keeping communication open, maintaining some structure, and being proactive about academic concerns, you can help your child finish strong and start the next year with confidence.

Most importantly, enjoy the summer together—learning happens in everyday moments, whether you're reading a book before bed, cooking together, or exploring the outdoors.