

EDUCATION SPOTLIGHT:

FIGHT SUMMER LEARNING LOSS

BY DR. LESLIE STRASSER MURDOCK

Summer offers a great opportunity for kids to relax, have fun and recharge their batteries for the upcoming school year. However, research has shown children often don't retain everything they learned in the previous year.

Consider these facts:

- Most youth lose about two months of math skills in the summer.
- Every summer, low-income youth lose two to three months in reading, while their higher-income peers make slight gains.
- Low-income youth lose access to healthy meals over the summer. Six out of every seven students who receive free- and reduced-price lunches lose access to them when school lets out.

(Source: National Summer Learning Association)

As a caregiver and a parent, you aren't on your own in fighting this trend. The Clark County School District provides several resources for parents to meet the needs of students over the summer. CCSD's goal is to help kids make the most out of their summer while still maintaining academic skills they learned over the school year. Here are a few CCSD resources for you to consider:

SUMMER LEARNING GUIDES

The Clark County School District provides caregivers with learning activities that will help students

CCSD offers several summer programs to help parents keep their children's brains active and ready for the next school year.



continue the learning process during the summer. They can be accessed at <http://ccsd.net/district/summer-learning-guides/>. These online activities are geared toward the students' most recent grade level in school.

SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAMS

Each summer, the U.S. Department of Agriculture partners with local organizations like Clark County School District to provide free meals to students who received free and reduced meals during the school year. Any student under age 18 may come and eat at hosted sites at no cost to the family. A list of sites offering free meals can be found on a link halfway down the page at <http://ccsd.net/district/summer/>.

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SERVICES RESOURCES

CCSD's Family and Community Engagement Services has also compiled a list of summer resources that offer a wide variety of free classes and events. The page includes links to library events, recreation centers, summer camps, at-home activities and more.

These resources are located at <http://faces.ccsd.net/family-toolbox/whats-cool-for-summer/>.

DON'T FORGET THE LIBRARY!

The Las Vegas-Clark County Library District offers a wealth of reading programs and activities for children of all ages throughout the Valley. With more than 20 locations in the area, there's sure to be a library close to home for you. The long-term benefits of reading are well documented. On top of that, reading is fun for people of all ages! Go online to find the library closest to you at <http://www.lvccld.org/>.

More to come in August on back-to-school fairs and other resources to help get your school year off to a good start!

Leslie Strasser Murdock, Ph.D., J.D., is the Educational Liaison for the Clark County Department of Family Services and owner/CEO of ELM Educational Consulting.

An adjunct professor in the School of Education at Nevada State College and at UNLV's Boyd School of Law, Dr. Murdock has more than 16 years of experience in the educational field.

