



no "kid"ding did you know?

topic: summer break facts and tips

website resources

[City of Longmont](#)

[Erie Community Center](#)

[Family Fun](#) (lots of ideas for fun and low cost family activities)

[How to Make Summer \(Learning\) Fun](#)

[Let's Talk Colorado - Colorado Tourism](#)

[Longmont Area Visitors Association](#)

[Longmont Mom](#)

[Summer Fun](#)

[Summer Fun for Kids](#)

[Summer Learning Loss](#)

[Summer Relaxation Important Lesson for Kids](#)

The following "No 'Kid'ding" article appeared in the May 2009 issue of Alternative for Youth's (AFY) [Youth Matters newsletter](#).

St. Vrain Valley Schools finish classes this coming Friday, May 22. With summer here, the season has so much to offer. But as you look at three months without the daily activities of the school year over, do you feel overwhelmed with how to "entertain" your kids? Have you asked yourself, what are my kids going to do this summer? Have you wondered how to help your kids prepare for next school year? Many parents, grandparents, guardians, and even kids have probably asked the same question. Here are some ideas to help you have a wonderful summer break (and some facts to motivate you to action). Did you know:

- In the St. Vrain Valley School District, the summer break is 12 1/2 weeks long. That's 87 days of potential fun and learning for every kid!
- All young people experience learning losses when they do not engage in educational activities during the summer. Typically, kids score lower on standardized test at the end of summer break than on the same tests at the beginning of summer break.
- You can check with your child's teacher to find out what skills he or she could benefit from working on and what books to read to keep them sharp and to prepare for the next year.
- On average, students lose approximately 2.6 months of grade-level equivalency in mathematical computation skills over the summer months.
- You can encourage reading by helping kids choose books about a topic they are interested in at or above grade level. Kids age 2 to those who are finished with fourth grade can sign up with the [Longmont Library](#) beginning May 26 to earn prizes for reading in the "Be Creative" summer program.
- Ask your kids to help plan activities they want to do.
- Low-income children and youth experience greater summer learning losses than their higher income peers. Whereas, on average, middle-income students have slight gains in reading, low-income students experience an average loss in reading of over two months during the summer break.
- Keep summer learning fun!
- Take a break and take in a movie . . . for free! The Twin Peaks Mall movie theater will again offer free movies on Tuesday and Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. Schedules are available at the movie theater.
- Studies show that out-of-school time is a dangerous time for unsupervised children and teens, who are more likely to use alcohol, drugs and tobacco, engage in criminal and other high-risk behaviors, receive poor grades and drop out of school than those kids who have the opportunity to benefit from constructive activities supervised by responsible adults.



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- Get creative and put together crafts, game, and gardening projects for your kids. There are so many websites (see below for suggestions) and books to give you ideas.

- Check out local and close by attractions - take a hike, go camping, visit a river, go on a picnic, walk Pearl Street Mall, find a new [park](#), enjoy a [pool](#), go to a [free concert](#), walk Longmont's [ArtLink](#), be a tourist in your home state! There are so many fun things to do in our community.

- If you do plan lots of activities for your kids, also consider the gift of time for summer and help your kids (and yourself) relax and enjoy the slower pace. School will be here again before you know it!

We hope you have a wonderful summer break!

Note: The above is provided as information and does not indicate an endorsement by Alternatives for Youth of the listed websites.