



## The Homesteader

### 10 Tips for Avoiding the Summer Slump

By: Caroline Pilkerton

As a former public school teacher and current homeschool mom, I am always on the lookout for ways to engage my children over the summer to avoid the summer slump. While summer is a time for kids to spend hours outside and take a break from the routine of school, it's important to spend time each week keeping their academic skills fresh. Similar to professional sport players working out in the off season, a young mind benefits from being challenged and exercised over the summer. Here are 10 tips for making memories this summer with your children while sneaking in some academic skills.

1. Read for enjoyment every day- set a timer, or make a goal for how many minutes over the summer your child will read. Join the local library's summer program which starts June 6th. Whether it's the humor of Captain Underpants, an adventure series, favorite picture books or latest topic of interest, reading for joy helps students develop their vocabulary, fluency and knowledge of a variety of topics.
2. Practice math facts and concepts- from workbooks to flash cards to apps you'll find lots of choices for your child's preferred method of learning. Practice fractions and measurement while cooking together. Predict the weather and look for patterns by graphing the weather daily. Use a ruler and find 10 items to measure around the house then sort them from longest to shortest. Apps such as Monster Math, Prodigy, and Adventure Academy make learning fun with games as they practice their math skills. As a parent you can review their progress on these apps and see their improvement over time.
3. Make opportunities to write- Write to a pen pal, family member, or distant friend by email or snail mail. Stop by a local shop for some postcards if you want to keep the writing short. Create a photo journal with a picture from an activity each week. Along with the picture have your child summarize what they enjoyed about the event, who was there, what they learned or a funny memory not seen in the photo. Cover the 5 W's (who, what where, when and why) and you'll have a detailed journal entry.
4. Art projects- Provide different mediums of art materials: chalk, air dry clay, paint, color pencils, crayons, oil pastels. Look for YouTube videos that teach children how to draw (Art Hub for Kids), work with clay, etc. For kiddos needing inspiration, watch videos about artists or learn about a particular artist from the Who Was...? series (see #9). Model a new piece of artwork that was inspired by a trip to the Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art. The museum is open Thursday thru Sundays at 10am. Admission is FREE but you must reserve tickets in advance.
5. Science experiments- Science is cool, surprising at times, and you can't beat making memories with kids when you learn through hands-on experiments. Visit the website <https://www.weareteachers.com/easy-science-experiments/> for over 50 links to science experiments using items you already have in your home. Consider making play dough or ice cream from scratch, study matter (solids, liquids and gases) by mixing baking soda and vinegar in a soda bottle with a balloon covering the top. And then there's always putting mentos into a two liter of Diet Pepsi...do this outside!
6. Spend at least an hour outside every day- Consider gardening with your kids, playing games like Tag or Hide and Seek, riding bikes or walking to one of the five parks within a mile of our neighborhood (Stoneybrook, Woodstock, Providence Park, Cedar Park, New Light Neighborhood Park). Did you know that every 4th grader can get a National Park Pass for Free?! These passes admit all children under 16 and up to three adults with the 4th grade pass holder. Plan a day trip to our closest national parks, Fort Monroe National Monument or Colonial National Historic Park and learn about our country's history. Time outdoors and a history lesson... two for the price of FREE! Oh, and how can I forget the beaches? But I think you already knew about those!

**JULY**  
**2022**



**TUESDAY**  
**SEPTEMBER 13TH**  
**7PM**

Providence Presbyterian  
Church



**JOIN THE NEW**  
**HOMESTEAD**  
**FACEBOOK PAGE!**

**STAY CONNECTED**  
**WITH NEIGHBOR-**  
**HOOD EVENTS**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### July

- Now- Sept 4th**    **Maya Lin- Study of Water Exhibition**  
Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art - Admission is FREE, reserved tickets are required
- Now- Sept 5th**    **Summer fest at Town Center**  
Enjoy performances by local artists for FREE - Fountain Plaza 5:30-8:30pm
- 30th**                **Outdoor Family Movie Night**  
926 W Goodview Drive - 8:00pm- *Penguins of Madagascar*

### August

- 20th**                **Outdoor Family Movie Night**  
926 W Goodview Drive - 8:00pm- Movie-TBD

### September

- 5th**                    **Labor Day**
- 6th**                    **Virginia Beach Public Schools First Day of School**
- 17th**                  **Homestead Community Yard Sale and Bake Sale**
- 17-18th**              **Air Show Naval Base Oceana** - [www.oceanaairshow.com](http://www.oceanaairshow.com)
- 30th-Oct 9th**        **Neptune's International Sandsculpting Championship**  
6th-8th Streets, Virginia Beach, Oceanfront  
<https://www.neptunefestival.com/events/international-sand-sculpting-championship>

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7. Study wildlife in the neighborhood- Get a hummingbird feeder and mix from the dollar store to attract them. Learn the names of common plants in bloom during a neighborhood walk. Plant seeds in pots and watch how they grow. Discuss what a plant needs to thrive. What do humans need to thrive, what is a want versus a need? Take a walk in the evening and look for the rabbits and squirrels searching for food. Are there other animals in our neighborhood yet to be discovered? Lizards? Bees? Birds? Visit the Botanical Gardens in Norfolk and view the different gardens daily from 9am-7pm. Consider visiting seasonally to see how these preserved gardens and habitats change throughout the year.

8. Volunteer- Teach your children humility and generosity by helping others. Pick up litter during a walk, visit someone who lives alone, shop for the local food bank. Teaching your children to volunteer their time or talents for the good of others can ignite their intrinsic rewards. Learning to volunteer because you feel good helping someone else is a life lesson we can all benefit from. Visit the website of Good Deeds Day: [www.good-deeds-day.org/getideas](http://www.good-deeds-day.org/getideas) <<http://www.good-deeds-day.org/getideas>> for ideas on how you and your family can volunteer and serve the community.

9. Study the life of someone famous by reading the Who Was...? series. These chapter books have illustrations and expand upon the life of many different people from ancient history to current events. Read the book as a family and then visit the local library to learn more about your person of interest. After the book, check out the Who Was...? show on Netflix which is based on the book series.

10. Involve your child in planning a trip this summer. Family vacation? Bucket List destination? Whether getting out of town or just a day at the beach, children can use multiple skills when learning how to plan a trip on a budget. Estimate the cost of gas, food for the family (pack lunches or go through a drive thru), lodging (camping or hotels), airfare (flights, long term parking) and pet sitters if applicable. Having a staycation this summer? Then let their imaginations go wild and plan a trip of their dreams to anywhere in the world!

Create memories with your family this summer. Spending time together as a family strengthens relationships, opens communication and builds your child's confidence. So gather your kiddos, make a plan and avoid that summer slump together!

## How to Prepare for the Community Yard Sale

Saturday, September 17, 2022 - 8am-Noon

As the Steve Miller Band reminds us, "Time keeps on slippin', slippin', slippin' into the future". Before we know it, the air will feel less humid, the days a little shorter and the community yard sale will be creeping up on our calendars. Let's talk about planning for a successful yard sale!

**PURGE!** Clean out the closets, under the beds, the attic, garage and wherever else you are hiding clutter and things you will use "one day". This yearly sale is an inspiring way to evaluate how you live in your house and what you want your house to look like. Put the items you want to sell in one area and watch as the other areas of your house begin to look a little more streamline. Whether you work on a room at a time or 20 minutes whenever you can, just start in one area and the rest will follow.

**SORT!** It's time to sort the items you are ready to part with. People attending the yard sale will stroll along tables and others are on the hunt for a particular item. Increase your sales by categorizing your wares. Don't feel like you have enough to sell? Join up with another neighbor and sell your items together.

**PRICE!** Pricing your items can take more time than you think. Consider pricing as you sort or do it all the night before. It's up to you! Remember people are looking for a bargain! Even if your item is brand new with the sticker still on it, shoppers are looking for a discount. Consider labeling your items with the price or writing up a sign of prices so you don't spend the morning sharing the same information over and over again.

**CASH-ish!** Do you hear that? It's Anthony Jackson from The O'Jays on bass guitar. He's playing the opening to their hit song "For the Love of Money". Now the other members begin singing "Money money money money, money" The bass guitar continues, other instruments join in and the vocalist sings "Some people got to have it, Some people really need it". Well for this yard sale, you are some people! Stop by your bank and pick up a roll of quarters, a stack of dollar bills and other assorted paper bills. Cash is king at yard sales! We do live in the digital age so it wouldn't hurt to download a digital app such as Venmo or PayPal to accept payment too.

**SHOWCASE!** Your house is looking cleaner, you've got your items sorted and priced, and your pockets jingle jingle with change. Finally it's time to showcase your goods the morning of the sale. Hang your clothes or fold them neatly on tables. Bundle shirts or shorts to sell as a set. Use tables or bookshelves to display your smaller items. Make toys accessible for kids to test out and convince their parents or grandparents they **MUST** have it. Group your linens into clearly marked sets. Place your higher value pieces in their own area and label them as special sale items.

Yes, preparation for a yard sale can be daunting. Start slow and go one step at a time and before you know it, you'll be ready for the Homestead Community Yard Sale! I hope by the end of the day your money doesn't go jingle, jingle, it folds! For those young neighbors who didn't get the earlier music references, this Tik Tok reference is for you!)

**BAKE!** If you have read this far, and still don't think you have anything to sell at this year's yard sale, consider baking a donation for the Bake Sale. The Homestead Civic League volunteers will be selling delicious items at the entrance of Hillview Court the morning of the yard sale. Cookies, brownies, cake slices and other delicious treats are welcome for donation. All proceeds will go to the Homestead Civic League.

Mark your calendars, **Saturday, September 17th, 8am to noon**. You'll either be busy selling, buying, or tasting yummy treats with fellow neighbors!

### WELCOME TO OUR NEW NEIGHBORS!!!

Tom & Caroline Pilkerton,  
W Goodview Dr.

Jason & Lisa Valencia,  
Fireside Ct.

Mary & Kayla Harris,  
N Sunland

*Sadly Homestead has  
lost several people and  
our thoughts and prayers  
are with their families...*

Mary Dougherty  
Old Homestead Lane

Joyce Perkins  
Hillview Blvd

Got Questions? Get Answers!

Forgot the date for an upcoming neighborhood event? Hunting for that information to report a street light out? Wishing you could recall something you read in a newsletter? Visit your web site for answers.

<http://homesteadinvabeach.org/>

## COMMUNITY RESOURCES

### SeeClickFix

- An app which empowers citizens with an easy way to report community issues that need the City's attention.
- You can report items such as potholes, poor roadway conditions, drainage problems, graffiti, landscaping issues on public or private property, etc.

Download the App and/or visit:

<https://en.seeclickfix.com>

### ePRO

(electric Police Report Online)

- An interactive web application which gives citizens easy access to:

⇒ Crime reports by street

⇒ Traffic accident reports

⇒ Search active warrants

<https://www.vbgov.com/government/departments/police/Pages/epro.aspx>

### Outdoor Lighting Concern

- Street lights out near your home? Dominion Energy will need your information on an e-form.

[dominionenergy.com/outages/streetlight-outages/outdoor-lighting-email-form](http://dominionenergy.com/outages/streetlight-outages/outdoor-lighting-email-form).

### Nextdoor.com

- A private communication App for your neighborhood and a great way to stay informed of events and issues occurring around our community.

### Civic League Representatives:

Donna Zerby, President ..... 747-9688

Gary Medlin, Vice President ..... 361-5826

Karen Davis, Secretary ..... 617-6364

Karen Nuskiewicz, Treasurer ..... 424-5657

Carrie Smaha, Webmaster ..... 773-9038

Amy Price, Newsletter Editor ..... 672-0032

### COMING SOON!

Two new concrete benches were purchased for the Homestead Heritage Garden. The original two were installed in 2005. One was removed several years ago because the top split, and the remaining one now has cracks. All in all, after 17 years of service they were a good value.

### HOMESTEAD'S ELECTION DISTRICTS:

This November 8<sup>th</sup>, local elections will include City Council and School Board candidates. Due to recent changes to our local election system, Homestead is now **City Council and School Board District 1.** Our US House of Representatives District 2 will also be on the ballot.

The Voter Registration Deadline this year is Tuesday, October 17, 2022 at 5pm, submitted online by 11:59pm, or post marked by October 17, 2022. Early in person voting will begin on Friday, September 23, 2022 and will end on Saturday, November 5, 2022 at 5pm in our office at the Municipal Center, Bldg. 14.

<https://www.vbgov.com/government/departments/voter-registrar/elections/Pages/default.aspx>

A big shout out to neighbor Caroline Plinkerton, for devising and implementing a plan to show Homestead's patriotism during the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday. Caroline and her merry band of volunteers delivered American flags to each of our 214 homes. Thank you!

