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An Important Message

The following is an important message from the National Summer Learning Association.

Dear Parents,

Did you know that all young people experience learning losses when they don't engage in educational activities during the summer? That means some of what they've spent time learning over the preceding school year evaporates during the summer months. However, summer learning loss is something that you can help prevent. Summer is the perfect time for fun and engaging activities that can help children maintain and grow their academic skills. Here are just a few:

- ☞ Read with your child every day. Visit your local library together, and select books on subjects that interest your child.
- ☞ Ask your child's teacher for recommendations of books for summer reading. The Summer Reading List (pages 92–94 of this guide) is a good start.
- ☞ Explore parks, nature preserves, museums, and cultural centers.
- ☞ Consider every day as a day full of teachable moments. Measuring in recipes and reviewing maps before a car trip are ways to learn or reinforce a skill. Use the Learning Experiences in the back of this book for more ideas.
- ☞ Each day, set goals to accomplish. For example, do five math problems or read a chapter in a book.
- ☞ Encourage your child to complete the activities in books, such as *Summertime Learning*, to help bridge the summer learning gap.

Our vision is for every child to be safe, healthy, and engaged in learning during the summer. Learn more at www.summerlearning.org.

Have a *memorable* summer!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt C. Boulay".

Matthew Boulay
NSLA Founder



Using This Book

As a parent, you know that summertime is a time for fun. But it can also be a time for learning and for maintaining and building upon the educational advances your child made in the previous school year. By pairing fun and learning, the books in the *Summertime Learning* series can help you keep your child on track educationally *and* allow them to have the summer break their brains and bodies need.

And to help you help your child, this resource is organized, adaptable, practical, and rewarding.

Organized

Summertime Learning: Prepare Your Child for Fourth Grade is organized around an eight-week summer vacation period. For each weekday, there are two activities. On Mondays through Thursdays, these activities include a math lesson and either a reading or writing lesson. Fridays offer a fun change of pace, as they feature activities that focus on such skills as creativity, critical thinking, direction following, and problem solving.

Adaptable

There are many ways to use this book effectively:

-  **Day by Day** – Your child can do the activities in order, beginning on the first Monday of summer vacation. For each weekday, your child will complete the two designated activities. (See the calendar on page 7.)
-  **Pick and Choose** – If you do not wish to have your child work strictly in the order the activities are presented in this book, you may pick and choose any combination of pages based on your child’s needs and interests.
-  **All of a Kind** – If you feel that your child needs more help in one area than another, you may opt to focus on the math, reading, or writing activities.

In addition, the pages of this resource are perforated, which gives you the option of tearing them out if needed. If this method is chosen, a special folder or binder can be decorated and used to store the loose pages.

Extra Extra

-  For a handy calendar that can set expectations and keep you and your child on schedule, see page 7 of this book.



-  For Journal Topics to incorporate more writing into the weekly schedule, see page 8.
-  For ways to enhance summertime reading and learning experiences, see pages 92–97.
-  For useful reference pages in the areas of cursive writing, multiplication and division, proofreading, and more, see pages 98–104.



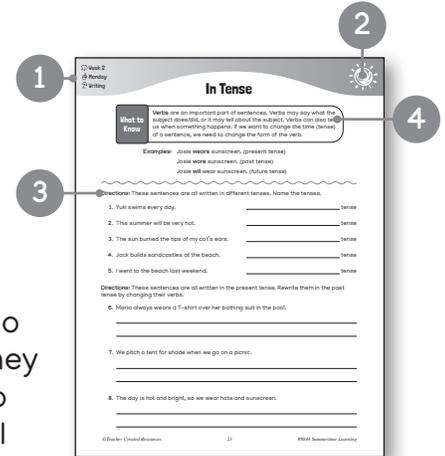
Using This Book (cont.)

Practical

Parents want activity pages that take the guesswork out of how they should be used, what they are asking their child to do, and what the correct answers to the questions are. The pages in *Summertime Learning: Prepare Your Child for Fourth Grade* aim to do just that.

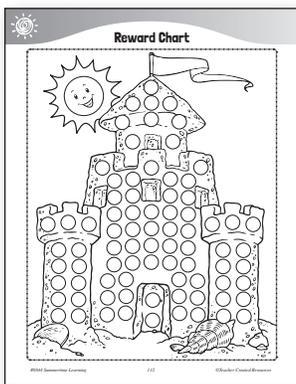
Several pieces of information are given in a straightforward, easy-to-read manner at the top of each activity page.

- 1 On one side of the activity page, the week, day, and learning area of the activity are listed. This gives parents a place to quickly check what their child is working on and to stay organized throughout the summer.
- 2 The opposite side features a sun icon. This is a perfect spot to place a sticker to track and reward progress as your child completes the activities in the book. Using this feature will also make it easy to direct your child to the next day's activities: they can simply look for the last sticker placed and work on the two pages that immediately follow. In the back of the book, you will find over 300 colorful stickers your child can use for this purpose.
- 3 The directions for each activity are written clearly and in a way that is easy to understand. Children often know how to perform an educational skill but still get questions wrong because the instructions are unclear or because they have not fully read them. You may wish to encourage your child to write a number above each line of the instructions that is asking them to do a new task.
- 4 Some pages include a "What to Know" box that offers a reminder of a grammar or usage rule your child will need to know in order to complete the page.



In addition, a complete answer key is included at the back of the book (pages 105–111). This can be consulted whenever any answers are in doubt.

Rewarding



You may use the Reward Chart on page 112 of this book to keep track of the activities your child has completed. This page is designed to be used with the stickers provided at the back of this book. Once your child has finished a page, they can choose a sticker and use it to fill a circle on the chart.

The stickers can also be used on the individual pages. The sun at the top of the page provides a perfect spot to place your child's chosen sticker. And by doing this, it will be easy to direct your child to the next day's activities: they can simply look for the last sticker placed and work on the two pages that immediately follow.

There are more than enough stickers provided to fill the Reward Chart and also to include on each activity page.



Combine and Improve

What to Know

One way to improve the quality of your paragraphs is to combine short, simple sentences.

Example: Jarrod was beside us. Jake was beside us. We did not know they were even in the house.

Jarrod and Jake were beside us before we knew they were even in the house.

What to Know

Another way to make your sentences more interesting is to move around the parts of your sentences so they do not always start the same way—with the subject, for example.

Example: Before we knew they were even in the house, Jarrod and Jake were beside us.

Directions: Improve the sentences in the following paragraph by combining short, simple ones and by moving around the parts of the sentences so they do not always start the same way. (You may also change the order of the sentences and add or remove specific details.) Rewrite the improved paragraph.

Trees Bear Gifts

Trees give us many things. Trees give us shade on hot days. Trees give us wood with which to build our homes. Trees give us fruit to eat. Trees give us leaves we can use for mulch. Trees provide shelter for the birds and other animals we enjoy. Trees give shelter from the rain. Trees can be good places to hide. Trees can be good places to play. Trees give us a place to build tree houses. Trees are also beautiful to look at. Trees may stay green all year long. Trees may lose all their leaves in the fall and winter. Trees may produce flowers.



Find the Causes

Directions: Read the story carefully. Follow the directions for each question, then answer the questions in complete sentences.

It was a bright and sunny day when Jessica got into the car. She could not believe that her father was finally letting her drive his car. Jessica had gotten her driver's license a month ago, but her dad was very protective of his car and refused to let her drive it anywhere. Today, however, her father was in an especially happy mood and agreed that she could use his car for the afternoon. Now, Jessica was happily headed to her best friend Jacquie's house.

As Jessica pulled out of the driveway, her favorite song came on, so she turned up the volume of the radio. Just as she pulled onto the road, a dog ran out in the middle of the street. Jessica swerved to miss the dog and ended up running into the neighbors' trash cans. "Oh, no!" Jessica thought. "Now Dad will never let me drive his car again!"

1. Underline the sentence in the story that says Jessica's father agreed to let her use his car for the afternoon.

What caused Jessica's father to let her drive his car for the afternoon? _____

2. Underline the sentence in the story that says Jessica turned up the volume of the radio.

What caused Jessica to turn up the volume of the radio? _____

3. Underline the sentence in the story that says Jessica swerved the car.

What caused Jessica to swerve? _____



So Many Variables

Directions: Which equation could help you solve each problem? Write the letter of the correct equation in front of the problem, then solve the equation on the line. Not all of the equations will be used.

a. $21 \div 3 = x$

c. $31 + 14 = b$

e. $12 - p = 4$

g. $21 \times 3 = c$

b. $11 - 4 = p$

d. $100 + v = 113$

f. $25 + s = 42$

h. $8 \times 7 = b$

- _____ 1. Karl had 25 stamps. His uncle sent him more. Karl now has 42 stamps.
How many stamps did Karl's uncle send him? _____
- _____ 2. Debbie packed 8 books in each box. She packed 7 boxes.
How many books did she pack? _____
- _____ 3. Mike's mom made 21 sandwiches for the picnic. She put 3 in each sack.
How many sacks did she use? _____
- _____ 4. Ed's dog had 12 puppies. Ed gave some away to friends. Now, he has 4 puppies.
How many puppies did he give away? _____
- _____ 5. Elisa had 100 songs. Then, she bought some more. Now, she has 113 songs.
How many songs did Elisa buy? _____

Directions: Find the value of each expression.

6. If r equals 4, what is the value of $r + 6$? _____

7. What is the value of $36 \div s$ if s equals 9? _____

8. What is the value of $t - 15$ if t equals 21? _____

9. If m equals 33, what is the value of $68 - m$? _____

10. What is the value of $b + 42$ if b equals 27? _____