

5 Summer School Tips to Combat the Literacy Gap

It's difficult to distill a year's worth of learning into a handful of intensive weeks. However, educators can help students make a splash in their summer school program with the right strategy.

Here are our top five tips for educators:

1. Use a Structured Approach

- ➔ **Key Focus:** Implement explicit, systematic instruction across phonics, phonemic awareness, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension.
- ➔ **Action Steps:** Plan daily lessons that build on each other, ensuring every minute is purposefully spent reinforcing foundational reading skills.

2. Provide Multimodal Learning Opportunities

- ➔ **Key Focus:** Engage students with learning activities that incorporate listening, speaking, writing, and reading.
- ➔ **Action Steps:** Integrate creative, multisensory activities like letter tracing in sand or syllable segmentation games to enhance phonemic awareness and phonics skills.

3. Leverage Data

- ➔ **Key Focus:** Leverage assessments to tailor instruction to each student's reading skill—moving from simple to complex.
- ➔ **Action Steps:** Begin with baseline assessments, adjust learning targets based on ongoing progress monitoring, and ensure targeted and efficient instruction.

4. Break into Small Groups

- ➔ **Key Focus:** Provide individualized or small-group tutoring sessions to address specific literacy needs.
- ➔ **Action Steps:** Use direct instruction and immediate feedback to personalize learning and accelerate progress.

5. Build Confidence and Engagement

- ➔ **Key Focus:** Foster motivation by breaking the code into bite-size pieces so students celebrate small wins and cultivate a love for reading.
- ➔ **Action Steps:** Provide ample praise, allow for self-selected reading materials, and ensure students feel supported and encouraged in their reading journey.

Transform your classroom into a launchpad for literacy success this summer by helping students build the reading skills they need to thrive.