



Family Engagement Strategies

Before jumping into family engagement strategies for the summer, it is important to understand principles of family engagement: getting to know the families, understanding cultures and providing opportunities to be part of the summer learning program (e.g., chaperone trips, host an event, be a guest speaker). Find more information, tips and activities in the Family Engagement course on Y4Y. See below for ideas about involving family members in learning activities at your program or at home. Think about how these examples might be personalized to your summer program.

Activity	Description	Personalization
Summer Learning to Go	Send home packets with summer activities parents can do with children to support cognitive development. Outdoor games, slicing summer pies and watermelon, backyard scavenger hunts, and even helping with summer chores such as planting flowers can all help children learn and grow.	
Story Starters	After students return from exciting summer excursions, ask them to write a story for their parents. Include three to five discussion questions that relate directly to the trip. Use prompts like “Tell me more about...” and “Can you explain....” Caretakers can use these prompts on the car ride home or during dinner, and help to reinforce learning all night long.	
Question of the Day	At the end of outdoor activities, have students work together to write questions they can ask to have family members help them find out more about a topic. For example, if they are learning about weather, they might ask a parent this: “Tell me about the worst summer storm that you were ever in.” Or, “Which type of cloud is your favorite and why?” These questions provide opportunities for reciprocal teaching, which gives students chances to share what they learned.	
Include College and Career Readiness	Summer learning is a great space for internships and career exploration, and parents are great resources. Send a survey home to find out where the family members in your program work. Identify a few organizations that can support college and career exploration for students, and invite those organizations and parents to share experiences.	

