

SUMMER LEARNING TOOLKIT

NewMexicoKidsCAN strongly believes in New Mexico parents being as informed as possible about their child's educational progress and opportunities. Summer is an important time for students to recharge but it also serves as an important time to reinforce what they learned during the school year and prepare for the academic year ahead. We hope you find the resources below helpful in maximizing fun and learning for your child this summer.



How does my students' school perform academically and how do I learn more about the school they attend?

[New Mexico Vistas](#) is a website managed by the New Mexico Public Education Department. Here you will have access to information about schools and districts including school demographics, academic performance, learning environment and school programs.*

*This data is from the 2022-2023 school year, it is expected to be updated with 2023-2024 school year data this fall.



This summer we recommend the following 3 steps to discover where your child is academically, how to plan your route ahead, and utilize resources to keep your child learning this summer.

Step 1: Know Where You Are and How to Proceed

Learning Heroes uses national research to inform and equip parents with the knowledge they need to best support their children's educational journey. The [Readiness Check](#) is a quick math and reading review that will allow you to discover where your child is academically and how to proceed accordingly.

Step 2: Expectations

It is also helpful to understand learning expectations for each grade level. The Parent Teacher Association (PTA) formulated guides for each grade level that outlines expectations in English language arts, and math. [These guides are available in English and Spanish here.](#)

Step 3: Resources

Summer is an important time for children to continue learning and reinforce what they learned during the school year. Here are a few resources we recommend.

- [Khan Academy](#) - a personalized learning resource, provides activities for each grade level. Create an account and watch your students progress.
- Learning Heroes: [Learning Tools](#) - both parents and students can access resources that students can use throughout the summer.
- NMKidsCAN [Literacy Action Center](#) - visit our Literacy Action Center to discover what steps you can take as a parent to understand the literacy crisis in New Mexico and learn how you can make a difference!



Summer Reading

Summer is the perfect time for reading! Reading a variety of different books and genres helps children develop phonics skills and comprehension. According to Scholastic, summer reading is vital, “not only for helping kids maintain learning while school is out, but also for fostering social-emotional development, discovering the joy of stories, and elevating the importance of lifelong learning.”

To help your child develop their reading skills over the summer, the New Mexico Public Education Department launched the [New Mexico Summer Reading Program](#). This free program, funded by the state of New Mexico, is available to New Mexico students in grades K-8. Students can participate virtually or in person at their closest program site.

Additional summer reading challenges:

- [Club Read Program](#) - Hosted by the Isotopes and Dion's, this program encourages students to read and offers rewards for their dedication
- [2024 Summer Reading Program](#) - Hosted by the Public Library System of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County
- [Waterford Summer Reading Checklist](#)—This summer reading checklist includes fun challenges designed to encourage students to read in fun and innovative ways.



3 Questions to Ask Your Teacher During Summer Break:

If you have the opportunity to talk with your child's teacher before the end of the school year, or early this summer, start by asking these questions. A meaningful conversation with your child's teacher can help you ensure your student's summer is enriching and fun.

1. Do you have my students' summative and/or interim assessment scores? Can you please explain my students' progress over the year?
2. Is there anything specific that you would recommend my student work on during the summer?
3. What are my students' strengths and weaknesses?

According to the Brown University study on the impact summer learning loss has on K-12 students, the average student lost 17-34% of the previous year's learning gains. This is why it is so important to reinforce learning during the summer.

