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News West London News Education

# Keep children's minds active during holidays, warns education expert

Feltham-based education expert Dr Stephen Curran calls on parents to use fun learning so children don't fall behind in September

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By Salina Patel 16:00, 7 AUG 2015

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Feltham-based AE Publications founder and education expert Stephen Curran

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As the summer holidays get under way, parents are being warned to keep their children's minds active and not take a six-week break from learning.

Feltham-based education expert Dr Stephen Curran has called on families to use fun learning activities to stop youngsters from falling behind when they return to school in the autumn.

The teacher, who is also a National Curriculum advisor to the government and owns west-London based AE Publications, said children academically regress following the long break.

Dr Curran, from Twickenham, said: "Any teacher will tell you that when they welcome children back to the classroom in September most of their pupils' academic ability has fallen back by about two to three months.

"This is particularly noticeable in primary school-aged children in their reading and maths.

"I'm not advocating that children should study throughout their holidays or even do lots of homework but simple, fun brain activities will make their return to school so much easier."

Dr Curran has developed a series of non-verbal reasoning books to help keep children's brains active or suggests parents use fun activities such as card games with visual clues to solve problems, organise a treasure hunt while out on trips and reading.

He added: "It doesn't take much to keep children's brains up to speed. When buying an ice cream give your child the money to buy it and ask them to tell you how much change they have.

"Or when they have friends over to play, get them to share out and divide the toys up between them.

"Small things like these will help your child start school in September just as strong as when they left in July - while still thinking they've had a wonderful holiday."

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