

Interactive Literacy Activity

Hybrid of Adult Education/Parent Education and Take-Home ILA Activity¹

Preventing the Summer Slide through Comics

Interactive literacy activities are a unique aspect of family literacy programs because they aim to support caregiver and child learning together rather than individually.

Time	Content	Materials
	Topic: Preventing the Summer Slide through Comics	
Total Lesson Time: 40 minutes + 15 minutes debrief (during next class)	<p>Objectives:</p> <p>At the end of the lesson, the caregiver will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explain Summer Slide. • detail three strategies to prevent a reading slide. • describe how comics help children learn. • create a comic with their child and reflect on the experience. 	N/A
Approx. 45 minutes	<p>Teacher Prep for the Activity:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read all articles thoroughly and prepare any comments or examples to clearly demonstrate the activity. Also consider vocabulary or phrases that might be unfamiliar to caregivers and how to best present. 2. Print <i>Three Ways to Prevent Summer Slide</i> article and <i>Create a Comic Strip</i> handout. 3. Watch <i>Kids Create Comics (1-7)</i> videos. 4. Create a comic sample. <p>Note... All referenced articles and videos are listed below in the Essential Resources section. It is imperative that you review everything before beginning the lesson.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scholastic articles – <i>Three Ways to Prevent Summer Slide</i>, <i>Why Use Comics with Kids? How Comics Strips Help Kids Read and Learn</i>, <i>Create a Comic Strip</i> 2. Variety of writing utensils: Pencils, pens, markers, crayons, colored pencils 3. Electronic device/computer with internet connections
5 minutes	<p>I. Introduce the activity (before)</p> <p><i>Today we are going to talk about what schools refer to as the Summer Slide. Have you heard this term before? What does it mean to you?</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Define Summer Slide. You can also draw a playground slide to assist in the definition. <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>The phrase used to describe the slide backward many children make in reading and math skills over the summer months.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Talk about importance of eliminating/reducing the Summer Slide. <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>We want our children to enter the new school year, academically as close to where they left off the previous school year. Otherwise, teachers spend a great deal of time at the beginning of the year playing catch up, and lose valuable time teaching new skills.</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. White board 2. Dry erase markers

¹ Developed for the William Penn Foundation Family Literacy Initiative by The Goodling Institute for Research in Family Literacy, Penn State.

<p>35 minutes</p>	<p>II. Activity (steps)</p> <p>Adult Education/Parent Education Directions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Distribute the Scholastic article – <i>Three Ways to Prevent Summer Slide</i>. Have caregivers take turns reading, clarifying unfamiliar words/terms as they are encountered. 2. Review the information and strategies. Encourage caregivers to share any additional ideas. Emphasize the importance of tapping into the child’s interests. Review the importance of varied reading experiences – child reads alone, child reads aloud to adult, adult reads aloud to child, and the benefits of each. 3. Shift to the topic of comics as a strategy to combat “slide” as referenced under article point #2 – Morning. Ask caregivers if they read comics themselves or with their children. Discuss the following: What are the benefits of comics (reading and creating)? How do comics help children learn? Have they ever created comics? Draw from the Scholastic comic articles for details and information. <p>Take-home ILA Prep/Directions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Outline key points (obtained from <i>How Comics Strips Help Kids Read and Learn</i> page two) for creating comics. If possible, present the <i>Kids Make Comics</i> videos (which ones you feel are most beneficial for your audience) Share the comic you created and discuss. Distribute copies of <i>Create a Comic Strip</i> parent handouts. Have caregivers practice creating a comic of their own. 2. Review the take home ILA activity. Caregivers will work with their child to create a comic using the additional <i>Create a Comic Strip</i> handouts. Any writing utensil can be used to create. They are encouraged to pay attention to what their child learned from the experience, how the experience went and what they might do different the next time. Caregivers are asked to return to class with a comic they created with their class and prepared to share. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scholastic article – <i>Three Ways to Prevent Summer Slide</i> (1 per caregiver) 2. Scholastic articles – <i>Why Use Comics with Kids? How Comics Strips Help Kids Read and Learn</i> 3. Scholastic handout – <i>Create a Comic Strip</i> (5 copies for each caregiver) 4. Sample completed comic 5. Variety of writing utensils: Pencils, pens, markers, crayons, colored pencils 6. OPTIONAL – laptop, internet connections, projector
<p>15 minutes debrief (during next class)</p>	<p>III. Debrief (after)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review key points from the previous lesson. What is Summer Slide? What are some ways to combat the “slide”? What are the benefits of using and creating comics with children? 2. Have caregivers present the comic they created with their child. How did it go? What did their child gain from the experience? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Family generated comics

Essential Resources:

Three Ways to Prevent Summer Slide article: <https://www.scholastic.com/parents/books-and-reading/reading-resources/developing-reading-skills/three-ways-to-prevent-summer-slide.html>

Create a Comic Strip handout: <https://www.scholastic.com/content/dam/parents/migrated-assets/printables/pdfs/jason-printable-comic-strip.pdf.pdf>

Why Use Comics with Kids article: <https://www.scholastic.com/parents/school-success/learning-toolkit-blog/why-use-comics-kids.print.html>

How Comic Strips Help Kids Learn to Read article: <https://www.scholastic.com/parents/family-life/parent-child/how-comic-strips-help-kids-learn-to-read-and-learn.print.html>

Kids Make Comics videos:

#1: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Nb_ZDvoWEg

#2: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m_nevXPyh0w&t=69s

#3: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UVRBKja5fEk>

#4: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lK-yBU9k27w>

#5: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RKZbXnsqBJY>

#6: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RySZlFdlh6M>

#7: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R-PZlRngfcQ>

Additional Helpful Resources

<https://www.thebookhook.com/2011/05/writing-fun-for-kids-create-caption.html>

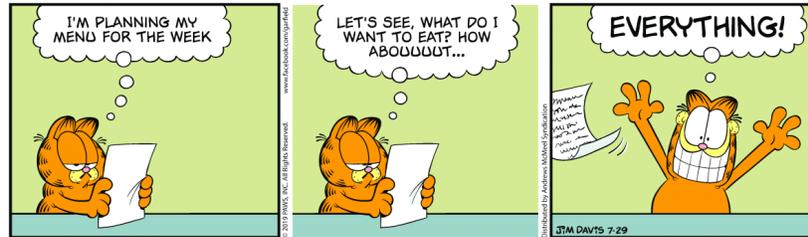
<https://www.scholastic.com/parents/school-success/learning-toolkit-blog/helping-kids-to-write.html>

<http://www.readwritethink.org/parent-afterschool-resources/games-tools/comic-creator-a-30237.html>

https://clubs-kids.scholastic.co.uk/clubs_assets/169005

<https://www.scholastic.com/parents/school-success/learning-toolkit-blog/creating-comics-online.print.html>

Create a Comic Strip



Comics are a great way to engage your child and motivate them to read and write more.

Activity Steps

1. Find a quiet place to work
2. Gather the materials –
 - a. Writing utensils (any type – pencils, crayons, markers, pens, colored pencils)
 - b. *Create a Comic Strip* template or blank paper
3. Talk with your child about comics they have seen or enjoy. Some discussion points and questions could include: What do they like about them? If they were to create their own comic, what would it be about? Who would the main character(s) be and why?
4. Give the *Create a Comic* template (or a blank sheet) and writing utensils to your child.
5. Work with your child to make their comic come time life, talking with them as they create.

Note... If you have internet access, you can watch some comic creation videos to inspire your child. Go into YouTube and search *Kids Make Comics* by Dave McDonald as they are a great starting point.

After the activity

1. Complete the *Take-Home Activity Reflection Sheet* marking the time and your thoughts about the activity.
2. Return the sheet to the program.