

# More Summer Fun in the Schoolage Room!



To add a little extra sunshine to your summer program, check out our fun ideas that you can incorporate throughout the season, and use as back-up when field trips don't work out, or something changes your plans:

## 1. The Weekly Newspaper

Have children create a weekly newspaper about the goings-on in your center. The kids are reporters, photographers, editors, printers, and distributors. If appropriate, the children can sell their newspaper every week for a nickel/ dime/ quarter and donate that money to a charity of their choosing. At the end of summer, you can combine and bind all the newspaper editions together to create a child-made 'book' to put in the library area.

## 2. The Summer Musical

The end of summer performance is a classic. The children really enjoy doing it, and the parents love attending. This year, go all the way with the Summer Musical! If you've seen *Mama Mia!*, you will know that the entire storyline is set to the music of ABBA. The schoolage class could do something similar in one of two ways:

- Pick or write a story, rework it into a play format and choose music to match the storyline that the children can perform.
- Pick an artist, and based on their music, create a storyline/ play.

The children should be involved in every aspect of this, from writing, to acting, directing, singing, producing, making invitations, set design, etc.

## 3. Random Acts of ...

This is a great program to put into place to help children focus on their social skills throughout the summer. Here's how it works:

Along with the children, pick an admired virtue for the week, such as kindness. At the start of each week, give each child 5 tokens. These are Kindness Tokens, and each child can give their tokens to any other child who does something sincerely kind for him/ her (without being asked or bribed). The child who has the most tokens given to him/ her by the end of the week is recognized for their Random Acts of Kindness with a ribbon/ medal/ certificate. (No prizes or treats – that will change the children's motivation). Each week pick a different virtue with the children such as generosity, helpfulness, etc, and have children recognize each other's virtuous behaviors in this way. At the end of the summer, recognize all the winners for their achievement with a special award and presentation.

## 4. Big Brother/ Big Sister

The Big Brother/ Big Sister Program is a very successful social skills and mentoring program, so why not try something like that in your school. Match each schoolager up with a younger child in your center (except infants) and try this:

- Twice a week, the schoolagers spend 20 – 30 minutes with their little brother/ sister either on the playground or in the classroom.
- Stagger their schedules so that the younger classrooms are not overwhelmed with a large amount of schoolagers in their rooms/ on their playground.
- The schoolagers must prepare a game or activity to do with their little sister/ brother each time. (Teachers will help the schoolagers with age-appropriate ideas)
- The schoolagers keep a journal or scrapbook of their Big Brother/ Big Sister adventure, saving pictures, artwork, photos, activity plans, etc, and writing a short entry after each visit.
- At the end of summer, the schoolager can share this with their little brother/ little sister, and all the parents.

## 5. The Tournaments of Champions

Schoolagers love to compete, and setting up a variety of short- and long-term contests for them to compete in throughout summer will keep them engaged. Here are few ideas to get you started:

- Spelling Bee
- Most books read
- Most hops on one foot
- Tallest tower built
- Longest daisy chain
- Hardest tongue twister ever written
- Best made-up language
- Funkiest dance
- Fastest sprinter
- Highest jumper

Award simple non-food prizes and certificates, take lots of pictures and post them for all to see. If you're doing a newspaper (see #1), add reports of these contests.

Now it's your turn.

Create a project for your schoolage class to do this summer.  
Use the Prep Sheet on the next page to help you with your planning.

