



June 2022

The Play Times

Tip Sheet + Resources

Playtime staff and trained volunteers protect your children's rights to learn and play by partnering with shelters, schools, and other organizations across the Washington, D.C., region. We create bright, safe spaces with fun activities for children and give parents a break. Play reduces stress, increases confidence and resiliency, and contributes to healthy brain development.

Summer Brain Drain

Summer is here, but just because school is almost out, that doesn't mean learning is! Did you know the average student loses 17-34% of the year's learning over the summer? It is helpful to think of the brain as a muscle that needs to be worked out to be strong.

Here are some easy ways to help your child with summer learning:

Reading! – Reading is a very important skill for children of all ages. Students who struggle with reading not only struggle with their schoolwork, but also with their self-esteem and comfort at school.

- **For children not yet reading:** Read aloud to your child as they look and point to the words. Help them learn new words by asking them to repeat or try on their own.
- **For early readers:** Ask your child to read aloud with you. For early readers, the more practice the better! Avoid criticizing your child if they struggle with reading — this can turn them off to reading for good. If they cannot read five words on a page, the book is too advanced for their level.
- **For independent readers:** Ask your child questions about what they're reading. Even better, read the same book so you can have a family book club discussion about it!

Math! – Math skills are central to everyday life. When you're buying groceries, creating a budget, or planning a Metro ride, numbers show up in our lives all the time.

- **For pre-K-early elementary:** Number recognition and counting can be done almost anywhere! Asking your child, "How many are there?" can help them practice this basic but necessary skill.
- **For online fun:** www.IXL.com has practice math problems to use. You can play for free up to 10 questions a day, or ask your child's teacher for a log-in.



June Curriculum

For the month of June, Playtime's curriculum will focus on overcoming challenges. Children will learn to celebrate the challenges we all face and the courage it takes to overcome them with the book *Jabari Jumps* by Gaia Cornwall. Sensory play activities will help children explore the topic of water and ocean conservation. In June, we will also celebrate African American Music Appreciation Month with a drum circle demonstration from the Malcolm X Park drummers and the sounds of Playtime's longtime friend, Uncle Devin.

Free Family Activity

Play ball with a Washington National!

- Saturday, June 11 – 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- Walker Mill Regional Park, 8001 Walker Mill Rd, Capitol Heights, Md. 20743
- Put on your sports gear, grab your water bottle, and head over to Walker Mill Regional Park to play some baseball and read a book with a Washington Nationals player!
- In-person registration starts at 9 a.m. on the day of the event.
- Register online in advance at <https://bit.ly/3wZeFkG>

African American Music Appreciation Month

June is African American Music Appreciation Month! This month celebrates the influence of African American music in the U.S.

Spotlight on: Uncle Devin!

- **Uncle Devin, a longtime friend of Playtime, is a local D.C. percussion artist who makes culturally and age-appropriate music for children.**
- Check out Uncle Devin's free radio streaming service: player.live365.com/a08255
- Learn more about Uncle Devin on his website: theuncledevinshow.com



Pride Events

The month of June also celebrates Pride! This month recognizes the impact LGBT people have had in the world. Here are some fun Pride activities and events for the family:

DC Pride Parade - Free

- June 11
- Playtime will take over the Parade Family Area from 3 p.m. - 7 p.m. at Stead Park's playground, located at 1625 P St. NW, Washington, D.C., with face painting, games, and other fun family activities.
- Sign up at <https://bit.ly/3GCjzrY>

Unicorn Kids Club - Free

- June 18: 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- Sign up at <https://bit.ly/38Tzvdj>
- Anacostia Community Museum

