Summer Slide

What is iQ: smartparent?

iQ: smartparent is an Emmy-nominated multimedia television and web series designed for parents that will empower them with new knowledge, tools, and abilities to successfully guide their children through the changing landscape of digital media and technology. It's a growing community of caregivers, national experts, educators, and parent bloggers who want to understand the opportunities and challenges of media as it relates to the development of their children. *iQ: smartparent* was created by WQED Multimedia in 2012.

About this Episode

This episode of *iQ: smartparent* explores the so-called Summer Slide and what happens to kids' learning when the school year ends. The latest research shows that kids lose up to two months of learned material during an idle summer; this show examines the innovations, techniques, and activities that parents can use to emphasize continued learning and growth throughout the summer months.

Discussion Questions

1. What are the things you notice most about your kids and learning in the summer? Do they like being in camps or organized programs? Talk about your own family's experiences with the summer slide. What kinds of activities have helped your kids keep learning and growing in the summer months?

2. School districts across the country have implemented a variety of programs to support their students in the summer months. Share with other parents the school-based programs in your community. What kinds of programs do you think would bring the greatest benefit to students, especially at-risk kids?

3. This episode features the work that libraries are doing to promote summer learning opportunities in their communities. How do you use your library for learning in the summer? What area libraries have you found offer the programming you need?

4. Lots of websites claim to offer great learning opportunities for kids. Talk about your family's rules for screen time and internet use. How do you decide if a website has educational value? How can you talk to your kids about determining whether a website is good for learning? How can you teach your child to recognize positive and negative images, behaviors, and interactions online?

5. What kinds of apps, games, or other technology have your kids used for learning over the summer? What are some of your concerns about using technology for learning?

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About the Guests

Christine Cray is the Director of Student Services Reforms in the Office of Student Support Services at Pittsburgh Public Schools. In this role, she oversees work in the areas of advancing College and Career Readiness, modifying the District's approach to discipline through the use of restorative practices, and supporting student success through comprehensive Out of School Time opportunities. Prior to this role, Christine directly managed the Summer Dreamers Academy, a nationally recognized summer learning camp run by Pittsburgh Public Schools which blends the academic benefits of traditional summer school with the social-emotional benefits of a summer camp experience. Christine is a native Pittsburgher and a proud Pittsburgh Public Schools graduate. She earned a B.S. in Cell Biology/Biochemistry from Bucknell University and began her career in education through the New York City Teaching Fellows program, serving as a high school science teacher at a public high school in Harlem, New York. She holds an MA in Secondary Science Education from The City College of New York and an MSED in Educational Leadership from Baruch College.

Annisha Jeffries is the Youth Services Department Manager for Cleveland Public Library. After earning her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Cleveland State University, she received her master's degree in library and information studies from the University of Pittsburgh, where she worked at the LIS library by watching endless fun hours of Mister Rogers Neighborhood episodes for the actress who played Lady Elaine. Annisha got the library bug as a volunteer in highschool and never looked back. A member of the American Library Association (ALA), Public Library Association (PLA), she is currently serving her second year as the chair of the Norman A. Sugarman Children's Biography Award committee, which selects the most distinguished contribution to biographies for children in grades 1-8. Annisha also creates all sorts of book-related content for the Cleveland Public Library website.

Emily Kirkpatrick is vice president of the National Center for Families Learning (NCFL). In her current role, she passionately leads new initiatives and signature efforts and shepherds the organization's continuous growth to address the learning needs of the 21st century family. She also establishes and develops NCFL's strategic and long-term partnerships with individuals, corporations and foundations.
Ms. Kirkpatrick is devoted to expanding NCFL's reach and impact. Notable recent achievements include the creation of Wonderopolis®, NCFL's learning website and app for teachers, parents and children that was recently named one of TIME magazine's best sites of 2011 and "Best Kids App" by Parenting magazine. Find it at www.wonderopolis.org.
Ms. Kirkpatrick is frequently interviewed by national media and is a close collaborator with notable journalists, education and nonprofit thought leaders, and philanthropists. She holds a B.A. from Centre College and an M.B.A. from Bellarmine University. She is an advisor to the Fred Rogers Center and Sesame Street, and has chaired the nonprofit section of the Public Relations Society of America. She and her husband are the proud parents of three boys.

Larry Smith provides technical assistance for the leadership of summer learning programs across the country. He promotes program quality and continuous learning in the field through his management of the National Summer Learning Association's (NSLA) Best Practices Database, Affiliation Groups, and Field Consultants.
Prior to joining NSLA, Larry spent 25 years providing services and managing programs for at-risk youth. He has managed a foster care program for high-needs youth, founded a summer camp, counseled youth in psychiatric hospitals and alternative schools, and been a classroom teacher in an urban high school. Smith has a master's degree in education from the University of Missouri—St. Louis, and a bachelor's degree in science from Cornell University.

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Online Resources

Summer Learning Guide 2015: https://www.commonsensemedia.org/guide/summer-learning-guide

These Public Libraries Are for Snowshoes and Ukuleles
www.nytimes.com/2015/09/15/us/these-public-libraries-are-for-snowshoes-and-ukuleles.html?_r=0

How Do I Make Sure My Kids Don't Lose Knowledge and Skills Over the Summer?
www.commonsensemedia.org/back-to-school/how-do-i-make-sure-my-kids-dont-lose-knowledge-and-skills-over-the-summer

How Do I Make Sure MY Kids Are Ready for Learning After a Summer Full of TV and Videos?
www.commonsensemedia.org/back-to-school/how-do-i-make-sure-my-kids-are-ready-for-learning-after-a-summer-full-of-tv-and-video

Can Apps or Games Help My Kid's Mind Stay Active During School Breaks?
www.commonsensemedia.org/learning-with-technology/can-apps-or-games-help-my-kids-mind-stay-active-during-school-breaks

From Minecraft to Modding, a Summer Tech Camp Explainer for Parents
www.commonsensemedia.org/blog/from-minecraft-to-modding-a-summer-tech-camp-explainer-for-parents

5 Apps to Boost Math Skills Over the Summer
https://www.commonsensemedia.org/blog/5-apps-to-boost-math-skills-over-the-summer

30 Cool Things Kids Can Learn Online - for Free!
https://www.commonsensemedia.org/blog/30-cool-things-kids-can-learn-online-for-free

Ultra Absorbing Games for Undercover Summer Learning
www.commonsense.org/education/top-picks/best-summer-learning-games

Ruff Ruffman, Humble Media Genius….tips for kids and parents on digital media usage
https://www.commonsensemedia.org/website-reviews/ruff-ruffman-humble-media-genius

Get Ready for Kindergarten with Practical Tips, Tricks, and Tools
commonsensemedia.org/blog/get-ready-for-kindergarten-with-practical-tips-tricks-and-tools

Teachers Confirm Time Wasted Due to Summer Learning Loss
https://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.summerlearning.org/resource/resmgr/press_releases/nsla_summer_release_130528_f.pdf

6 Ways To Use Reading to Prevent the Summer Slide
http://neatoday.org/2015/05/19/6-ways-to-use-reading-to-prevent-the-summer-slide/

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Tips for Encouraging Summer Reading
http://www.pbs.org/parents/experts/archive/2011/06/tips-for-encouraging-summer-re.html

Books for Reluctant Readers
https://www.commonsensemedia.org/lists/books-for-reluctant-readers

"Wimpy Kid" Author's Tips for Hooking Reluctant Readers
https://www.commonsensemedia.org/blog/wimpy-kid-authors-6-tips-to-hook-reluctant-readers

Educational TV Shows for Kids
https://www.commonsensemedia.org/lists/educational-tv-shows-for-kids

Best Summer Learning Games
https://www.commonsense.org/education/top-picks/best-summer-learning-games

Summer TV You Can Feel Good About - With Activities!
www.commonsensemedia.org/blog/summer-tv-you-can-feel-good-about-with-activities

Cool Tools to Help Kids Learn to Code
www.commonsensemedia.org/blog/cool-tools-to-help-kids-learn-to-code

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