

Preparing pupils for summer holidays

For lots of us, the summer holidays provide relaxing days, a chance to catch up with friends and fun activities. But for some children, it's a stretch of boring days, with little to do and few highlights. For many families there may not be the time or money to do what their children want. Some pupils may be nervous about school breaking up for summer and the lack of routine this provides.

So it might be helpful to explore some cheap and easy activities with your class. If you have a bit of spare form time or an IT lesson at the end of term, why not set a task for your class to research activities to do over the summer? Students could:

- 1. Go green**
Think about all the green spaces there are locally and what activities go on during the break. What can be done alone or with a group of friends?
- 2. Explore the local community**
Explore the local leisure centres, youth clubs and recreation grounds. Are there any activities going on? What about 'free swim' days or other fun days put on by the local council?
- 3. Find a library**
Research which libraries are open and when. Is there free access to computers? Are there any clubs running over the summer?
- 4. Volunteer**
Find out about local youth groups where you can volunteer – this is a good way of making new friends www.iwill.org.uk/get-involved/young-people
- 5. Become an author**
Write and illustrate a book or zine using just some paper and pens/pencils. Research some themes and inspiration.
- 6. Take on a challenge**
Here are some ideas for activities that will take time and practice to accomplish:
 - Learning to ride a bike
 - Learning to swim
 - Learning to roller skate or skateboard
 - Learning a new language (there's no need to join a class or buy any books, local libraries may have books, CDs or apps)
- 7. Keep in touch**
Explore how to keep in touch with friends and classmates over the holiday – arrange meeting up once a week at the local park or shopping centre?
- 8. Watch a film**
Find out about local cinemas which may show some films for free or reduced prices for children and young adults.
- 9. Learn something new**
Visit local museums and/or galleries. Research which ones are nearby and free to visit.
- 10. Become a photographer**
Take photos of your local area on a phone or camera. If it's difficult to access either, borrow one from a friend or family member, or create one from scratch with just card, tin foil, tape and a paper clip.