

COAST

PARENTING [OC STYLE]

kids

the best of summer

FROM STAY-CATIONS TO
HOPSCOTCH FITNESS,
WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED

PLUS:

KID ROLE MODELS || TEEN ADVICE ||
TEACH AT THE BEACH || GIVEAWAYS

SUMMER 2009

NEED TO PUT YOUR KIDS IN EXPERT HANDS?

HERE ARE A FEW OF
OUR FAVORITES FOR
BACK-TO-SCHOOL PREP

Sometimes, you just need to outsource. After all, teaching is a skill we don't all possess in equal parts, and sometimes, our kids just don't listen when it's us doing the talking. There's also the "busy mom" factor, which is perfectly legitimate in our minds.

Here's a list of resources to consider if your child needs or wants some academic brushing-up over the long hot days of summer.

PRE K SCHOLARS, BASED IN NEWPORT BEACH

(866) 883-2291 || prekscholars.com

Co-founder Amy Schwary has created a program that allows parents to buy a home-based curriculum to get their children ready for kindergarten. You can either buy the kit to use yourself, get together with friends to teach up to eight kids with the teacher kit, or sign up for classes. The lessons are fun and integrated, so they are far more useful and organized than buying random workbooks at a bookstore and hoping for the best.

CLUB LITERACY IN NEWPORT BEACH

359 San Miguel Dr. Suite 105, Newport Beach || (949) 717-6624 || clubliteracy.com

Teacher Tracey Frank Pringle is a reading expert with international training in literacy education techniques. Programs at Club Literacy are fun and creative, aimed at younger children with classes for pre-K and kindergarten and "Book Talk" for kids from grades one through three. One-to-one tutoring available through sixth grade.

MATHNASIUM MATH TUTORING CENTERS, SEVERAL ORANGE COUNTY LOCATIONS.

Several locations including San Clemente and Irvine || mathnasium.com

Mathnasium tutoring centers operate with the underlying philosophy that kids don't hate math, and that when they learn to understand it, they'll become passionate math students. Students usually go once or twice a week for an hour at a time and work with instructors on worksheets for pre-K students up to high schoolers studying for the S.A.T.

BRIDGES READING & WRITING INSTITUTE IN IRVINE

Bridges Reading & Writing Institute, 14978 Sand Canyon Ave., Irvine || (949) 651-1075 || brwi.org

Reading and writing can be fun for students, but only if the student is interested in the subject matter. At Bridges, the focus is on individuality and finding out what sparks the imagination of each and every child. Reading and writing are taught in summer classes for pre-K through eighth grade (with private tutoring available for students through high school).

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA/ IRVINE'S WRITING PROJECT

UCI Writing Project || (949) 824-5922 || gse.uce.edu/uciwp

The UCI Writing Project is a tried-and-true program that gets raves from parents, teachers and even students. The four-day, three-week sessions run from late June to late August and are for grades K-8 with a college prep writing clinic for students going into grades 11 and 12. There also are math/science workshops for grades K-8.



money, getting an allowance for souvenirs so they can budget and figure out what they can afford.

Every educator we interviewed agreed that older students should definitely keep a travel journal. And because state standards (fourth grade) include ecosystems as well as geological phenomena that form landscapes, parents should be sure to include discussions of natural wonders, from the Grand Canyon to the smallest details of the color of dirt at the side of the road.

Middle school and high school students have endless opportunities to learn from travel. Have them use the Internet to find the best airfares, hotel reviews and itineraries for museums and attractions. Have them document the vacation with video, or create a website or blog of the trip. If you are planning to vacation in a new country, have them practice their foreign language skills. Or, if they are interested in journalism, have them write a travel story and then try to get it published. (Corona del Mar's non-profit organization Sponsoring Education Abroad, or SEA, has a travel magazine and always is looking for locally produced articles; check it out at sponsoringeducationabroad.org).

GOING TO THE GROCERY STORE AND MAKING A FAMILY MEAL

The youngest children, preschoolers and kindergartners, can help spot grocery items and even count change at the checkout stand. "Kindergartners can use their kindergarten spelling to make lists," said teacher Edie Archibald of Harbor View Elementary School in Corona del Mar. "Then they can find the items on the shelves."