

Summertime Learning

Prepare Your Child for Fourth Grade

With 8 weeks worth of
reading, writing, math
and just plain fun!



Includes over
300
stickers!



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A Message From the National Summer Learning Association

Dear Parents,

Did you know that all young people experience learning losses when they don't engage in educational activities during the summer? That means some of what they've spent time learning over the preceding school year evaporates during the summer months. However, summer learning loss *is* something that you can help prevent. Summer is the perfect time for fun and engaging activities that can help children maintain and grow their academic skills. Here are just a few:

- ⚙ Read with your child every day. Visit your local library together, and select books on subjects that interest your child.
- ⚙ Ask your child's teacher for recommendations of books for summer reading. The Summer Reading List in this publication is a good start.
- ⚙ Explore parks, nature preserves, museums, and cultural centers.
- ⚙ Consider every day as a day full of teachable moments. Measuring in recipes and reviewing maps before a car trip are ways to learn or reinforce a skill. Use the Learning Experiences in the back of this book for more ideas.
- ⚙ Each day, set goals to accomplish. For example, do five math problems or read a chapter in a book.
- ⚙ Encourage your child to complete the activities in books, such as *Summertime Learning*, to help bridge the summer learning gap.

Our vision is for every child to be safe, healthy, and engaged in learning during the summer. Learn more at www.summerlearning.org and www.summerlearningcampaign.org.

Have a *memorable* summer!

Ron Fairchild
Chief Executive Officer
National Summer Learning Association



How to Use This Book

(cont.)

Day by Day

You can have your child do the activities in order, beginning on the first Monday of summer vacation. He or she can complete the two lessons provided for each day. It does not matter if math, reading, or writing is completed first. The pages are designed so that each day of the week's lessons are back to back. The book is also perforated. This gives you the option of tearing the pages out for your child to work on. If you opt to have your child tear out the pages, you might want to store the completed pages in a special folder or three-ring binder that your child decorates.

Pick and Choose

You may find that you do not want to have your child work strictly in order. Feel free to pick and choose any combination of pages based on your child's needs and interests.

All of a Kind

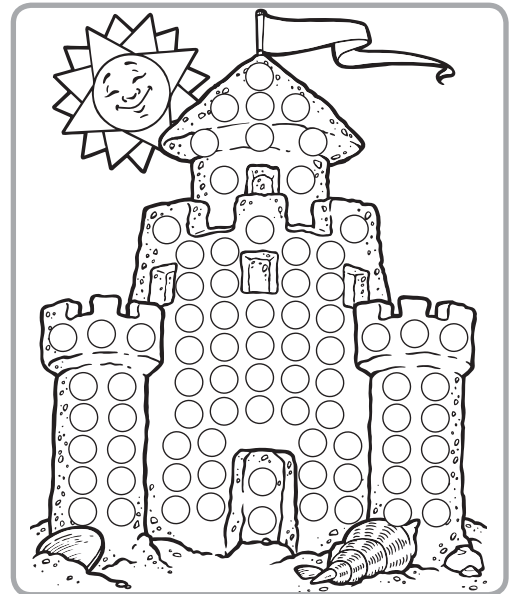
Perhaps your child needs more help in one area than another. You may opt to have him or her work only on math, reading, or writing.

Keeping Track

A Reward Chart is included on page 10 of this book, so you and your child can keep track of the activities that have been completed. This page is designed to be used with the stickers provided. Once your child has finished a page, have him or her put a sticker on the castle. If you don't want to use stickers for this, have your child color in a circle each time an activity is completed.

The stickers can also be used on the individual pages. As your child finishes a page, let him or her place a sticker in the sun at the top of the page. If he or she asks where to begin the next day, simply have him or her start on the page after the last sticker.

There are enough stickers to use for both the Reward Chart and the sun on each page. Plus, there are extra stickers for your child to enjoy.



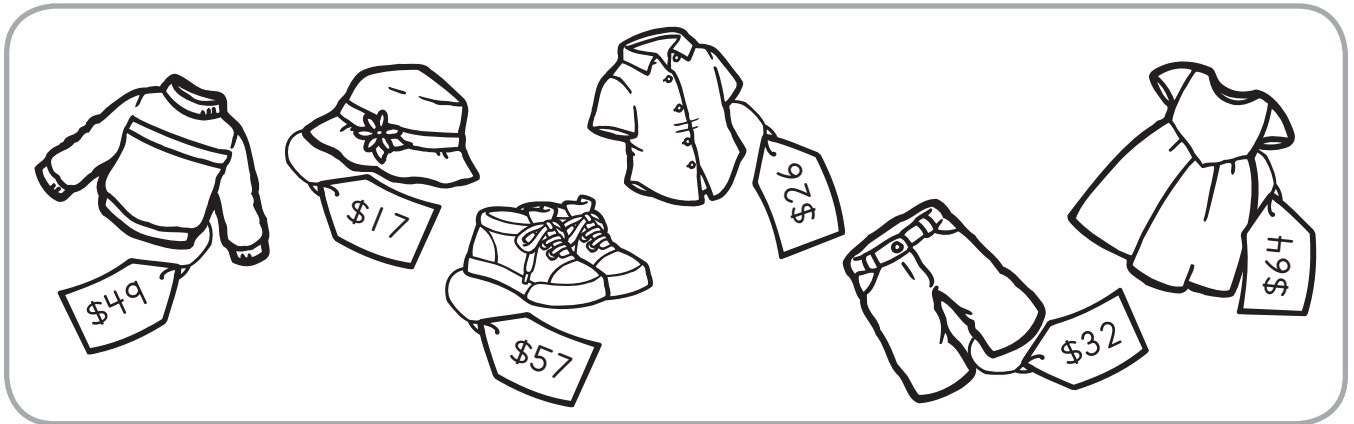
How Much?



Week 2: Thursday

Math

Directions: Use the prices to write addition problems. Find the sums.

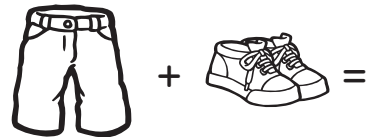


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A True Athlete

Week 2: Thursday

Reading

Directions: Read the following story, and then number the events in the order in which they occurred.

Eddie has always been into sports. Before playing basketball, he played soccer. His soccer team went to the state championships and won a trophy when he was in the fifth grade. It was a very exciting game, and Eddie scored the winning goal!

Now, Eddie plays basketball on the ninth-grade basketball team. Next year, he will try out for the tenth-grade soccer team as well. Then, he will be playing team sports practically all year round. When Eddie was five years old, his big sister took him to a college soccer game, and that's when he decided that he wanted to play on a sports team.

Today, his sister Jessica comes to his basketball games and claims that she inspired him to be the great athlete that he is. Eddie just laughs when she says that, but he does agree that she had a part in his love for athletics. Jessica frequently tells him that if he works hard, he can do anything. Eddie's most recent dream is to go to college on a basketball scholarship and study physics.



1. _____ Eddie plays on the ninth-grade basketball team.
2. _____ Eddie decided that he wanted to play on a sports team.
3. _____ Eddie's fifth-grade soccer team won the state championships.
4. _____ Eddie hopes to go to college and study physics.
5. _____ Eddie scored the winning goal for his fifth-grade soccer team.
6. _____ Eddie will try out for the tenth-grade soccer team.



Summer Reading List

⚙ **Before We Were Free** by Julia Alvarez

Anita must hide with her family in the Dominican Republic during the 1960s. She is an average twelve-year-old child. She keeps a secret diary where she discusses her situation as well as her obsession with boys and her appearance.

Themes: family ties, courage, the cost of freedom

⚙ **The Secret School** by Avi

Ida Bidson is only fourteen years old when she takes over as teacher of a remote one-room schoolhouse after the regular teacher quits. Could Ida be the "secret" teacher of all the students for the rest of the year?

Themes: following a dream, secrecy, hope

⚙ **Jim Thorpe's Bright Path** by Joseph Bruchac

Jim Thorpe was the greatest Native American athlete. This book focuses on how his boyhood set the stage for his international fame.

Themes: importance of hard work, tenacity, competition

⚙ **Keeper of the Doves** by Betsy Byars

In Kentucky in the late 1880s, five sisters cannot understand why their father takes care of their scary neighbor.

Themes: family loyalty, kindness, empathy

⚙ **The Janitor's Boy** by Andrew Clements

Jack's father is a janitor at his school, and Jack's classmates ridicule him for it.

Themes: family loyalty, important truths, standing up to ridicule

⚙ **Granny Torrelli Makes Soup** by Sharon Creech

A long-term friendship is strained when a new girl moves into the neighborhood.

Themes: family love, friendship, Italian cooking

⚙ **Gandhi** by Demi

Gandhi's life and work is told in a language easily grasped by elementary students. Beautifully illustrated.

Themes: humanity, humility, empathy

⚙ **The Several Lives of Orphan Jack** by Sarah Ellis

Jack is an optimistic orphan who decides that the school for orphans is not the best for his outlook on life. He sets off on his own to find his fortune and see the world.

Themes: self-reliance, strength of character, optimism

Making the Most of Summertime Reading

When reading these books with your child, you may wish to ask the questions below. The sharing of questions and answers will enhance and improve your child's reading comprehension skills.

- ⚙ Why did you choose this book to read?
- ⚙ Name a character from the story that you like. Why do you like him or her?
- ⚙ Where does the story take place? Do you want to vacation there?
- ⚙ Name a problem that occurs in the story. How is it resolved?
- ⚙ What is the best part of the story so far? Describe it!
- ⚙ What do you think is going to happen next in the story? Make a prediction!
- ⚙ Who are the important characters in the story? Why are they important?
- ⚙ What is the book about?
- ⚙ What are two things you have learned by reading this book?
- ⚙ Would you tell your friend to read this book? Why or why not?

Summer Reading List

(cont.)



- ⚙ **Boxes for Katje** by Candace Fleming
In postwar Holland, a Dutch girl receives a care package from an Indiana girl. This act soon becomes a community effort.
Themes: gratitude, humanity, kindness
- ⚙ **The Million Dollar Shot** by Dan Gutman
Eleven-year-old Eddie lives in a Louisiana trailer park with his widowed mother. A stroke of luck gives him a chance to win a million dollars by sinking a foul shot at the National Basketball Association finals.
Themes: poverty, life values, future dreams
- ⚙ **Babymouse #8: Puppy Love** by Jennifer L. Holm and Matthew Holm
In this graphic novel, Babymouse has had her challenges with pets, but she feels confident that getting a dog will be a different experience. Will Babymouse end up getting the animal of her dreams?
Themes: love for animals, determination, humor
- ⚙ **Under the Quilt of Night** by Deborah Hopkinson
A young slave uses the Underground Railroad to make her escape to the North. Beautifully illustrated.
Themes: courage, hope, friendship
- ⚙ **Any Small Goodness: A Novel of the Barrio** by Tony Johnston
Short vignettes (chapters) make this a good choice for reading aloud. Arturo and his family leave Mexico for East Los Angeles.
Themes: family relationships, cultural differences, coping with difficulties
- ⚙ **Sweet Potato Pie** by Kathleen D. Lindsey
An African American family in the early 1900s discovers a delicious way to save the family farm. Includes a sweet potato pie recipe.
Themes: close family relationships, working together to achieve a goal, ethnic cooking
- ⚙ **A Corner of the Universe** by Ann M. Martin
Hattie's world is turned upside down with the arrival of a mentally challenged uncle. Set in the 1960s, it draws on the novelist's life.
Themes: difficult family responsibilities, making the best of a difficult situation
- ⚙ **Love to Mama: A Tribute to Mothers** by Pat Mora (editor)
Thirteen Latin American poets present their collection of works, combining English and Spanish, which describe relationships between mothers, grandmothers, and children.
Themes: multigenerational relationships, Latino culture, family love
- ⚙ **The Girl with 500 Middle Names** by Margaret Peterson Haddix
Janie realizes that everyone around her has more money than her family, who recently moved to the suburbs so she could go to a better school.
Themes: life values, pride, family relationships



Summer Reading List

(cont.)

☼ **The Hickory Chair** by Lisa Rowe Fraustino

A blind boy's grandmother dies but leaves him an important gift that impacts his life.

Themes: multigenerational relationships, grief, passing on of family beliefs

☼ **Dog-of-the-Sea-Waves** by James Rumford

In English and Hawaiian, this novel is about the first humans who set foot on the Hawaiian Islands. Manu and his four brothers must deal with this new land and then return home for their families.

Themes: man vs. nature, exploration

☼ **19 Varieties of Gazelle: Poems of the Middle East** by Naomi Shihab Nye

Sixty poems about the Middle East are showcased in response to the tragic events of September 11, 2001. These are told through the eyes of both Americans and Palestinians.

Themes: hope, conflict, war, relationships

☼ **Maniac Magee** by Jerry Spinelli

This Newbery Award book chronicles a resourceful orphan who must make his own way in the world after running away from an impossible living situation.

Themes: race relationships, making the best of bad situations, hope

☼ **The Kite Fighters** by Linda Sue Park

It is 1473 in Korea, and an eleven-year-old boy and his older brother must deal with a rivalry when the older boy receives special treatment from his father as both compete in a New Year kite competition.

Themes: sibling rivalry, favoritism, family relationships

☼ **The Boy Who Could Fly Without a Motor** by Theodore Taylor

It's 1935 and Jon Jeffers is stuck on an island off the coast of San Francisco with only his mother and lighthouse-keeper father. An ancient magician arrives and offers the boy the secret of human flight.

Themes: friendship, fantasy, family values

☼ **Dr. Frankenstein's Human Body Book** by Richard Walker

Each reader of this book becomes Dr. Frankenstein's assistant as he creates a human being. Photos and illustrations demonstrate how the human body works.

Themes: informative, technology

☼ **Tadpole** by Ruth White

Tad needs a home away from his abusive uncle. Even though his cousins are destitute, they welcome him into their home.

Themes: family love, abusive adults, gratitude

☼ **Millicent Min, Girl Genius** by Lisa Yee

An eleven-year-old Chinese American girl records the highs and lows of the summer before her senior year in high school.

Themes: cross-cultural respect, friendship, humor

Learning Experiences



Here are some fun, low-cost activities that you can do with your child. You'll soon discover that these activities can be stimulating, educational, and complementary to the other exercises in this book.

Flash Cards

Make up all types of flash cards. Depending on your child's interest and grade level, these cards might feature enrichment words, math problems, or states and capitals. You can create them yourself with markers or on a computer. Let your child help cut pictures out of magazines and glue them on. Then, find a spot outdoors, and go through the flash cards with your child.

Project Pantry

Find a spot in your house where you can store supplies. This might be a closet or a bin that stays in one spot. Get some clean paint cans or buckets. Fill them with all types of craft and art supplies. Besides the typical paints, markers, paper, scissors, and glue, include some more unusual things, such as tiles, artificial flowers, and wrapping paper. This way, whenever you and your child want to do a craft project, you have everything you need at that moment.

The Local Library

Check out everything that your local library has to offer. Most libraries offer summer reading programs with various incentives. Spend an afternoon choosing and then reading books together.

How Much Does It Cost?

If you go out for a meal, have your child help total the bill. Write down the cost of each person's meal. Then, have your child add them all together. You can vary this and make it much simpler by having your child just figure out the cost of an entrée and a drink or the cost of three desserts. You might want to round the figures first.

Nature Scavenger Hunt

Take a walk, go to a park, or hike in the mountains. But before you go, create a scavenger hunt list for your child. This can consist of all sorts of things found in nature. Make sure your child has a bag to carry everything he or she finds. (Be sure to check ahead of time about the rules or laws regarding removing anything.) You might include things like a leaf with pointed edges, a speckled rock, and a twig with two small limbs on it. Take a few minutes to look at all the things your child has collected, and check them off the list.

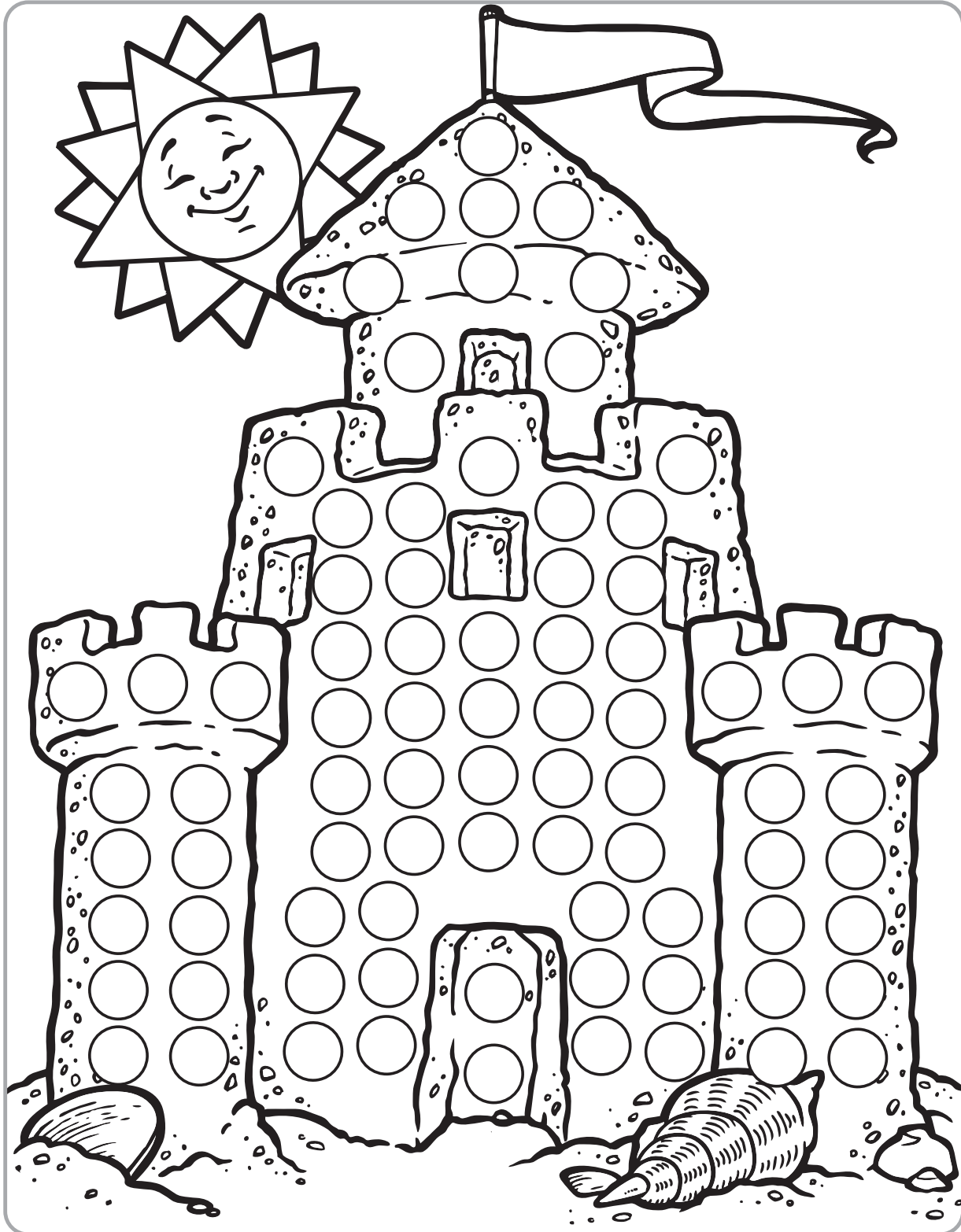
Take a Trip, and Keep a Journal

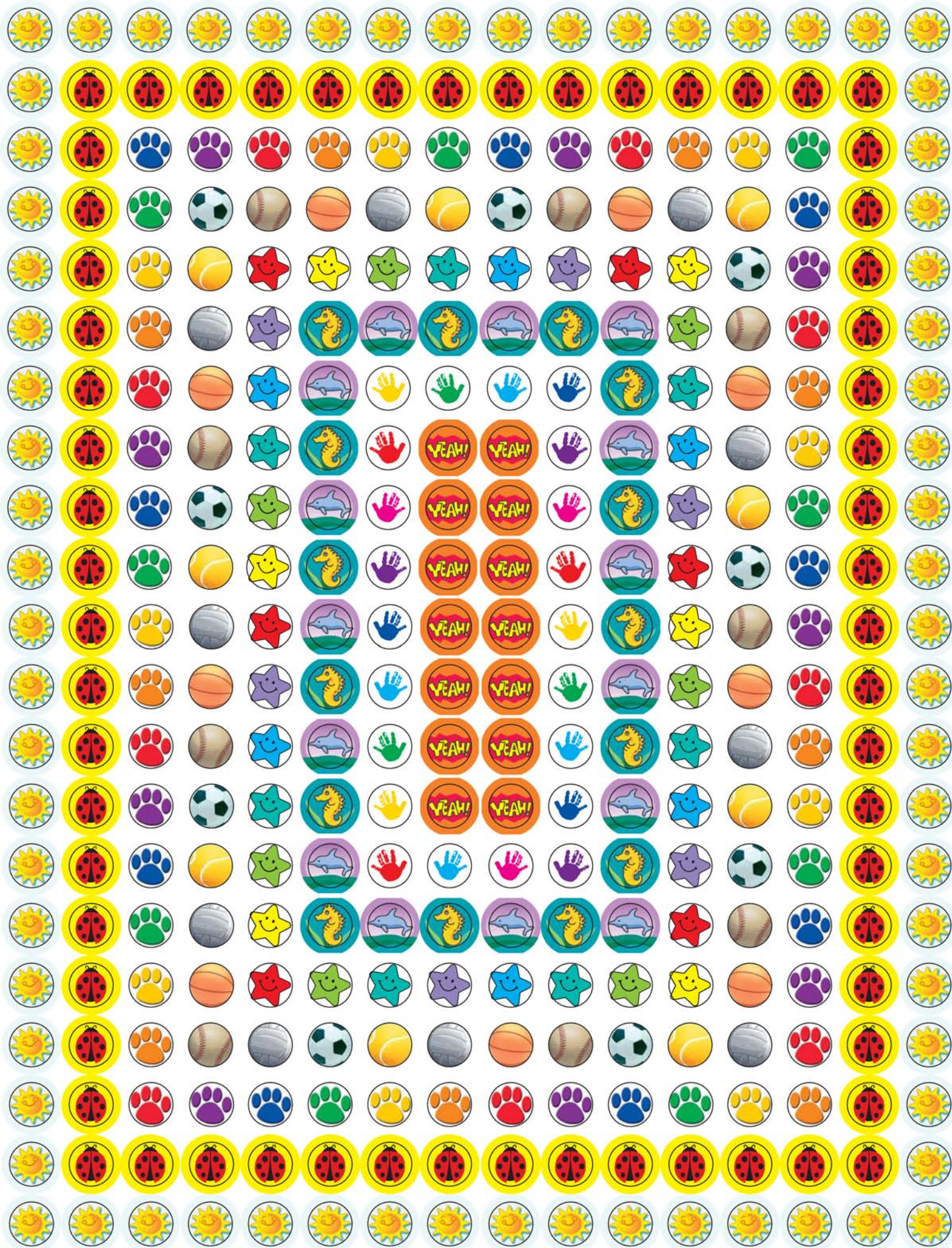
If you are going away during the summer, have your child keep a journal. Depending on his or her age, this can take a different look. A young child can collect postcards and paste them into a blank journal. He or she can also draw pictures of places he or she is visiting. An older child can keep a traditional journal and draw pictures. Your child can also do a photo-journal if a camera is available for him or her to use.



Reward Chart

Student Tracker





Prepare for
Grade

4

Summertime Learning

Prepare Your Child for Fourth Grade

School ends...

Summer begins...

Learning keeps on going...

with **Summertime Learning!**

Each book in this series includes:

- An 8-week daily schedule
- Monday–Thursday lessons that cover reading, writing, and math
- Friday activities that provide fun brain teasers
- **Over 300 stickers** that can be used to track progress and reward good work
- A message from the **National Summer Learning Association**
- 112 pages: 2 pages of activities per day with answer keys
- Extras like reading lists, websites, and reference charts



Teacher Created Resources

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