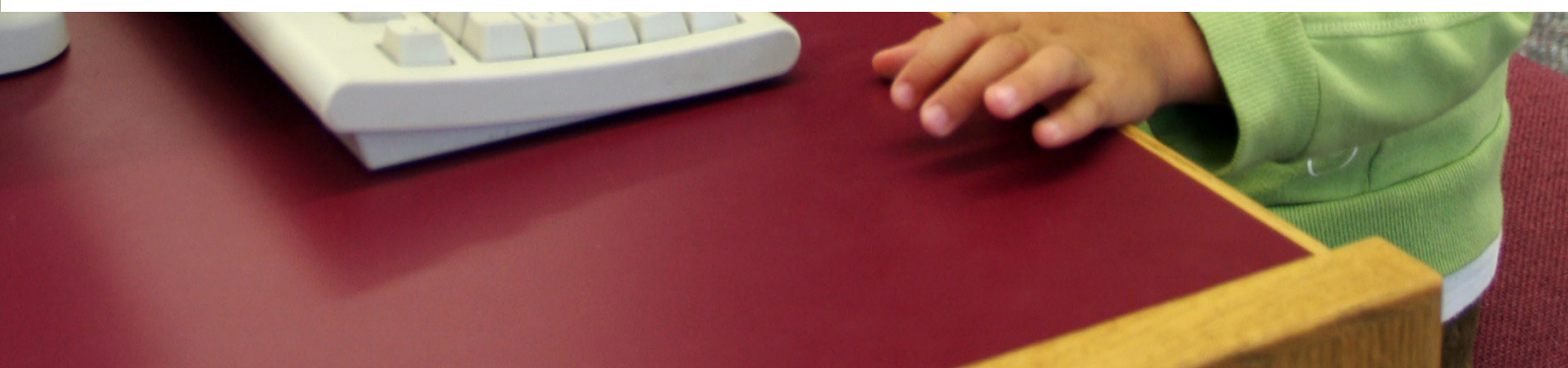




The ultimate guide for helping your
child with maths this summer



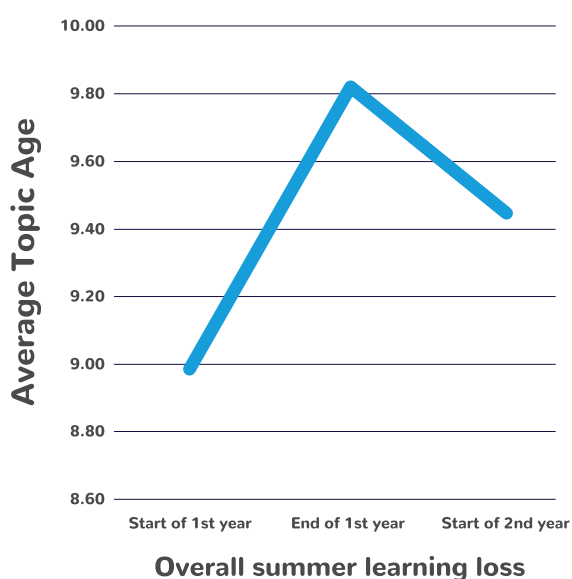
With the summer holidays fast approaching, you're probably starting to think about some time off work and keeping the kids entertained while you relax by the pool!

Or maybe you're starting to worry about who's going to be in charge of childcare while they're at home for 6+ weeks. Wherever you're at this summer, education is probably low on the list for the summer holidays, but that's exactly why there's the global education phenomenon of 'summer learning loss', and this year, we want to help you to do something about it.

What is summer learning loss?

Summer learning loss is defined as 'the loss of academic skills and knowledge over the course of summer holidays'. Put simply, this means that all the time your child isn't learning over summer, they are actually going backwards. This may sound strange, but summer learning loss has been widely researched and a review of 39 studies found that students' knowledge can drop by as much as 2.6 months over a typical 6 week summer break if they don't engage in learning. In addition to this, the review found that summer learning loss is most apparent in maths, so if there's one subject you should really be focusing on this summer, it's mathematics.

Maths-Whizz research data



Data from our online maths tutor, Maths-Whizz, supports this research. To calculate our own estimate of summer learning loss, we looked at 681 students who studied on Maths-Whizz during term time but spent no time learning on it over the school holiday.

To quantify each student's learning loss, we reassessed them at the start of the new school year and compared this data with their ability at the end of the previous school year.

We found that these students had lost an average of 2.4 months of learning, which is in line with the previous research that found knowledge can drop as much as 2.6 months.



How to help your child

The research shows that summer learning loss should be of genuine concern to parents, and our own research has found that with just a small commitment to studying over the summer you can not only negate the effect of summer learning loss, but you can actually help increase your child's skills and knowledge to the point that they return to school with a learning advantage over students who don't engage in learning over summer (more on that later...spoiler alert, it's under tip 10!).

We appreciate that it's challenging to get a child to engage in learning while there are so many other fun distractions available to them, so we've put together a list of 10 top tips to help you bring maths to life to help engage your children with learning over summer.

1. Set realistic targets

First things first, remember that you aren't running a school away from school, so you need to be realistic when considering how much time you and your child will have available each week.

Summer learning should be a fun and positive part of your child's everyday routine, so set realistic targets for a successful summer learning plan. This way, your child won't want to give up by week 3!

In addition to this, it's important to come up with some realistic learning targets. To do this, we'd recommend looking at your child's latest class reports or speaking with their class teacher to see if there are any specific gaps in their knowledge that they could work on filling over the summer.

Once you've decided on what they are, share them with your child so they know what they're working towards, then they will be able to see the progress they're making.



2. Create a schedule

Now you've set your targets, it's time to think about when all that learning is going to take place. When considering your child's learning schedule remember one thing: consistency is key.

Set weekly learning sessions, preferably on the same day each week and for a similar time period. That might mean a one hour learning session once a week, or three half an hour sessions spread across the week - it really all depends on the age of your child and their ability to concentrate and focus.

There are two key reasons for creating a consistent learning schedule. Firstly, structure provides routine which when embedded becomes part of your normal week. And secondly regular, consistent learning will be more effective in reducing summer learning loss and gradually building and maintaining knowledge than trying to cram too much into the final, busy week of the school summer holidays. So, although we can't give you 'the perfect summer learning schedule' as it needs to be tailored to fit your child's (and your!) available free time, and inevitably fun-filled summer schedule, we'd always recommend leaning towards little and often.

3. Motivate them with rewards

This tip is such a simple one to put to use, but one that is so easy to forget. Reward your child for engaging with learning over summer and working towards their targets.

Remember, not all of their friends will be learning over summer, so rewards will go a long way when it comes to winning them over and persuading them that summer learning isn't so bad after all.

As with the schedule, there's no formula for the perfect reward to motivate your child to learn, but we're sure you know the sorts of things that motivate your child. We would suggest having a few different levels of reward, for example, you might want to give them a reward each time they complete a week of their schedule without missing a session, then offer them a larger reward if they complete a number of weeks in a row.

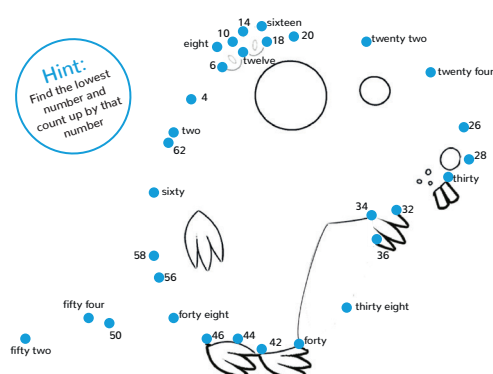


Name: _____
Date: _____

Dot to Dot

Hammie is covered in dots!

Join the dots in the correct pattern to complete this Whizz character.
Ask your teacher for help if you need it.



Finished?
For the numbers that are in numerals, write them out in words.

www.whizz.com

4. Make it fun

When thinking about your child's summer learning, you may jump straight to the idea that you need to download a bank of worksheets and meticulously work through them over the holiday. Learning doesn't have to be so one dimensional though, and your child is likely to take a lot more from it if they have fun. You can still incorporate worksheets into your broader plan, but we would recommend you mix things up by including days where they can engage in more interactive ways of learning.

One great way to bring some fun into learning is to play a maths based board game. If you're looking for inspiration, take a look at these [5 fun maths board games](#) that come recommended by our Education Team. Other fun ideas you might want to think about are:

- Introducing [activities](#) that include drawing/colouring
- Setting them challenging riddles, like these [five from Ted Ed](#)
- Making a competition so they can challenge you at maths (they might surprise you!)

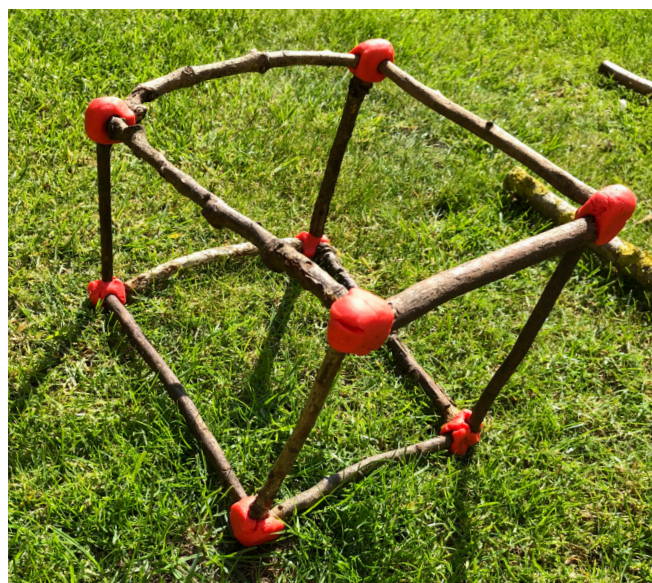
5. Take it outside

Don't forget, it's summer! So take the 'classroom' outside. You can do this in a couple of different ways; the obvious one is to set up in the garden or a local park and go through their weekly maths tasks there.

Or you can make things a whole lot more engaging and fun by incorporating the outdoors into their learning. There are so many ways you can use the great outdoors to enhance your child's learning, and if you're short of ideas, don't worry, we've got you covered.

We've created an ebook entitled 'Making Maths Stick' which has a whole host of maths activities that involve using, you guessed it, sticks.

Click [here](#) to download your free activity pack.



6. Build learning into everyday life

Another great way to keep your child's mathematical brain ticking over is to incorporate maths into everyday life. It's so easy to do, and it's a great way of getting them to engage with maths without even thinking about it.

At the breakfast table, ask them how many slices of toast will be left if you eat one-quarter of them, or ask them to estimate your weekly shopping bill as you walk around the supermarket.

You can add an extra layer of difficulty and test your child's multiplication/division skills while shopping by asking them how much X number of an item would cost, or how much each item in a pack costs based on its full price.

Through doing this, children will become accustomed to using maths in everyday life, and begin to develop the skills and confidence they need for estimation, fractions and other important mathematical topics.



7. Incorporate maths into story time

Continuing on with the theme of bringing working maths into other areas of your child's day, why not think about incorporating it into story time? There's a wide selection of maths based story books out there, with choices for all age groups. So, whether you read together at bedtime, or they're reading on their own, we're sure you'll find a maths storybook that they'll love.

If you need some inspiration, take a look at our top 5 maths storybooks [here](#).

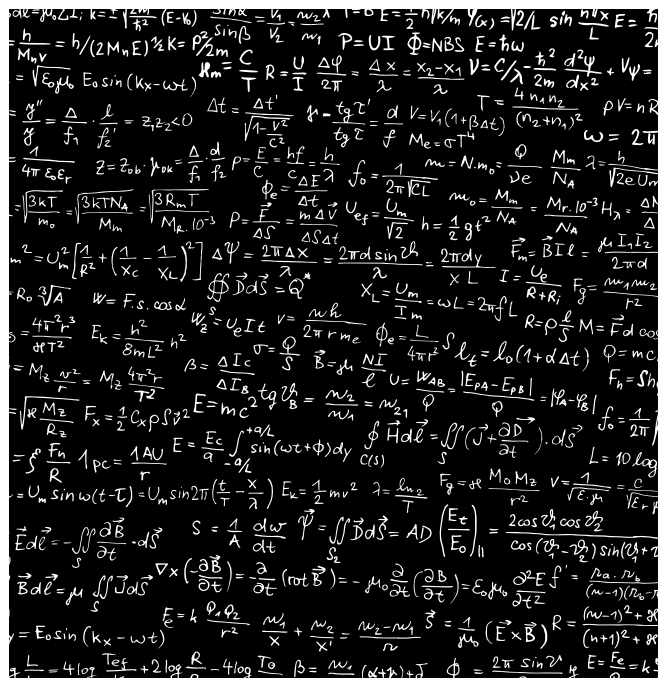


8. Get their friends involved

As a parent, you're probably all too familiar with how influential their friends are, so why not turn this to your advantage and encourage other parents to join you in a weekly learning club.

Spending time with their friends will encourage them to engage and you can lighten the load on yourself by setting up a rota system with the other parents. Win win!





9. Brush up on basic maths skills if yours are a little rusty

We've all been there, your child is working through their maths homework, then they say 'I don't understand this, can you help?'. As a parent, helping with homework can be daunting. Even if you were good at maths in school, it's been a while, so you might be a bit rusty, and the last thing you want is for your child to see you struggling with their homework, as this is likely to make them think it's impossible. After all, if you can't do it, why would they think they would be able to?

Don't worry though, thankfully there are plenty of great resources out there that you can use to brush up on your maths skills, including websites, apps, and courses. You could also just work through the activities that you're going to be getting your child to complete, as this means you will at least be confident in helping with those. If you do decide to brush off those maths cobwebs, check out our [top tips](#) for boosting your maths skills.

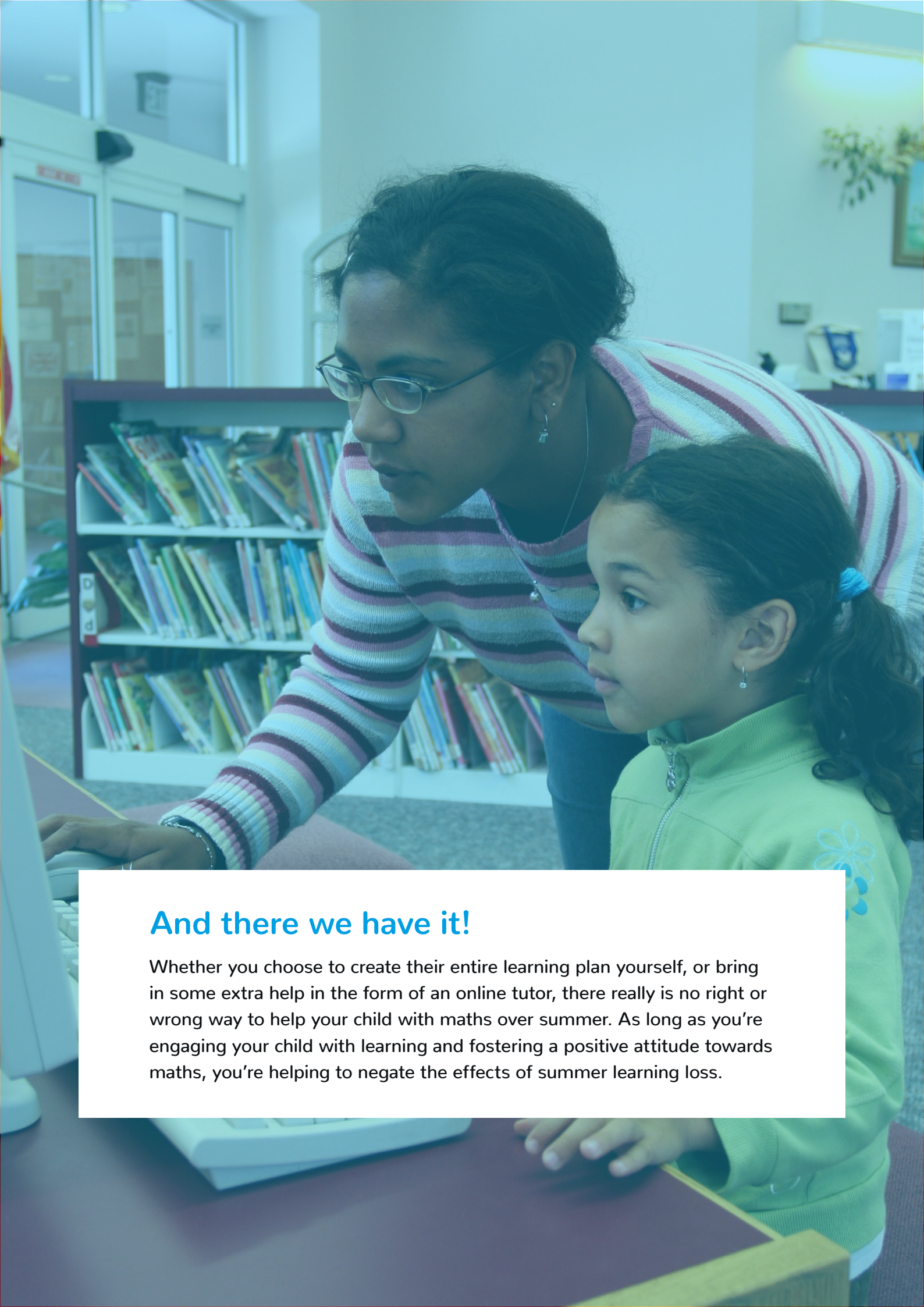
10. Bring in some extra help

And finally, why not consider bringing in some extra help in the form of an online tutor? If you're not sure where to start in putting together a learning plan for your child, or you simply don't have enough time with everything else in your summer schedule, there are lots of benefits to subscribing to an online service that will do all the hard work for you.

Our award-winning online tutor, [Maths-Whizz](#), is perfect for the job as it uses powerful AI to mimic the behaviour of a human tutor, understanding their strengths and weaknesses and tailoring their learning experience so it targets gaps in their knowledge and challenges them in areas where they are stronger.

Research by our Education Team has also found that by spending just one hour per week on Maths-Whizz over the summer, children can experience a learning gain of 9 weeks over the summer holidays. That means they'll actually go back to school ahead of their classmates, and all for just £19.99 per month. Using an online tutor doesn't mean you have to completely disengage from your child's learning either, as Maths-Whizz can be used in conjunction with any of the tips above.





And there we have it!

Whether you choose to create their entire learning plan yourself, or bring in some extra help in the form of an online tutor, there really is no right or wrong way to help your child with maths over summer. As long as you're engaging your child with learning and fostering a positive attitude towards maths, you're helping to negate the effects of summer learning loss.