

The U.S. Department of Labor Secretary's Commission on Achieving Necessary Skills defines a set of essential skills that will help prepare our students for financial and personal success. Here are some fun ways you can help your K-12 children cultivate these skills this summer!

Basic Skills: reading and writing, arithmetic and math, speaking and listening

- Visit the library, participate in their summer reading programs, and read with your child - kids are never too old for family reading time!
- Help your child start their own blog about something that interests them
- Take advantage of ALA's summer education programs
- Encourage your child to continue working on math concepts in ALEKS (grades 7-12) or math and language arts in Moby Max (K-6)
- Listen to audiobooks with your child
- Try out some of [these](#) fun educational apps
- Ask your child to share his or her opinion on anything and everything

Thinking Skills: thinking creatively, making decisions, solving problems, seeing things in the mind's eye, knowing how to learn, reasoning

- Provide arts and crafts supplies, and challenge your child to create something from scratch
- Invite your child to help you plan your family vacation
- Consider a summer camp! [BYU](#) and [UVU](#) have youth camps for theater, writing, dance, robotics, science, arts, leadership, sports, and more. [Thanksgiving Point](#) offers volunteer opportunities, classes, and camps in arts, science, language arts for all age levels
- Challenge your child to explore a topic or a career that interests them. For example, a child who loves basketball could find books at the library, watch a Jazz game, watch YouTube videos about technique or strategy, or interview our own Coach Bonner!
- Search online for games and puzzles that exercise your child's logic and reasoning skills
- Make sure your child has plenty of unstructured time so they can practice entertaining themselves!

Personal Qualities: individual responsibility, self esteem, sociability, self-management, and integrity

- Give your child chores to do at home or encourage them to apply for a summer job
- Work with your child to develop daily and weekly routines, including personal hygiene, chores, learning time, and free time
- Encourage your child to spend time regularly with friends and to get to know new friends
- Talk to your child about what integrity means to your family
- Keep your eyes open for volunteer opportunities in the community. Service helps children develop these personal qualities and gives them valuable activities to include on resumes and college/scholarship applications