

## May 2019 – Istation Newsletter for Colorado Educators

Students may lose up to two whole months of reading proficiency during the summer when they are out of practice. Teachers and parents may feel pressure to keep up with the rhythm of learning over the summer, though they have less time and resources at their fingertips. Even with a summer school program in place, the school day is shorter, which can decrease the impact that skills practice might otherwise have.

Research shows that summer learning loss happens, often called the “summer slide.” There is also research that shows it can be prevented. Let’s not let all of the hard work done by educators and students to waste! Take a look at the tips below to help prevent the summer slide!

1. **Make it Personal:** When parents read, it’s important to “show, not tell.” If you personally take time to read, it sends a clear message to your kids that reading is an important part of everyday life. Sharing with your children what you are reading, and why you are reading it, helps them appreciate what you are doing and why it deserves your attention.
2. **Make it Social:** Literacy skills are certainly gained through the independent act of reading alone, but there are many social games that help make vocabulary and comprehension feel more like a sport. Scrabble, Boggle, and Trivial Pursuit are old favorites. There are also newer digital games available such as Stack the States, digital Crossword Puzzles, and Duolingo.
3. **Make it Verbal:** Summer is often filled with long car rides or plane flights to get to various summer holiday destinations. Use the time to play rhyming games, invent stories about where you are going, or ask interesting questions about the people you meet along the way. These questions and the associated answers form a narrative that aids kids in developing comprehension skills.
4. **Make it Recognized:** Try to find a way to recognize how much your child is reading throughout the summer and acknowledge that with some sort of celebration at the end of the break.
5. **Make it Communal:** Share your knowledge and love of reading with the community. You might choose to volunteer at the local library or donate old books to local community centers. Even spreading the word about Summer Slide will help others be more informed in their choices.

# **Istation ELAT: 2019-2020 ELAT Benchmark Windows**

Districts must choose a **2 week assessment window** within the benchmarks months to administer the benchmark assessments. While choosing your 2 week benchmark window make sure that all students are tested in the **same** month.

**BOY Benchmark** -- within the first 30 calendar days of the school year for grades 1-3\* and up to 60 days for Kindergarten to administer the beginning of year assessment.

**MOY Benchmark** – January 2020

**EOY Benchmark** – May 2020

**\*Kindergarten consideration:** Through a provision in HB15-1323 you may choose to use up to 60 calendar days for initial benchmarking. However, we would encourage districts to continue with best practice by benchmarking and providing support early in the year, within the first 30 days. Completion of your READ BOY assessment within the 60 calendar days will inform the literacy component of your readiness assessment.

## **ELAT Customer Satisfaction Survey**

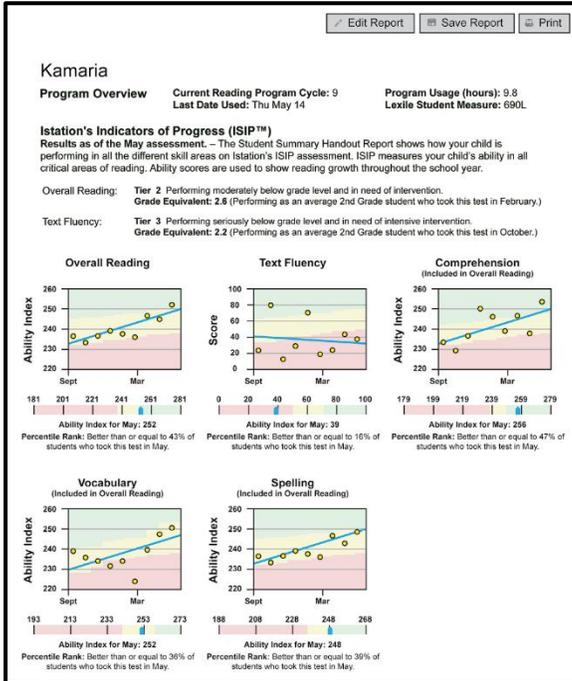
**Please take the time to complete the survey!**

**We want to continue to provide outstanding products and services to you.**

**<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ELAT2018>**

**Have fun and relax this summer!**

# Student Summary Handout



This is a good time to review and send home the Student Summary Handout. However, be sure you have conferenced with the parents/guardians before sending the report home.

It can be used to:

Evaluate the student's intervention plan

Identify student's skill weaknesses

Discuss student's performance with administrators, intervention teams, and parents

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Lexile Range: \_\_\_\_\_

Suggested Summer Reading List:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



**Lexile is a tool used to match readers to appropriate level reading material.**

*\*Most Public Libraries utilize the Lexile Leveling System*



Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Summer Tic Tac Toe

Read a book with a family member



Have someone help you make slime!

<https://littlebinsforlittlehands.com/how-to-make-borax-slime-easy/>



Picnic in the park with a book



Visit a museum or landmark. Write and/or illustrate an essay about the day



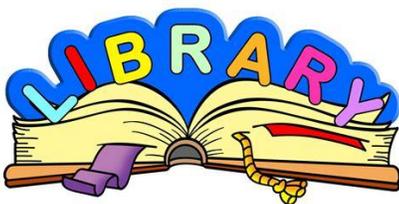
Keep a diary/journal for the summer. Record your day or thoughts at least 3 times per week. Pictures count!



Play a board game once a week. (Record in your diary or journal!)



Visit your public library to check out a book weekly  
(record in your journal)



Act out or scene from a book or the entire book!



Put together a large jigsaw puzzle

