

Visit With the Utays

March 2010

School Psychology and Education Specialists

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Dr. Carol Utay is Executive Director of Total Learning Centers. She is also a graduate of University of Pittsburgh and an expert in learning and special education. "Dr. Carol" has experience as a principal, Orton-Gillingham reading therapist, teacher, consultant, national speaker, professor, author, and mother. She is a national Athena Award winner for community service.



Summer School Already? (Oh wait, that's a good thing.)

"Dear Drs. Utay: I mentioned to my daughter the possibility of using some of the summer to improve reading and math. I thought I was safe since it's still winter, but she went ballistic! Any ideas?"

Children don't have to understand the word oxymoron to know "summer" and "school" do not belong in the same phrase. You may not be jumping with joy either at the thought of figuring out timing and transportation and listening to your child complain. Don't despair! Affordable, brief, nearby, fun, and effective, local education opportunities are sure to help kids prepare this summer for success this fall, while at the same time keep peace in the family.

Summer is usually a freer and less stressful time for students and families so you are wise to target it as a good time for helping her further develop crucial skills. Parents often worry that their child, who has typically worked so hard during the school year, will burn out without a summer hiatus from learning. What we have found at Total Learning Centers is that intensive, targeted, individualized, one-to-one training programs guided by child-friendly experts, have such a different feel and bring so much success, that students are energized and motivated to come. One to four hours a day (depending on the program), with the rest of the day to participate in traditional summer fun activities, is a rewarding combination. **We've noticed there is often an "aha" moment when students discover that learning CAN be worthwhile. What an awesome realization that you CAN do it!**

Here's what an experienced parent suggested when asked for advice for fellow parents about summer education: "Don't wait. Have hope. Take a chance. Your child's future is worth it. The worst part can be getting your kid to actually agree to do it but I've also learned from experience that I am the parent. I am the one in charge of my child's development and I need to take a stronger leadership role as a parent in making the decision that

is in my child's best interest -- to devote some of his summer to developing the skills he needs to be most successful in the fall and beyond."

For useful information about your child's specific strengths and **current or summer needs** as well as **practical recommendations**, call Total Learning Centers at (724) 940-1090. If easier, email us at success@TotalLearningCenter.com. Visit us at www.TotalLearningCenter.com and follow Dr. Carol Utay on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/carolutay>.

Total Learning Centers was voted AGAIN Best Tutoring and Best SAT Prep by Nickelodeon's Parent Picks.

Reprinted from Northern Connections March 2010.