



PARENTAL READINESS AND
EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

A PROGRAM OF
THE LAWYERS'
COMMITTEE FOR
CIVIL RIGHTS

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NEWSLETTER

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The Cost of Summer

Summer!

Another school year has swept by, and summer has once again crept up on us. Of course, the children are not complaining, as this means they get what seems to be endless free time. But, what does this mean for working parents? Some kids have the option to attend summer camps or visit extravagant vacations spots with their families. However, the reality is that these activities come at a cost and not every family has the capacity to spend money on these expenses or the time to take off. PREP understands that summer can be an economic hardship for working parents who might have trouble finding quality and inexpensive day care centers, summer programs, or resources to keep their child entertained during the summer.

The cost of Summer

Studies have shown that when children aren't engaged in learning activities over extended periods of time, they can fall behind in their academics. Children could lose about two months of reading achievement over summer break. They do deserve the break, but we also want to be certain that they don't fall behind their peers during these months. The lack of an affordable summer program or child care increases the academic achievement gap between low and high-income students, and in turn, this opportunity

disparity can eventually affect the rest of the academic year. So what is there to do? Little Free Library is a schoolhouse mailbox where families are encouraged to "take a book, leave a book." There are over 25,000 registered Little Free Libraries in all 50 states. This gives families a zero-cost way to continue promoting literacy for their children. In addition, families can make sure that they are setting up low cost play-dates between their children and their friends. Parents can coordinate with other parents to host events for the kids, based on work schedules. Activities could include simple water balloon fights in the park, or a visit to a museum. This way students can enjoy summer fun at a low cost, and keep all of the great things that they get from school, (i.e. friendship and learning) extended throughout the summer.





Director's Comments

Child care over the summer is another obstacle many working parents face. The cost of quality summer programs is an expense that puts a strain on parents in combination with all other expenses of raising a family, especially for parents with multiple children.

Access to summer childcare is important for parents who need to work to make ends meet. In many cases, it's a necessity to have both parents working all year to pay bills. Therefore, staying home to watch the kids over the summer is not an option. In an effort to save money, speak with other working parents about their child care routines and see if you could join with them or get ideas for your own children. As always, visit our PREP website for any other information on parental and education rights.

In other news

PREP would like to welcome our Summer 2017 Interns: Colleen Culbertson, Elizabeth Johnson, Jacob Reich, Joanna Kelly, Molly Thornton, and Rhajaa Wright. We are excited to have these talented and driven individuals join us in the fight for civil rights. Together we will actively work to defend and protect the educational rights of parents and their children.

Natasha Quiroga is PREP Director and Senior Counsel for the Educational Opportunities Project

www.PREPParents.org

PREP Resources

NOW PLAYING...

VIDEO TUTORIALS

- ◆ *Parent Advocacy*
- ◆ *Navigating the School System*
- ◆ *Special Education*

www.youtube.com/prepparents

STATE-SPECIFIC PARENT GUIDES

- ◆ *On education law and policies*

www.prepparents.org/resources/for-parents/

RECORDED WEBINARS

- ◆ *Parent Advocacy*
- ◆ *Mobilization*
- ◆ *Special Education Process*
- ◆ *School Discipline*
- ◆ *Bullying*

www.prepparents.org/webinar

Have questions about Special Education, School Discipline, English Learners, Bullying, or Discrimination-related issues? Are you a parent in California or New York? Check our newly launched e-Clinic!

prepparents.org/appointments



PEP TALK FROM PREP!

Share the child care responsibility with others!

Make arrangements and rotate the child care responsibility.

For example: Family A could schedule to work during the evenings and take care of the kids during the day. Family B could schedule to work during the day and care for the kids during the evening.

Family A and B could take turns and switch the responsibility.

Do your Research!

Search organizations around your community that host summer camps or summer weekend events.

Some summer camps offer scholarships to reduce or wholly pay for the cost of camp.

Here are popular organizations that offer summer camps. Check to see where they are located near you:

<http://www.ymca.net/camp/>

<https://www.bgca.org/>

<http://www.salvationarmyusa.org/usn/youth-camps-and-recreation>

Childcare

Want more information on childcare?

Visit [Childcare Aware](#) to learn about:

- **Federal and state child care**
- **Eligibility for Childcare assistance**
- **Types of childcare**
- **Choosing Quality Childcare**
- **Paying for Child**

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