Ever notice how students' learning momentum slows down when they're on a break from school? That's the “academic slide”. But don't worry, we've got this!

So, what's this “academic slide" everyone's talking about?
Imagine this: Learning is like a snowball rolling down a hill, gathering knowledge and skills. Then comes summer break, and poof! It's like the sun comes out, and the snowball stops. That halt in learning momentum? That's the academic slide. It's what we see when students step away from the classroom, and their hard-earned knowledge starts to melt away.

When knowledge takes a little vacation: Learning loss
Learning loss is pretty much what it sounds like; when students' brains are in break mode, some of that classroom gold can slip away. Just like skipping workouts can impact fitness, skipping study time can cause their academic muscles to get a bit, well, flabby.

The great climb back: Learning recovery
Learning recovery is our heroic climb back up the learning hill. It's about dusting off those books and getting back in the game, filling in those gaps so students can catch up to where they need to be. Think of it like a learning workout plan, getting them fit for school success again.

Fun ways to keep the brain in gear (no flashcards needed!)
Keep learners active, regardless of age, by doing diverse activities like visiting a garden center, holding a bake sale, or reading outside. There are plenty of fun and engaging ideas.
Cooking Up Numbers

Got an upcoming meal prep on your calendar? Our blog helps you whip up a delicious side of math skills with your culinary creations. Their fun time in the kitchen can become a brain-stretching session from measuring ingredients to understanding proportions to timing the oven. It’s a recipe for yumminess and learning. And the best part? They learn while doing something enjoyable and practical, plus a tasty meal at the end!

Little Chefs (Ages 3–5): They are just starting to understand the world around them. Simple tasks like counting and sorting are foundational skills at this stage.

- **Counting eggs:** Ask your student to count the eggs needed for a recipe, learning numbers and quantities.
- **Sorting shapes:** Making a fruit salad? Have little ones sort fruit by shape or color, introducing basic geometry and classification.
Cooking Up Numbers

**Young Foodies (Ages 6–10):** With a slightly firmer grasp of numbers, young foodies can learn addition, subtraction, and basic fractions as they follow simpler recipes.

- **Measuring ingredients:** While making pancakes, students can measure out 1/2 cup of milk or 1/4 cup of flour, solidifying their understanding of fractions.

- **Ingredient substitution:** If a recipe calls for four eggs and they use only two, what fraction of the ingredients did they use? How does that change the final quantity?

**Tween Gourmets (Ages 11–13):** Tweens can handle more complex tasks like multiplication, division, and proportional reasoning through cooking.

- **Scaling recipes:** Tweens can practice multiplication or division when doubling or halving a recipe, adjusting each ingredient proportionally.

- **Timing multiple dishes:** If they’re baking cookies that take 12 minutes and broiling fish that takes 8 minutes, which do they start first, and how do they manage their time effectively?
Cooking Up Numbers

**Teen Culinary Pros (Ages 14–18):** Teens can start tackling algebraic thinking, geometry, and more complex fractions as they prepare dishes that require precision and creativity.

- **Algebra in baking:** Adjusting a cake recipe from a round pan to a square pan introduces algebraic concepts as they calculate the area of different shapes.

- **Ratio and proportions:** They might need to maintain a 2:1 ratio of tomatoes to onions regardless of quantity when making homemade pasta sauce. What happens if the recipe is for four servings, but they need eight?

Your voice matters to us.

Your suggestions, concerns, and success stories can inspire change. Contact Alexis at afabyanic@lincolnlearningsolutions.org, and let’s make homeschooling even better together!
Safe Online Navigation: Key Tips for Students and Parents

Digital Footprint Awareness: What you do online sticks around. Think before sharing, and keep tabs on your privacy settings.

- **Profile picture safety**: Use cautious settings. Only let trusted contacts view your photos.
- **Disable location sharing**: Turn off geotagging on photos and apps to obscure your whereabouts.
- **Parental engagement**: Parents, stay involved in your students’ digital world; set rules for account access to ensure safety.
- **Addressing cyberbullying**: Keep communication lines open. If cyberbullying happens, don’t hesitate to report and block the perpetrator.

These strategies empower students and parents to foster a secure and positive digital environment.

Create, Build, and Learn with STEM!

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) education isn’t just for the classroom; it can thrive at home, too, fostering essential problem-solving skills and curiosity in our complex world. Parents can inspire STEM learning by encouraging students’ natural inquisitiveness, creating interactive learning sessions (like a “Question Box” for intricate queries), and setting up hands-on demonstrations or building challenges. These types of engaging activities can demystify abstract scientific concepts and create a fun learning environment that captures students’ interests and reinforces the joy of discovery.

This home-based approach ensures that STEM learning becomes an integral part of everyday life, preparing students for a future that will not only require them to navigate but also to innovate in a rapidly evolving world.