Summer Plans for Kids Plan Your Ramadan & Zakat Now Sound Vision
Assalamu Alaikum

“Take benefit of five before five: Your youth before your old age, your health before your sickness, your wealth before your poverty, your free time before you are preoccupied, and your life before your death.” - Prophet Muhammad in Al Hakim, peace and blessings of God be upon him

“Summer learning loss” is a phenomenon that affects children across the country annually. According to a 2011 Rand Corporation [report](http://org2.salsalabs.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=elpwf8PT3PhnFkHc02sA1G0F3SMUG7KO), the average summer learning loss in math and reading for American students amounts to one month per year.

The problem is even worse for low-income students, who cannot afford the enrichment programs that lessen some of this. They lose two months of reading skills.

Keeping kids engaged and active is a challenge facing millions of parents. For Muslims, the struggle has added dimensions. In summer, weekend Islamic schools are closed; the Masjid has fewer programs; there may be camps for young Muslims, but their fees are out of reach for most.

What’s a parent to do? The key is to plan for four aspects of our children’s development: Spiritual, physical, social, and intellectual. This is a suggestion Kathy Peel offers in her [excellent book](http://org2.salsalabs.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=ZD%2B85v1r82peJlUp8TgjtG0F3SMUG7KO) The Family Manager’s Guide to Summer Survival.

Planning for these four areas of our kids’ development is worth every effort. As the Hadith above notes, we must take advantage of our youth and our free time - and help our children do the same.

Some ideas accessible to all include:

* **Spiritual:**Improve Quranic recitation or learn how to read the Quran via free YouTube videos, for half an hour to an hour a day
* **Physical:** Find free or low-cost athletic classes through your local park district, at nature centers, and the YMCA or YWCA. Some places offer financial assistance
* **Intellectual:**Take advantage of the thousands of free, online courses at places like [Khan Academy](http://org2.salsalabs.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=J8mSmdyCTwoB4kIR%2FDz3w20F3SMUG7KO). Or, consider taking a class at a local community college, where costs tend to be lower
* **Social:**Meet with other parents for playdates in a local park a few times a week; for older kids host weekly, informal Halaqa-style gatherings with other kids their age, or even online through options like Google Hangout

Finally, Ramadan is fast approaching. Taking advantage of this special time should mean we raise our standard of giving. It is reported in Bukhari that Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, was the most generous person, but he was exceptionally generous in Ramadan.

Following his great example, we, too, must open our hearts and wallets. Many Muslims pay their Zakat in Ramadan to gain extra spiritual reward for this obligatory act of worship. If you already don’t, why not start this year?

Also, keeping the Hadith at the top of this newsletter in mind, if you have been blessed with a new job, a pay raise, or a sudden cash boost, set some of it aside to give to a worthy cause. Use your wealth before hard times fall.

May Allah bless us with a fruitful and productive Ramadan and summer 2017. May it be a time that we look back on with satisfaction, feeling that we and our children grew spiritually, intellectually, socially, and physically.

Peace,
Sound Vision Team

May 9th marks the National Teachers Day. Our future is in the hands of millions of hardworking teachers inspiring us and our children every day! Let's honor them and show them some love & gratitude!

 “To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream; not only plan, but also believe.” – Anatole France

 Plan for these four areas of your kids’ development this summer: spiritual, physical, intellectual, and social fitness.

Friday | Shaban 9, 1438 AH | May 5, 2017

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**Pearls from the Prophet**

**Extending & Forgiving Loans...**

**“If anyone would like Allah to save him from the hardships of the Day of Resurrection, he should give more time to his debtor who is short of money, or remit his debt altogether.”**

- Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him. (Source: Muslim)

[**The Quran and Hadith on Charity and Giving**](http://org2.salsalabs.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=fmjR9Y%2FYxzyqVBqpEMx9qW0F3SMUG7KO)

*By Abdul Malik Mujahid*

Some important advice from Islam’s primary sources on generosity and giving.   [**>> Read more...**](http://org2.salsalabs.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=WCClV3M%2B8cEeki45OjYWpG0F3SMUG7KO)

[**The Obligation of Zakat**](http://org2.salsalabs.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=NXMIjfJexFO8O1OH1WpGqG0F3SMUG7KO)

The payment of Zakat becomes obligatory on every sane and mature Muslim and Muslimah whenever there is an economic activity resulting in the net increase in their wealth. More details here about one of the five pillars of Islam.  [**>> Read more...**](http://org2.salsalabs.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=%2FyZs6DPO9HCIQ2nxezJ%2Bmm0F3SMUG7KO)

[**Frequently asked Questions about Zakat**](http://org2.salsalabs.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=yIgLH3bgHtDmZEpUFtosaG0F3SMUG7KO)

*By Dr. Ahmad Sakr*

This article offers some of the more specific details about how to pay Zakat, who is eligible, who must pay, which assets Zakat must be paid on, etc.  [**>> Read more...**](http://org2.salsalabs.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=rrZf9SRz2GyCrd9cHO1H%2F20F3SMUG7KO)

[**Sample Summer 2017 Plan for Teenagers - NEW!**](http://org2.salsalabs.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=gkauCSbJAiSzys91ZmJXN20F3SMUG7KO)

*By Samana Siddiqui*

A week-by-week guide of ideas for July and August 2017. These are aimed at teenagers and offer a suggested list of activities to keep them busy and engaged throughout the summer.  [**>> Read more...**](http://org2.salsalabs.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=%2FZTcOCLfUvN%2FaPMEdkSVlG0F3SMUG7KO)

[**Sample Summer 2017 Plan for Kids Ages 7 to 11 - NEW!**](http://org2.salsalabs.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=E7zTOewYN2svX%2Bg8cEF%2BCm0F3SMUG7KO)

*By Samana Siddiqui*

A guide for the eight weeks of July and August 2017, aimed at kids ages seven to 11. The suggested list of activities focus on engaging them spiritually, physically, intellectually, and socially throughout the summer. [**>> Read more...**](http://org2.salsalabs.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=wUBCsJAxyK86FbwHU%2Bq3SXgdTC7x8HI1)

[**Sample Summer Plan 2017 for Kids Ages 4 to 6 - NEW!**](http://org2.salsalabs.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=wN6j7PqGtb4m2dhI5Tj3%2BG0F3SMUG7KO)

*By Samana Siddiqui*

This list of suggestions for every week of July and August focus on children in preschool and the early elementary grades.   [**>> Read more...**](http://org2.salsalabs.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=gDqCqH6%2FobyqxrsGP%2FiWE20F3SMUG7KO)

[**Unique Islamic Activities for the Summer by Dawud Wharnsby**](http://org2.salsalabs.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=mLnVowKA%2B413KMEaA34v5ngdTC7x8HI1)

*By Dawud Wharnsby*

The following are some tips on how to implement a stronger application of more specific Islamic knowledge within the home. The Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, taught us that Allah loves consistency. Keep Islamic activities simple yet consistent – make them a part of daily life.   [**>> Read more...**](http://org2.salsalabs.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=JiSAFNofaBoPPSSj5YfG2W0F3SMUG7KO)

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**Don't Miss Out on Daily Online Radio Islam Show!**

**Download Podcast:**[**Click here**](http://org2.salsalabs.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=BqtdzeUF1MeCjcC%2BtT9K%2Fm0F3SMUG7KO) **Livestream 6-7 PM CST:**[**Click here**](http://org2.salsalabs.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=VpdrVbFxUKuaof6w2dvGzm0F3SMUG7KO) **Call in with comments and questions: 312-263-ISLAM (4752)

Best Shows of Last Week:**

1. [**Spirit of The Athlete: Faith and Athleticism**](http://org2.salsalabs.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=%2FJevQ%2Fv%2B8%2BBnZJnR%2B8hus20F3SMUG7KO)**- Guests: Belal Muhammad & Rush Darwish**
2. [**Opening the Doors to the Community**](http://org2.salsalabs.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=tCDlw%2Buly9LjLXOCX1X8wHgdTC7x8HI1)**- Guests: Dr. Sabeel Ahmed**
3. [**Changing lives, Building Society: Immigration and America**](http://org2.salsalabs.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=l4I06KPKAJLgC4AI8J6x9m0F3SMUG7KO)**- Guests: Iman Boundouai, Dr. Nour Arkhas & Shahad Musaw**