

July 15, 2026



AP-OD Family Connections

Message from AP-OD

Make the most of the rest of summer with opportunities to connect, learn, and grow with your little ones!

As we move through the heat of the season, the most meaningful moments don't have to be big or planned. Everyday interactions like a walk to the park, a song in the kitchen, or a bedtime story are powerful opportunities for your child's brain to grow and for your family bond to deepen.

This issue, we are shining a light on simple, free tools that can help you make the most of the summer days ahead. We are also sharing the inspiring story of Yamilka's, a mother whose love and determination for her daughter remind us all of the strength that lives in our community.

Thank you for being part of the AP-OD family. We hope this issue inspires you to create wonderful summer memories!



AP-OD Parent Spotlight



A Mother's Strength

When Yamilka Hidalgo's daughter was just five weeks old, she needed emergency heart surgery. At the height of the pandemic, Yamilka faced one of the most frightening moments of her life alone in a hospital, with the world shut down around her.

"She got sick really fast," Yamilka recalls. "But she overcame it." Yamilka shares the same genetic heart condition as her daughter and knows firsthand what it means to navigate a complex healthcare system. While her daughter has been able to access coverage through CHIP, Yamilka herself has gone without proper cardiac care for nearly three years. Yet her focus remains fixed on what matters most, her daughter. Yamilka says,

“

I see it more as her future's in my hands. Me guiding her for her to know what's right, what's not — that's how she will have a good future.

Yamilka's story is part of the [2026 National Latino Family Report](#), which highlights the healthcare challenges facing Latino families and the resilience they bring every single day.

Read her full story: [Healthcare: A balancing act](#)

Explore the [2026 National Latino Family Report](#), part of the [Latino Infant Initiative](#), in English and in Spanish:



Explore the report in English



Explore the report in Spanish

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Tip of the Month



Turn Everyday Moments into Learning Adventures!

Summer is the perfect time to slow down and soak up the little moments with your child and here's something wonderful to remember: you don't need a special activity, a fancy toy, or a lesson plan to support your child's learning and development. The everyday moments you are already sharing, like bath time, grocery trips, and walks around the block, are full of opportunities to help your little one's brain grow and thrive.



That's exactly what Vroom is all about! The Vroom App is a free, easy-to-use app designed for parents and caregivers of children ages 0–5. Every day, it delivers simple, fun, brain-building activities and tips tailored to your child's age, so you always have a fresh idea ready, no matter where you are or what you're doing.

Download the Daily Vroom App: [Apple App Store](#) | [Google Play](#)

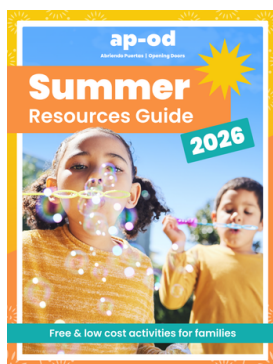


You can also download and print the Vroom Tip Cards! A beautiful set of brain-building activity cards for children ages 0–5 is available in English and Spanish. Stick them on your fridge, toss them in your bag, or share them with a fellow parent!

[Download the Vroom Printable Tip Cards](#)

And remember, these are just two of the many free resources available in the AP-OD [2026 Summer Resources Guide](#). From free summer meals to literacy programs and educational apps, there is something for every family.

Every moment you share with your child is a brain-building moment. You've already got everything you need!



[Download the guide in English](#)



[Download the guide in Spanish](#)

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Upcoming Events and Workshops



Campaign for Grade-Level Reading presents GLR Week Virtual conference

-  **What Does It Mean to Be “Human Raised” in the Age of AI? A Conversation With Dana Suskind, M.D.**
Monday July 27, 12:30–2pm ET
-  **Promotion, Retention, and What Works: State Third-Grade Reading Policies**
Tuesday July 28, 12:30–2pm ET
-  **Let’s Ask the Teachers: Classroom Practice and the Science of Reading**
Tuesday July 28, 3–4:30pm ET
-  **Turning Data Into Action: Advancing State Policy for ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) Families**
Wednesday July 29, 12:30–2pm ET
-  **State Chiefs Leading: The Role of State Education Leaders in Lifting Literacy Outcomes**
Wednesday July 29, 3–4:30pm ET
-  **A Tale of Two States: Reducing Chronic Absence (Co-Sponsored by Attendance Works)**
Thursday July 30, 12:30–2pm ET
-  **Reflecting Back and Looking Ahead: The Changing Federal Role in Education**
Thursday July 30, 3–4:30pm ET
-  **A Virtual Gratitude Session: CGLR Praises Civic Leadership and Engagement**
Friday July 31, 12:30–2pm ET

Register

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Community Building

Summer Memories in the Making!

Summer is still in full swing, and we want to celebrate the moments you are creating with your family!

Whether you are exploring a local event on the AP-OD Family App, trying out a brain-building activity from the Vroom App, or simply making magic in your own backyard, every moment with your little one counts.

Share your favorite summer memory with our community:

Post a photo or video on [Instagram](#) or [Facebook](#) and tag us [@AP_OD_National](#). Tell us in the comments: "One meaningful moment I created with my child this summer was ____."

Every family's story is worth celebrating. Let's inspire each other!



Saying "What we learn as a family lasts a lifetime."