

168 things to do this SUMMER!

Most are free or almost free





This list has 185 ideas of things you can do with your family and friends this summer. There are activities for all ages on this list, so look through and find something that fits your needs.

Summer is the perfect time to explore and learn with your kids. Show them the beauty and wonder in the world around them. The best lessons are often learned in play. Some of these ideas will teach your children, and you, new things. Some of these ideas are just for fun. And some of them are both!

I hope, with this list, you and your kids (or grandkids, or nieces and nephews, the neighbors, or even your sweetheart!) will have the best summer ever, learning and playing together.

FUN WITH FOOD:

- Make popsicles. Get as creative as your little heart desires.
- [Banana Boats](#) in the fire pit. Don't know what banana boats are, check out the link.
- Make [ice cream in a bag](#)
- Fruit Loop necklaces
- Make [peanut butter play dough](#)
- Make S'mores
- Decorate cupcakes
- Make cookies
- Create a new smoothie flavor
- Make Jell-O
- [Build with marshmallows](#) and toothpicks



- Make popcorn necklaces
- Create the ultimate ice cream sundae!
- Edible finger painting. Use Pureed food, food coloring and corn syrup, or food coloring and whipped cream. There's lots of ways to make them
- Make [slushies](#)
- Make Jell-O play dough
- Roast hot dogs over a fire
- Make [candy bars](#)
- Make a banana split
- Make grape snakes with skewers. Slide grapes on a skewer, use a small dab of cream cheese to attach mini chocolate chip eyes.
- Have a S'more Bar with different kinds of candy bars and graham crackers

- Make a new recipe together.
- Invent a new fruit dip. Use things like nut butters, whipped cream, pudding, or chocolate

QUIET TIME ACTIVITIES:

- [Story stones](#) or tiles



- Write letters
- [Felt fishing game](#) math practice

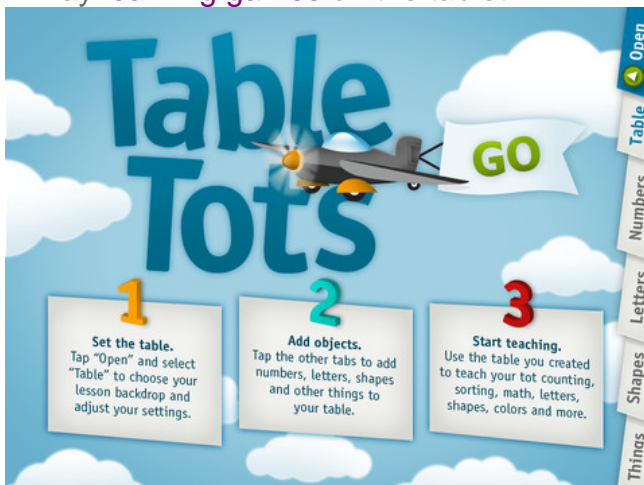


- Googly eye drawings
- Write in your story journal
- Movie Marathon!
- Illustrate a picture book
- Get a new ebook or [learning app](#)
- Read a story to someone. Use different voices for different characters
- Listen to music or an audiobook with headphones

- Draw a picture book. No words allowed!
- Play with blocks. [Trio Blocks](#), [Tinker toys](#), [Cardboard Blocks](#) and our [Wooden Blocks](#) are time-tested favorites.



- Do a [practice worksheet](#).
- Play with [Water Beads](#)
- Do puzzles
- M&M math practice. Add and subtract with the candies. You can also practice colors. Of course, you're finished when you've eaten all the candies.
- Draw with the [Window Markers](#)
- Play [learning games](#) on the tablet

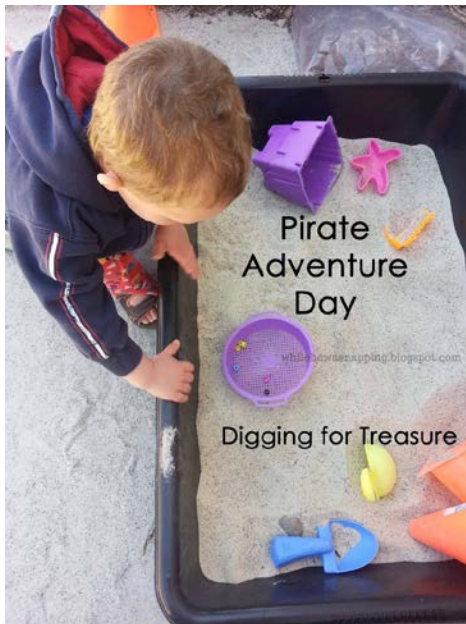


- Make a straw bead necklace
- Build with the sponge building blocks
- Record stories as you read them. Mail them to grandparents.

- ABC match game
- Practice with the lacing cards

OUTSIDE PLAY:

- Make a fun obstacle course with PVC pipe sprinklers
- Water gun tin can target practice
- Water balloon towel toss
- Garden for letters: dig & spell
- Target sponge toss
- Have a picnic on the swing
- Go on a walk
- Have a bike wash.
- Make mud pies
- Create a **water wall** with plastic bottles
- Water balloon pinata
- Create a tin foil river. Float paper boats in them.
- Water balloon fight!
- Blow bubbles
- Go on a nature scavenger hunt
- Ride bikes
- Sand box treasure hunt



- Create a chalk maze

- Ice boat races
- Sponge water fight
- Play in the pool
- Ice block toy rescue
- Play in the sprinklers
- Draw giant pictures with chalk on the sidewalk.
- Take some fun pictures outside
- Make a fort in the backyard
- Coke and Mentos science experiment

ENERGY BURNING ACTIVITIES:

- Glow balloon ping pong
- Paper plate ring toss
- Masking tape bean bag (or [paper plate](#)) toss



- Sing songs! Use funny voices!
- Dinosaur fossil hunt
- Super chore race!
- Masking tape maze
- Paper plate frisbee
- Make a [mini golf course](#)

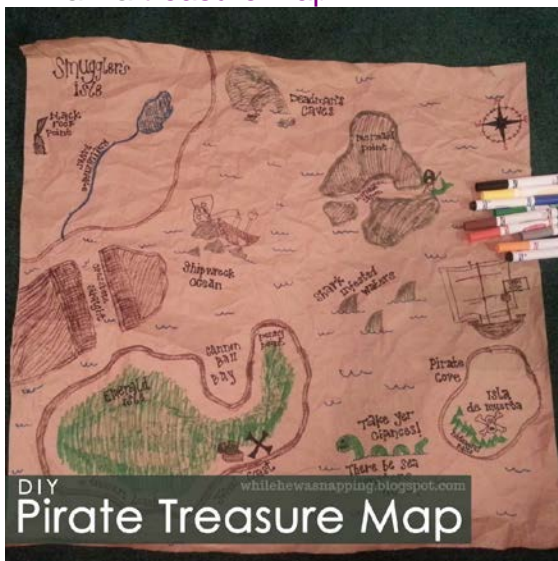


- Dance Party!
- Duck, duck, goose
- Go on a treasure hunt
- Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes
- Build an obstacle course
- Put on a circus
- Nerf gun wars
- Glow in the dark bowling

THINGS WE CAN MAKE:

- Make a wind chime
- Construct a city for your cars from cardboard boxes
- Paper Airplane Races
- Make **Olliblocks**
- Make a **rain stick**
- Make **DIY paint with water pages**
- Tin can telephones
- Make a musical instrument

- Make a lemonade stand
- Bow & Arrow practice. Not a real bow and arrow. There's lots of fun ideas of DIY toys on pinterest. It's on my to-do list this summer
- Make an art gallery
- Make sugar cube castles
- Q-tip painting.
- Make an I Love You chain
- Make a shoe box shape sorter for a baby
- Draw a **treasure map!**



- Make a marble maze
- Make pet rocks
- Masking tape city and roads
- Trace around your body and make a "Flat Me"
- Make toilet paper tube race cars
- Make sun catchers
- Make straw rockets
- Masking tape maze
- Macaroni noodle necklace
- Make constellation cans
- Make slime!
- Make popsicle stick puppets. Have a puppet show.
- Make shadow box piggy banks
- Make Gak
- Make cardboard box cars

- Paint rocks for the garden
- Salt painting
- Make paper
- Build something with a box
- Collect boxes and build a box maze
- Corn syrup paintings
- Make paper dolls

ACTIVITIES WE CAN DO:

- Go on a monster hunt
- Learn some words in a new language
- Mess-free finger painting
- Make “potions”
- Play with letter magnets
- Build a fort!
- Clean something
- Play with the felt fishing game
- Weed the garden or plant a flower
- Toy treasure hunt
- Play in the bathtub
- Have an make-believe adventure. Go to space, be a pirate, deep sea dive.
- Watch a nature documentary on Netflix
- Watch an educational show. Like How It’s Made or Mythbusters.
- Have a **science day**



- Dress Up!
- Bathtub fishing

- Balloon Rocket Races
- Shaving cream bath tub painting
- String maze
- Photo booth
- ABC scavenger hunt
- Play with the Gizmos



- Play with the Pattern Blocks. Get picture templates or free build.
- Make a life-size board game.
- Pajama Day!
- Take photos for an ABC book
- Do a science experiment
- Ivory soap clouds
- Write invisible letters and mail them
- Stay/day-cation
- Play with Legos
- Make and play with a sensory bin
- Camp out in the family room
- Act out a story
- Play on the Wii
- Make shadow puppets

- Play a board game. **Junior Suspend** is one of our favorites!



FAMILY ACTIVITIES

(great for weekends!):

- Make **pretzels**
- Movie night on the big screen
- Go bowling!
- Launch rockets
- Camp in the backyard
- Go to the drive-in
- Go to the marina or river park.
- Go see a movie at the theater
- Go to the Discovery Museum
- Have **a popcorn bar!**
- Play in the fountains
- Fly a kite
- Go star gazing
- Go to the library
- Go camping
- Go to the beach
- Go to Sonic!
- Go get ice cream
- Go to the splash pad