

Summer Fun Checklist

By Lauren Meir

- Summer Programs**
 - Day or Overnight Camp.**
 - Organized (Team) Sports** like soccer, baseball, softball or volleyball.
 - Enrichment Classes** Music, Dance, Karate, Art and other types of instructive classes are available - often at summer discounted prices - to keep kids occupied.
 - Recreational Programs** Check out your local town website or supplemental newspaper to learn about classes, activities, and festivals happening in the summer months that cater to kids.
- Family Fun**
 - Splash Around** Take the kids to the beach, pool, or waterpark.
 - Hiking, Biking, or Rollerblading** Add a picnic at your local park for a full day of fun.
 - Camping** Plan a family camping trip.
 - Movie, Library, or Museum** Escape the heat by taking the kids to a fun movie, storytime at the library or a ;kid-friendly museum.
 - Sporting Events** Baseball and Soccer games are often discounted in the summer, so this is a great option for your mini-sports fans.
 - Zoo or Nature Reserve** Explore the animal kingdom with a day at the zoo or butterfly park, or petting farm.
 - Farmer's Market** Farmer's Markets can be a great place to learn, especially during summer months when there are festivals and craft tables targeted towards families and children.
- At-Home Summer Fun**
 - Cooking Class** Bring the kids to the kitchen to make and bake their favorite foods.
 - Puppet Show or Play** Kids can make puppets from paper bags or cardboard rolls, and put on a production. Or they can dress up and star in their own show.
 - Garden Party** Give kids their own patch of earth to plant their own vegetable or flower garden. Make crowns from leaves to commemorate the planting.
 - Water War** Have a water fight with squirt guns and water balloons. Turn on the sprinklers to make the battlefield more fun and water the lawn at the same time!
 - Story Time** Read favorite books outloud, then have kids make up, create, and illustrate their own.
 - Fashion Design** Kids can make friendship bracelets or beaded necklaces, or color on plain t-shirts or hats. Then have a fashion show for the budding designers to model their creations.
 - Puzzle Play** Draw a puzzle design on a piece of blank paper, then have kids draw a picture on the blank side. Cut out the puzzle pieces and have kids reassemble their art.
 - Scavenger Hunt** Make up a scavenger hunt and send kids from clue to clue on a fun wild goose chase. Make sure to have a reward at the end, like a batch of freshly baked cookies or a box full of their favorite treasures.