



PARENT AND CHILD ACTIVITIES

June 2010

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SUMMER TIME FUN!

Summer is the time for fun vacations, activities with the family, and play time with friends. One of the fastest growing vacations is called a Staycation. That's when you create your own vacation or activities at home using the resources at hand.

For a young child the most important thing they will remember is you, the parent. Giving your child your time and attention will make lifetime memories for your children. Create activities that are your child's favorite, new, unusual or just different from everyday events. The ideas are endless and usually can be done at home or in the neighborhood.

0-12 months

- ◆ By simply changing your child's environment with a trip to the park, date with the play group, or a visit to grandma's house is a treat for your child. Add a little extra attention, and you have the makings of a happy child.
- ◆ Rainy day— An excellent time to add an extra book at story time.

12 - 36 months

- ◆ Create cool treats such as frozen juice pops or ice cream sundaes.
- ◆ Add creative art time by doing chocolate pudding "finger painting" pictures. By doing it outside on the picnic table clean-up is a breeze and easy to hose down. It may also be a perfect time for more water time fun.
- ◆ Every child likes to chase bubbles. Just mix dish soap and water together. Dip a string 12-18 inches long into the soapy water. Hold each end and wave it in the air creating bubbles of all sizes and shapes.

3-6 year olds

- ◆ Let the children put on a play or puppet show using the story from their favorite book. They can "write" the script themselves and create costumes or puppets from things around the house. They will have fun being creative with words, art and even a song or two. They will have so much fun "producing" the show that they will want to do it over and over again. The good thing is you will never see the same show twice!

Fun for Everyone

0 - 100 years

- ◆ Picnics— Great source of family fun. It can be done at a nearby park, on a hike around the neighborhood or even in the backyard. Add a game of tag or a playground and you have the makings a great time.
- ◆ Water— An excellent way to cool off on a hot summers day. Have the kids play in the kiddie pool to cool themselves off. Spraying the kids with the hose and letting them spray you is a great way to let off steam and have lots of fun.
- ◆ Going Out- For a great summer day of fun go to the pool for the day, check out books at a local library or visit a museum for a great summer day.
- ◆ Check your local newspaper to see what events are in your area such as art shows, festivals, concerts or other activities.
- ◆ Plant a vegetable or flower garden and watch the plants and the kids grow!
- ◆ Go Camping—Even if it is in the backyard. Perhaps you can have a campfire, roast marshmallow and tell "ghostly" stories. The children will have fun.