

100 MORE

ACTIVITIES

TO DO AS A FAMILY

THIS SUMMER



ERIN GIFFORD | KIDVENTUROUS.COM

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Moms & Dads,

It's hard to believe that summer is here once again, so get ready to create, explore, get active and come together as a family more than ever before. Whether you want to make fun desserts, plan an outdoor movie night or set up a lemonade stand for charity, get up and go while the weather is warm and the kids are ready for the best summer ever.

As a follow-up to last year's ebook, [100 Activities to Do as a Family this Summer](#), you'll find even more exciting ways to have fun as a family that don't involve video games or video on demand. What you will find is a whole bunch of creative and entertaining activities that will give you the fun-filled, family-centered summer you truly desire.

Take a look inside and let me know what you think. And, don't forget to check in with [Kidventurous](#) throughout the summer for plenty of family-focused travel tips and advice.

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1 Set Up a Lemonade Stand.

On a hot summer day, set up a lemonade stand in your neighborhood. Even better, work with your kids to choose a charity for which they can raise money through lemonade sales. Look for do-it-yourself resources on the [Sunkist website](#) or check out [Alex's Lemonade Stand](#) to find out how a lemonade stand can help raise money to fund childhood cancer research.



2 Go on a Nature Scavenger Hunt.

Give each child a paper bag or a bucket and a list of items to find in the woods or in your own backyard, like a pine cone, a big flower and a dandelion. Add in a few items that relate to their senses, like something that smells good or something that is smooth. You can download and print a Nature Scavenger Hunt checklist on the [hands on: as we grow website](#).

3 Make S'mores in the Backyard.

Making s'mores should be a must-do on everyone's summer bucket list. National S'mores Day is August 10, but there's no need to wait until the end of the summer. Grab some marshmallows, graham crackers and chocolate bars and you're good to go. Head to Spoonful where you can find [more than 30 s'mores recipes](#) with new takes on this summer favorite.



4 Blow Bubbles.

When the weather gets warm, break out the bubble wands. Even better, make giant bubbles using a [homemade bubble mixture](#) from Happy Hooligans that calls for water, dish soap, corn starch, baking powder and glycerin. Add in some washable glow paint and wait until dark for gigantic glowing bubbles the kids won't soon forget.



5 Have a Breakfast Picnic.

Put a new spin on the traditional picnic by having a breakfast picnic. Pack bagels and cream cheese, muffins, a fruit salad and a selection of cheeses for a delicious morning spread. Have a picnic in your own backyard or pair breakfast with a short hike in the park. Wear comfortable shoes and sunblock. Even in the morning hours, you need protection against the sun's rays.

6 Get Colorful Pedicures.

Some days, it's just too hot to go outside, so take your girls to a salon for neon pedicures and wacky nail art. Or, stay in and paint each other's nails. Believe it or not, you can create nail designs using a toothpick. Take a look at this [YouTube video](#) for a helpful tutorial.

7 Create an Instagram Photo Album.

Take and share photos all summer long on Instagram. Create and tag all your pictures with a unique hashtag, like #JonesSummer2014, so family and friends can follow your summertime adventures. Kids can do the same on their iPods or other handheld devices.

8 Watch a Parade.

Pack a small cooler full of cold drinks and snacks, then head out to a local parade. The kids will love watching floats, listening to the bands play and waving at the pageant queens riding in convertibles. Many towns have parades to kick off Independence Day so keep your eyes open.



Go to a Hot Air Balloon Festival.

You'll find hot air balloon festivals and races all summer long, even well into the fall. These festivals often feature arts and crafts, amusement rides and plenty of hot air balloons of all shapes and sizes. Many also feature balloon rides, but they can sell out ahead of the event, so go online to make your reservations.

Take the Bus to a New Town.

Check the website for a bus line, like [Peter Pan](#) or [Greyhound](#), to see where they go, then pick a city to visit on the bus. Kids will love to ride on a coach-style bus. The seats are soft and plush, and there's often free wi-fi. It's a fun way to go if you want to visit a city with fabulous public transportation, like New York or Washington, DC.

Hold a Family Game Night.

Pop some popcorn and break out the board games for a family game night. Good games to play as a family include Apples to Apples, Cranium and Blokus. Preschoolers may also enjoy Sequence for Kids. Card games, like UNO and Crazy 8s, are also fun to play as a family.

Go to the Circus.

Keep your eyes open for circus entertainers passing through town. Kids love to watch the clowns, acrobats, trapeze artists and animal tricks. Make sure to get some cotton candy and snow cones as you prepare to take in one of the greatest shows on earth.





Write a Message in the Sand.

Headed to the beach? Don't forget to leave your mark with the kids by grabbing a stick or a shell and carving out a message in the sand. Try something like "Summer 2014" or "We {Heart} Ocean City." Take fun pictures next to your messages to share on Facebook or Instagram.

Hold a Bike Car Wash.

Grab some buckets and sponges, then invite the neighborhood kids over for a bike car wash. Or, [build a bike car wash](#) for the kids in a few hours out of PVC pipes using instructions from the Lowe's website. The kids will have fun cleaning up their bikes all summer long.

Apply for a Passport.

There's so much to see and do in the United States, but there's even more to explore beyond the borders of this country. Passports for children under 16 are good for five years and it can take as little as eight business days to get a passport. Only one in three Americans has a passport, so up this figure by getting one for yourself and your kids during the summer break.

Plan a Day Out with Groupon Vouchers.

Hop on [Groupon](#) and search for discounts on local attractions and restaurants, then make a day of fun using the vouchers you purchase and print. There's so much available on Groupon from bowling to waterparks to go karts that it shouldn't be tough to plan out a day on the daily deals website.

Visit a Farmers Market.

Take the kids to a farmers market to check out new foods and learn about local produce and agriculture. Spend time talking to some of the vendors to learn more about their farms and products, as well as any items that may be new to you, like pink grapefruit marmalade or gooseberry jam.

Start a Souvenir Collection.

Before you embark on your summer adventures, decide on something to collect to remember each new experience. Whether postcards, magnets, coffee mugs, snow globes or coasters, there are so many different types of souvenirs you can collect with your kids. These will serve as a great way for all of you to remember your fun adventures.



Roll Down a Big Hill.

If you really want to feel like a kid again, roll down a big hill (with your kids). It's fun and it's easy, but be warned, your kids will want to do it again and again. Another warning, make sure there are no prickly bushes at the bottom of the hill or you may regret rolling down that hill.

Visit Neighborhood Yard Sales.

Give each child \$5 and let them loose on yard sales in your neighborhood. If you can, find a massive community yard sale with multiple houses participating and let your kids hunt around for new treasures. Turn the yard sale excursion into a game by giving each child a checklist of things to find and buy (e.g., a rubber ball, a plastic ring, etc.).



Create a Pinterest Board to Plan a Summer Vacation.

Log in to Pinterest with your kids and create a pin board full of pictures, ideas, checklists and activities that will help make your upcoming vacation fantastic. Take a look at the Pinterest boards for [Kidventurous](#) for inspiration and ideas for family fun.

Have a Weekly Baking Project.

Every week, scour the cookbooks and online recipe sites with your kids to find fun recipes that you can easily make together. Recipes for cookies, muffins and breads are all good picks and kids will learn about cooking as well as math as they help measure out ingredients.



Make Snow Cones.

Nothing's better on a hot day than a snow cone, so grab some ice and toss it into a blender or use an ice shaver, like the [Rival Snow Cone Maker](#). It's easy to flavor snow cones with a [simple syrup recipe](#) using your choice of Kool-Aid mixes. Snow cones make a good replacement for the ice cream man, too.

Go on a Guided Ranger Walk.

Most state and national parks offer guided ranger walks to help visitors learn about the park and local wildlife. Most walks are 60 to 90 minutes and are offered several times each day, so be sure to check the park website in advance and plan your visit accordingly.

25 Chalk Your Hair.

Break out the sidewalk chalk and have fun chalking each other's hair. Here's a helpful [tutorial video](#) to get you and your kids started. The color will stay anywhere from a few days to a week depending on your hair color. Use a flat iron to set the colors for longer lasting chalk highlights.

Start a Personal Travel Blog.

Kids love computers, so work with them to create a personal travel blog using a template from [MapQuest Travel Blogs](#). Kids can upload photos, drop pins on locations they visit over the summer, enter travel dates and write stories about their adventures. Friends and family can subscribe to their blogs to follow along.



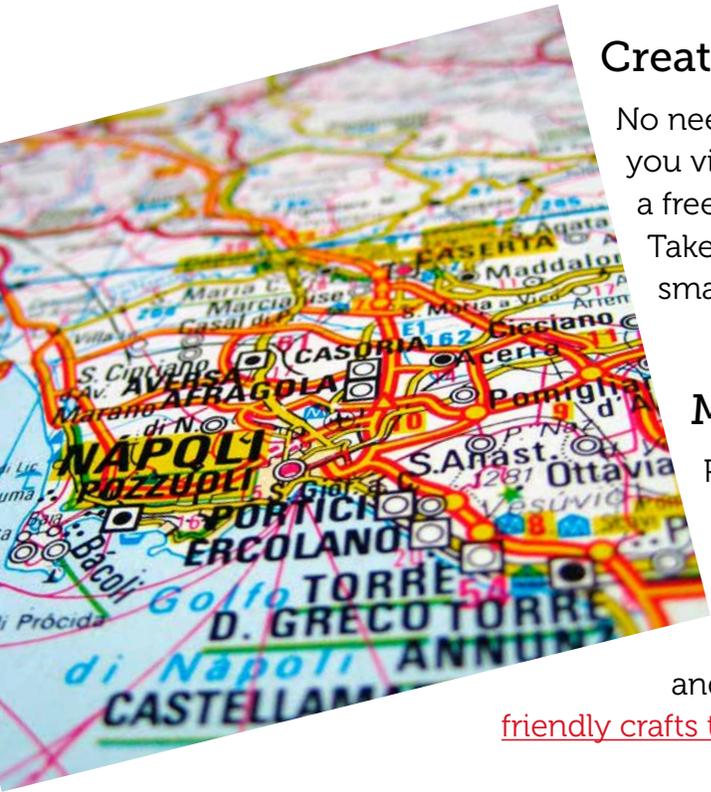
27 Make a Summer Favorites Collage.

At the end of the summer, work with your kids to print out photos and clip pictures from magazines to create a summer collage of all their favorite foods, activities, games and places they went over the summer. Makes a great keepsake to remember your family's fun summer.

Create and Send a Care Package to a Soldier.

Have your kids write a letter, draw a picture and put together a care package for a soldier currently serving overseas. Check out the [Operation Shoebox](#) website for a list of items that soldiers like to receive, as well as packing tips and where to send your care packages.

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Create and Send Your Own Postcards.

No need to stop in gift shops for postcards of places you visit. Just pull out your smartphone and download a free app like [Postagram](#) or [Postcards on the Run](#). Take pictures, customize them as you like, then pay a small fee to mail postcards to friends or family.

Make Crafts from Travel Maps.

Pull out those maps that you have tucked away in the closet or glove box of your car and have your kids put together crafts to help preserve fun vacation memories. A few to consider include map coasters, holiday ornaments and scrapbooking pages. Take a look at [seven kid-friendly crafts to make from paper maps](#).

Hold a Garage Sale for Charity.

Work with your kids to choose a charity of interest to them, then set aside items to sell, like clothes that no longer fit, old toys and books. Make signs for your garage sale and promote the sale in your local community newspaper. If the charity is local, bring your kids to the charity's offices to donate sale proceeds in-person.

Fly a Kite.

Buy a kite at a toy store or make your own and head out into a field on a breezy day to fly a kite. Check out [MyBestKite.com](#) for step-by-step instructions on how to make your own kite. Learn to do tricks with your kite or look into kite festivals that take place in the spring and summer.



Catch Lightning Bugs.

Create a lightning bug catching jar using do-it-yourself instructions on the [Tater Tots and Jello](#) website, then let the kids run around on a warm summer evening catching lightning bugs in their jars. If you can, keep tall grasses and water features in your backyard (like a birdbath) to attract lightning bugs. Release the bugs before bedtime.

Learn to Speak Another Language.

Pick up a “learn to speak” language book or software package at the local library and practice a few words and phrases with the kids. Then, head to a French restaurant, for example, to sample the cuisine and try out new words and phrases on the servers. Check out [Little Pim](#) language learning programs that are designed just for kids.

See a \$1 Movie.

Look for the [Summer Movie Express](#) at Regal Cinemas locations across the country. Over the course of nine weeks, Regal will offer children’s movies twice a week at 10 am for only \$1. Movies range from *Despicable Me 2* to *Turbo*. It’s a fun and inexpensive way to keep the kids entertained.

Plan a Day of Science.

It’s easy to incorporate science into your summer by visiting a science center, attending a science festival or having fun at a kid-sized lab. You may also want to look to your local library for science activities. The Delaware County Library System (PA), for example, offers a hands-on [Science in the Summer](#) program for grade-school students.



37 Take a Cooking Class.

If your kids enjoy cooking, send them to a weekly cooking class or camp to further their interest. Classes are offered across the country and even at certain hotels, giving children a fun way to learn about essential baking and cooking techniques. They may even come home with an apron and chef's hat to encourage cooking at home as well.

38 Go to a Free Make & Take Event.

A variety of craft and home improvement stores offer make and take events and workshops that enable kids to make bug houses, fire trucks and other craft projects. These free events are usually offered once a month at Home Depot, Jo-Ann Fabrics and Lowe's. Get there early to ensure there are enough supplies.



39 Make a Dessert in a Jar.

Desserts in jars are fun and easy to make. Pick up some mason jars at Target or Walmart, then experiment with your own fun and colorful desserts. Take a look at the [Desserts in Jars Pinterest board](#) from ZipList for inspiration and seasonal ideas, like [Red, White & Blue Cake in a Jar](#).

40 Take Flat Stanley on Your Adventures.

Read a [Flat Stanley](#) book with your kids and then create your own Flat Stanley to take along with you as you visit museums, beaches and attractions. Take pictures and print them out to create a photo album. Or, use your smartphone to take photos and share them on Instagram with the #FlatStanley hashtag.

Make Leaf Rubbings.

Explore the forest as a family and collect leaves of all different types. Have your kids place a piece of paper over their favorites and make leaf rubbings using crayons. Be sure they color over the entire leaf and press firmly to show the veins and leaf outline. Compile the leaf rubbings into a nature journal.

Play Flashlight Tag.

Grab some flashlights and wait until dark for a good old-fashioned game of flashlight tag. One person is "it" and counts to 50 while other players hide and even change hiding spots throughout the course of the game. When the "it" player shines the flashlight on another player, that person becomes "it" and then counts to 50 while everyone else hides.

Complete a Large Jigsaw Puzzle.

If you can use the dining room table for a few weeks (or the entire summer), pick up a 1,000-piece jigsaw puzzle to do with the kids when you have downtime. Or, if you're feeling extra ambitious, try to complete the [world's largest jigsaw puzzle](#), which has 24,000 pieces, during the summer break.

Make Your Own Trail Mix.

Mix a blend of granola, dried fruits and nuts into a healthy trail mix, then hit the trails with your kids. Or, go to a site like TrailMyx.com and have fun creating your own trail mix online using a blend of nuts, dried fruits and seeds, as well as sweets, like M&Ms and yogurt-covered raisins. Allow two to three days for shipping.



Play a Round of Mini Golf.

Everyone loves a good game of mini golf, and it's not hard to find a fun course whether at the beach or in your hometown. Look for a course with fun themes, like [Around the World Golf](#) in Lake George, NY. Or, take a mini-tour of Philadelphia as you putt around the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall at the mini golf course at [Franklin Square](#).

Go Ice Skating.

On a hot summer day, why not strap ice skates on the kids and take a few laps around the local indoor skating rink. Many rinks also offer lessons and camps over the summer so your kids can brush up on their ice skating skills during the break from school.

Learn to Do Origami.

Grab some paper and start folding to make origami animals, birds, flowers and stars with your kids. Your kids will be amazed as they transform simple sheets of paper into unique creations. There are plenty of [origami instructions online](#) to help you and your kids make boats, cats, butterflies and more.

Create a Local Parks Passport.

Have fun making passports with your kids that include each of your local parks or playgrounds. Then, stamp the page for each park or playground once you go for a visit. Expand the passport book to include parks in neighboring towns and counties.



49 Try Out a Paddleboard.

Older kids may enjoy trying out a Learn to Stand Up Paddleboard Class offered by your local [REI Outdoor School](#). Or, look for classes at a local marina or even at an oceanfront resort where you may be staying during an upcoming vacation.

Create a Family Fitness Challenge.

Turn off the TV, put down the gadgets and come together as a family to create a family fitness challenge to complete over the summer break. Try something new each week, like a family hike or a sports competition (e.g., basketball, relay races), to get everyone in the family up and moving.

Choose a Cookbook Recipe at Random to Make.

Find a cookbook with kid-friendly recipes and have one of your kids close their eyes and pick a random page in the book. Gather up the ingredients and prepare the recipe. Have each family member rate the recipe. Then, file the recipe away for another day if it turns out to be a keeper.

Go to a Kids Eat Free Night.

Whether at home or on the road, plan to take the kids out to eat on a night when kids eat free. There are several smartphone apps that can guide you, like [Kids Meal Deals](#), which helps you find the nearest restaurant offering free kids meals by day of the week.



Have a Beach Bonfire.

Find a beach that allows beach bonfires and spend an evening roasting marshmallows and relaxing by the fire. It's a great way to cap off a fun day at the beach. Bring along a radio for some tunes and some sticks for roasting marshmallows.

Go on a Sightseeing Tour.

Explore a nearby town or a big city during your summer travels by way of a sightseeing tour. It's a great way to get the lay of the land while learning about local history and landmarks. It's easy to purchase discounted tickets through the [Viator website](#), which features hand-picked tours and attractions in cities around the globe.

Host a Neighborhood Cookout.

Throw some burgers on the grill and invite the neighbors over for a backyard cookout. Break out the chips, dips and drinks and you've got the makings of a very fun get-together. For the kids, set up a badminton net or a Slip 'n Slide and make sure there are Frisbees, balls and jump ropes on hand to keep the kids entertained.

Go Horseback Riding.

Many state and national parks offer guided horseback trail rides to help visitors experience the parks in a new way. You'll also find horseback riding at various stables and ranches, as well as through private organizations located near parks and wooded areas. The minimum age to ride is often six or seven, so make sure to inquire before you book a trail ride.



Complete a LEGO Quest.

LEGO Quest is a weekly challenge for kids who love to play with LEGO bricks. Head to the [LEGO Quest website](#) where you'll find 51 challenges that range from [create a car](#) to [self-portrait](#). When your kids complete a quest, share a picture on Instagram with the #LEGOQuest hashtag or pin photos of all completed quests on a Pinterest board.

Make Glow in the Dark JELL-O.

Add tonic water to a boxed JELL-O recipe and you're minutes away from a jiggly treat that glows in the dark. Note that you will need a black light to see the JELL-O glow, but it's fairly easy to replace the light bulb in a table lamp with a [black light bulb](#). Check out [MomAdvice](#) for a great recipe and tips (blue or green JELL-O are best bets).

Create Vine Videos.

Download the [Vine app](#) to your smartphone and start making short loop videos with your kids. This is a fun and easy way to document silly moments over the summer to watch again and again. It's easy to share them on Facebook and Twitter, too.



Visit a New Aquarium.

Explore an aquarium that you've never visited. Before you go, hit the aquarium's website to download activity guides and to investigate whether there are any children's classes or daily programs of interest to your kids. Many aquariums also offer sleepover programs and behind-the-scenes tours to give visitors new insights into marine life.

Do Fun Sewing Projects.

It's easy to create drawstring backpacks, tote bags, bookmarks and headbands with kids using a sewing machine. Kids can even create many of these items on their own with a kid-friendly sewing machine. Check out the [Skip to My Lou](#) website for several sewing projects for beginners that your kids will love.

Celebrate the National Park Service's Birthday.

Pay a visit to a national park on August 25, the birthday of the [National Park Service](#). On this day, all national parks will waive entrance fees and will offer lots of fun activities for families. A nature walk, a bike tour or an archaeological dig are all great ways to celebrate the start of our National Park Service.

Play Math Games on a Road Trip.

Sure, everyone plays the traditional license plate game on road trips, but why not try out a few [math games](#). Count cars, use math to figure out how many times the gas tank will need to be filled on your journey or size up your ride by having the kids guess how much the car weighs.

Brush Up on Constellations in the Night Sky.

Go to a local planetarium show to learn about the constellations that can be seen in the night sky in your area. Also, check out [The Night Sky app](#) (\$.99) to learn about the stars above. Just point your phone at the night sky and the app identifies the stars, planets and galaxies up above.



Host an Outdoor Movie Night.

Hang a sheet up on your garage or on the back of your house (or buy a retractable screen) and set up a projector that can hook up to your DVD player. Pick a movie and then have the kids invite their friends with [movie night invitations](#). Don't forget the popcorn, picnic blankets and citronella candles to ward off any bugs.

Enjoy Yoga with Your Kids.

Buy or rent a video, take a class or print out a yoga guide for kids from the web. Kids will love getting into fun poses like the tree pose and the archer's pose. Even better, they'll be building self-confidence and developing creativity at the same time. Here are some starter [kids yoga poses and tips](#).

Do a Novelty Fun Run as a Family.

Sign up as a family for a wacky fun run. A couple to check out include color runs and glow runs. Also, look at the [5K Foam Fest](#) (kids 10 and older can participate) and [The Great Inflatable Race](#) (the last heat of the day is just for families with kids ages 5-12).

Ride on a Carousel.

Nothing makes you feel more like a kid again than taking a spin on a carousel. Hop on with your kids, pick out your favorite horses and pretend to race each other on the merry-go-round. It's definitely worth a few dollars to watch your kids laugh and smile on every ride.



Paint the Kids.

Yes, paint the kids. Or, let them paint each other using washable paints you can pick up at any craft store. Do it outside with the kids in their swimsuits and then have them run around in the sprinklers to wash off the paints when they're finished.

Visit a National Monument.

There are [more than 75 national monuments](#) dotted all across the country, so why not plan an outing to visit one, like the Statue of Liberty in New York or Jewel Cave in South Dakota. Enjoy guided tours, walking trails and Junior Ranger programs at each one.



Go on a Duck Tour.

Kids love the land and sea duck tours available in most major cities across the country. The guides are entertaining and often allow children on-board to steer the boat during the part of the tour that goes from land to water. It's definitely not your average tour of a city.

Learn to Swim and Swim Often.

Sign your kids up for swim lessons and get them into the water as often as you can. If you can't swim, sign yourself up for lessons, too. Swimming and splashing in the pool is such an easy way to spend time together as a family.

Go Pick Some Fruit.

Summer is the perfect time to pick fruit at local farms. Grab a basket and head out into the fields to pick strawberries, blueberries and peaches. When you get home, find a delicious pie or shortcake recipe you can make with the kids using your freshly-picked fruits. Delicious.

Make a Dream Catcher.

Explore the history of the Native American dream catcher with your kids. Then, have each child make one of their own using a metal ring, suede lacing, medium-size beads and feathers. Here's an [easy do-it-yourself tutorial](#) on the Kidzworld website.

Complete a Service Project.

Whether you want to have a family beach clean-up or write letters to soldiers overseas, take some time to do a service project with your kids. This is a great way to give back as a family over the summer. The book, [Doing Good Together](#), has lots of great ideas to help you get started.

Hold a Neighborhood Carnival.

Plan a variety of easy-to-make carnival games, like ring toss, duck pond, lollipop tree and a hole-in-one putting game. If you can, rent a moon bounce and set up face painting and a cake walk for neighborhood kids. The [Carnival Savers](#) website has lots of great ideas to help you set up the perfect carnival in your backyard.





Have a Mystery Road Trip.

Pack snacks, grab your camera and hop in the car for a road trip to an unknown destination. Set a length of time to drive (you may want to bring along a stopwatch) and let the kids choose which way to go when you approach stoplights and highways. When the time is up, get out of the car and explore the area. Have the kids take pictures and write thoughts in a journal.

Go on a Grocery Store Field Trip.

Make grocery shopping fun and educational by getting your kids involved. Let them make a list, clip coupons and even compare prices using weekly ads to determine which stores have the best deals. As you shop, have little ones read labels to identify foods that are healthy choices for the family.

Go to a Polo Match or Equestrian Event.

If your kids like horses, look for a polo match or a steeplechase race. Many times, kids can pet the horses and talk to the riders before and after the events to get a better feel for how to care for the horses and how the equestrian events work.

Create and Bury a Family Time Capsule.

Collect pictures, postcards, crafts, letters and toys that best represent the summer. Mark everything clearly and place all items into a waterproof container. Seal the container and bury or hide the container until a designated date well into the future when you'll open it back up and re-live the summer memories.

Host a Backyard Summer Olympics.

Set up a series of Olympic-style games in your backyard or at a local park, like relay races, an obstacle course, water balloon toss and egg-on-a-spoon races. Download the Olympics theme song ("Bugler's Dream") to your smartphone to kick off the games and pick up some plastic medals from the party store to give out to event winners.

Make a Care Package for the Homeless.

Gather up items that would be most valuable to a homeless person, like a toothbrush and toothpaste, deodorant, socks and a bottle of water. Then, place one of each item into small bags to deliver to a homeless shelter or to give to a homeless person you might see on a trip into the city. Include a short note with a few words of encouragement.

Get a Hotel Room In-Town and Have a Staycation.

Kids love to stay in hotels. They love to jump on the beds, swim in the hotel pool and make waffles in the hotel's breakfast area. So, why not get a hotel room close to home and check out local activities, as well as all that the hotel has to offer, including the fitness center and room service.

Collect Loose Change from Around the House.

If you have a jar in the house that you use to collect spare change, start there and empty the change into a plastic bag. Then, hunt around the house for additional change to cash in at a Coinstar kiosk. Through the [Coins that Count](#) program, you and your kids can choose a charity at the kiosk and make your donation in coins.



Go to a Food Festival.

Many towns have “Taste of” food festivals to introduce attendees to local restaurants and new cuisines. These events are a great way for your kids to sample foods from local eateries that you’ve yet to try before committing to an entire meal at the restaurants.

Ride on a Ferris Wheel.

Many cities have giant Ferris wheels that are worth a trip to the top, like the Seattle Great Wheel in Seattle and the brand new Capital Wheel in Washington, DC. Or, ride a Ferris wheel at a carnival passing through your town. The views from up above can be amazing.

Make Tie-Dye T-Shirts.

Grab some old white t-shirts from your children’s closets and get ready for an afternoon of tie-dye fun. You should be able to purchase fabric dye at any craft or fabric store. Then, check out this [do-it-yourself tutorial](#) for different ways to tie-dye a t-shirt whether you want to make polka dots, stripes, spirals or various other patterns.

Brighten Someone’s Day with a Note.

Work with your kids to write pleasant notes and create pretty pictures to share with those who might need a pick-me-up.

Distribute notes anonymously in grocery carts, under windshield wipers and on bicycle handlebars at bike racks. Imagine the smile of the person receiving the note and encourage them to pay forward the note to someone else.



Go to a Sporting Event.

Take the kids to a sporting event, but not one they've seen before, like a baseball game or a tennis match. Expose the kids to a sport that may be new to them, like lacrosse or cricket, even roller derby. Have fun as a family learning the rules and how the game is played.

Paint a Wall Mural.

Put on some old clothes with the kids and paint a mural on a wall in your home, maybe in the children's play area. Or, purchase a big canvas at the craft store and work together to create a big painting to hang on a wall in your home.

Play Spin the Globe.

If you have a globe at home, give it a spin and have one of your children close their eyes and put their finger on a random country on the globe. Work with your kids to learn all about that country, including the local language, customs and top cities. Find recipes popular in that country and try them out on the family.

Make Pet Rocks.

Walk with your kids through your backyard or a local park to collect good-size rocks to create pet rocks. Wash and dry the rocks, then use paint, glitter, googly eyes, fake fur, anything you might have on hand to decorate your new rock pals.



93 Go Whitewater Rafting.

Head out to a local river for an afternoon of whitewater rafting. Call ahead to a rafting company or check their website to find out the minimum age for children on the rafts. Always wear life jackets and listen to the guides to ensure a safe and enjoyable day out on the water.

94 Watch a Sunrise.

Wake the kids up early and head outside to see the sunrise. You won't want to let a beach vacation pass you by without seeing at least one morning sunrise. Bring a cup of coffee and relax as you enjoy the beautiful view as a family.

95 Make Root Beer Floats.

Root beer floats just seem to taste best in the summer, so scoop some vanilla ice cream into a tall glass and pour on some cold root beer. These are perfect after a fun day spent splashing in the pool or running through a sprinkler. Yum.

96 Write and Illustrate a Book.

Have your child come up with a book idea and a storyline, then have him or her write and illustrate a storybook. Use a hole punch and yarn to bind the book. Then, set it out on the coffee table to share with guests when they come over during the summer.



97 Explore Tide Pools.

Before your next beach vacation, do some quick research to learn about the kinds of sea life you might find lurking in tide pools left behind after the tide has gone back out to sea. Keep your eyes open for sand dollars and minnows, in particular.



98 Create Your Own Cookie Recipe.

Start with a [basic cookie dough recipe](#), then have your kids pick out different add-ins at the grocery store, like crushed Kit Kat bars, mini M&Ms and gummy worms. Write down how much of each add-in went into the cookies, then keep the recipe if the cookies turn out as delicious as expected.

99 Use Preschool Toys to Cover a Popular Song.

I still love [this video from *The Tonight Show*](#) of Jimmy Fallon, Idina Menzel and The Roots doing "Let it Go" from *Frozen* using preschool toys. So, grab some children's toys and perform a version of your favorite song.

100 Play Dress Up.

Use costumes you have on hand or get creative and put together costumes. Have fun making up a play filled with unicorns, princesses, dragons, chefs, astronauts, anything you can come up with. Get creative and have fun. If you can, make a video of your play to share with friends and family.

About Erin Gifford



Erin Gifford is a family travel expert and founder of [Kidventurous](#), an award-winning travel resource designed to help moms and dads plan adventures that are both educational and fun. A mother of four children (ages 4, 6, 9 & 10), Erin serves as one of five Smart Family Travel experts for *Scholastic Parent & Child* magazine, dispensing tips and advice to families interested in memorable travel experiences. She also serves on Merck's Active Family Project Play Council, which seeks to empower moms to enjoy healthy and active lifestyles with their families.

Erin's writing has appeared on TravelChannel.com, Fodors.com, MiniTime, Trekaroo, NBCNews.com Travel, SmarterTravel.com, Ciao Bambino and The Vacation Gals, among others. Kidventurous has received multiple accolades, including Best Family Travel Blog awards from *Parents* magazine and Luxury Travel Mavens. Follow Kidventurous on [Facebook](#), [Pinterest](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) for family travel tips and advice.