



How to Keep Kids Busy During Summer Vacation

The kids are out of school now and you are trying to fill in their days with activities. Or maybe you are just trying to keep them from being bored and give them some constructive things to do during the summer vacation. This article will give you some ideas of how to keep kids busy during summer vacation. I hope it will also spark new ideas for you, and that you will comment your new ideas so that everyone can benefit from them!



The Library! One of the simplest ways to keep kids busy during summer vacation is to take them to the local library. Quite often they have free reading programs which will allow children to earn prizes for books they read. If you make a weekly trip to the library (example: Monday's are Library days), then you will have one day per week filled in with something to do as well as books and videos for your child to read and watch during the week. The libraries are generally a free activity! Additionally, your library may have available videos and books to view online for your kids!



Swimming! Swimming is a great summer activity for kids to stay busy during summer break. Children get exercise, have fun, stay cool, and really seem to enjoy swimming. If you don't have a swimming pool, check out your city website and see if they have community pools. Quite often you can purchase a summer pool pass for your family and use it as often as you like. If you are well organized and prefer to keep a schedule, consider making both a library day and a pool day for your kids over their break. This way you will have filled in two of five days with constructive activities!



Movies and Popcorn! In order to keep kids busy during summer vacation, it will take more than just the swimming pool and the library. Movies are great because they take up about 2 hours of time during the day, they are in the air condition, don't require sun screen and your child can simply rest a bit. Most local movie theaters will have a summer deal for kids. Some of them will have a movie a week for a very low price. Additionally, you can use netflix and get movies both online and delivered to your door.



Summer Volunteer Jobs! Or if your child is old enough-- a summer paid job! A healthy and proactive way to keep your child busy during summer vacation is to help them find the perfect volunteer job. There are likely many places in your community that really do need help. Many volunteer jobs are flexible and can allow your child to work from 1 hour once a week to daily. Interview several different volunteer jobs to find the best fit for your child. If you have time and want to, many volunteer jobs encourage parents and children to work together. You can find many volunteer jobs by your local newspaper, online resources, & the local library. You can also check out Volunteers of America and Volunteer match online.



Arts and Crafts! Arts and crafts can be as simple as coloring a page in a coloring book to sewing a new outfit to building a tree house or play house. There are many books at your local library or hardware store on how to do a great variety of arts and craft projects. You can also get a lot of ideas from your local arts and craft store. For example, Micheal's typically has free kids crafts during summer vacation. Some crafts can take a few minutes to a few hours, or it can be a major project that will take most of the summer to complete. Either way, your kids are sure to stay busy during the break with arts and crafts!



Sports Programs! Check out your local YMCA, Multi-generational center, & schools to see what sports programs are going on over the summer. Exercise is great for kids of all ages and you may find a sport your child is interested in. Participation on a sports team can vary from lessons to competitive and can last from a week to the whole summer. You can probably find information in your local newspaper, the internet, or your city's website.



Lemonade Stand! Here's an old classic business for kids to do on summer vacation. Create a lemonade stand! This is a great way to teach your child about business, money, expenses, profits, and if the stand does well, the money can be used to do some of the more expensive activities.



Memberships! Don't underestimate the value of local museum, zoo, and science center memberships. You may find that if you were to take your family twice, the membership would be paid for and you can take your family as much as you want for the entire year. Kids can learn so much from these places, as well as have a great time!



Camping! What better way is there to spend a summer weekend than in the mountains camping. Kids seem to love camping trips! The good thing about a camping trip is that it will get your family out of the house for a few days and it will take some time to plan it. Another way to keep kids busy during the summer is to have them take a significant part in helping to plan the camping trip.

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