

School Holiday Activities

We have created a huge range of activities, craft ideas and games to keep kids active and entertained over the holidays. There are hundreds of different ideas across all age categories. You can always print out a copy too!

Kids ages 5-12 years old

These activities are suitable for school-aged children, they can be completed independently or with the assistance of their family/parents and carers.

Play snap

Cut up empty cereal boxes or use cardboard to design your own set of snap cards. You can draw whatever pictures you want or write whatever words you want. Have fun creating images or words that are meaningful to each player. Remember to duplicate each word/image about 4 times to give the best chance of 'snap'.

Puzzle me

Cut up the front of an empty cereal box to create an instant puzzle. Try to put the pieces back together. Use as many small or large pieces as is age appropriate.

Throw a party

Set up a virtual party. Invite friends via an online platform or use toys as guests. Things to prepare: write out invitations, set the party food, make the decorations, plan the games and create a music playlist. This could be a whole day activity with the event occurring at night. Create a pretend occasion with a group song to finish off the celebrations.

Sing-along

Make up new lyrics to existing songs. Try new rhyming combinations. Record it or perform it for family/friends.

Make a movie

Use free apps like Stop Motion Studio to create your own movie. Write a simple plot for a story then place figures in different positions for each scene of the story. Take a picture of each moment in each scene. The app will run all of the pictures together to form a movie.

Salad spinner painting

Put a paper plate or piece of paper into the basket of the salad spinner and dollop a few different colours of poster paint onto it. Place the lid on the spinner. Spin! Once dry, the process can be repeated on the other side. You can punch holes in the plates and use yarn, ribbon or string to hang them up.

Yarn-wrapped alphabet

Cut out the shape of your first initial of your name from cardboard, big or small, and wrap it with different colours of yarn, using tape to stick the ends of the yarn to the back of the letter.

Concentric circles water colour painting

View Kandinsky's *Squares with Concentric Circles* painting from 1913 for inspiration. Explore colour combinations as you repeat the circle pattern across your page.

Floating chalk prints

Fill a shallow tray with a couple of centimetres of water. Use the edge of a ruler to scrape different colours of chalk over the water so the chalk dust floats on top. Lay a piece of paper gently over the water and lift it up to create a beautiful abstract artwork.

Egg carton flowers

Cut an egg carton so that 4 egg cups remain together joined by a single raised point and trim around the edges to create a flower shape. Paint the inside with bright colours and the raised point yellow. The next step is to glue a paper straw or tape a small stick to the back to make a stem.

Create a play

Imagine you are the inventor of fire – act it out.

Mini-golf

Play a mini game of golf with broomsticks or mops.

Act it out!

Act out your favourite story or movie.

Make some noise!

Make a musical instrument from anything around the house.

Marbles

See if you can find any marbles, have a game. Score points by hitting the larger ones.

Snakes and ladders

Create your own snakes and ladders game.

Self-portrait

Draw a self-portrait, look in the mirror to make sure you get all the dimensions correct.

Mr Squiggle

Play Mr Squiggle by finishing the squiggle.

Cooking time

Cook a cake for your neighbour, drop it off to their front door during your daily exercise routine.

Recipe fun

Experiment with a new recipe.

Mud fun

Make some mud cakes in the garden.

Treasure hunt

Find a four-leaf clover in the grass.

Bat and ball

Bounce a ball on a bat and see if you can improve on your score.

Paint a window

Find some paint, mix it with dishwashing detergent and paint a rainbow on a window. Once it dries you can wash it straight off.

Family tree

Find photos of your grandparents and any other relatives and make a family tree.

Face paint

Face paint your family members using makeup.

Camp in the backyard

Drag out a tent and pitch it in the backyard. Design the interior with things you like, e.g. cushions, rugs, and favourite toys/objects.

Build a cubby house

Use empty boxes to build a cubby house. It could be inside or outside the house. Decorate the cubby house walls with paint, crayons, material or found objects. Fill the internal space with your favourite toys and accessories.

Number my home

Go through the house trying to find as many objects with numbers on them as you can. See if you can start at the number 1 and find an object for each number up to 10, 20, 50 or even 100!

Make a new lolly

Imagine you are a lolly maker. Tired of the old lollies you want to make up as many new lollies as you can. You could make a list, describe them, draw them and give them names or mix'n'match from existing pictures. Set up a lolly stand in the house and design a banner to promote your new products. They could even be healthy lollies!

Design a face

Print off a [basic face template](#) then draw features to create a person's face. Colour as you wish. You could repeat this as many times as you want to create a series of characters with different personalities.

Try a lucky dip

Grab some random objects and place them in a bag or pillowcase. Take turns in picking out an item. Use this item to play out a pretend scene, tell a story, do a dance or sing a song about the item.

Go on a treasure hunt

Hide one strongly identifiable object or many objects around the home or yard (make sure they are not perishable). Set a time limit to hunt for the treasure. Celebrate the discovery. Take turns in hiding the object and don't forget where it was!

Design a costume

Use old outgrown clothing, recycled materials or accessories to design your own costumes for an imaginary character. Recycled products work well as they can be re-imagined with a little modification. Give prizes for the silliest, the funniest or the most random!

Rock on

Go on an adventure for some really unique rocks as part of your daily exercise routine. Back at home, use paints or textas to draw characters on the rocks. You could add accessories with a little glue or even make a whole series of characters.

Challenging obstacles

Set up an obstacle course by finding a series of objects to crawl through, climb over, run between or dodge. You could have races and time yourself and others. Maybe even keep adding objects to make the challenge harder. Keep it safe!

Perform a concert

Sing, dance and perform your way through your own show. Set a program for your concert and include as many acts as possible. Rehearse it, then perform it for family, friends or toys! It doesn't matter, so long as there is an audience! Drum roll please...

Review a film and be the reporter

Choose one of your favourite all-time movies, then create a red carpet moment by interviewing some of the movie stars as they walk along the carpet. Ask all the questions you've always wanted to know. You could then be the critic that reviews the film. Say what you thought was great and not so great about it. Follow this by watching your favourite parts of the movie and giving it a star rating.

Write your own play

Write your own play with interesting characters and a captivating plot. You could have your own original ideas or base it on a story you already know. Act out your play by playing all parts or have others join you to perform it with the script.

Make up your own song

Using one of the many music-making apps for kids, create your own song. Start with a groovy beat, add a bassline, then some chords and finally a melody and lyrics on top. Some apps use patterns and sequences too. Be a composer and celebrate your creation.

Redirect the ending

Take an old story time classic and reimagine the ending. You could even add a sequel to the story by creating what happens next! Tell your story to a friend or family or write it down and add pictures for the full effect.

Dance away the day

There are plenty of fun dance-along videos for kids online. Try these ones on Youtube – [learn dances for kids](#). Ask mum or dad or your grandparents to teach you some of the all-

time classics like the Macarena, the Bus Stop, the Nutbush, the Hokey Pokey, the Chicken Dance, the YMCA or the Boot Scootin' Boogie.

Feed your senses

Ask a grown-up to help with this activity. Pick a variety of foods or objects or sounds for your kids to discover. Blindfold them and have them guess what they are tasting, hearing, smelling or feeling.

Play musical chairs

Set up some chairs in a pattern and then start the music. Have one person be the music DJ who starts and stops the music. Every time the music stops, everyone races to a chair. Take one chair out each round until you only have one chair left.

"Magic" milk

Pour some milk (any kind) into a shallow tray or dish. Drop some food colouring into the milk. Dip a cotton bud or toothpick into dishwashing liquid and touch it to the milk. Watch the colours swirl. If you have art paper or card stock you can lay the paper into the liquid to create marbled paper. Shaving cream can be substituted for milk.

Sock puppets

Glue spare buttons onto an odd sock and use a marker to draw features. Paper shapes, cotton balls, ribbon can also be added to create your sock puppet. Bring your puppets together for a show.

Painting fun

Tint shaving cream with food colouring and paint the windows or glass doors (or the inside of the shower glass) then rinse it off.

Family fun

Play dress-ups in mum's and dad's clothes – do a photoshoot.

Unusual materials challenge

Some ideas for the challenge: a marshmallow toothpick-engineering challenge, build a bug hotel, try leaf threading and make a nature chandelier, create an aluminium foil river in the garden and float things down it, thread pasta into jewellery, build a house with a deck of cards.

Reading time

Choose a picture book each and read aloud to another person who is at home. Do this in the biggest bed in the house.

Ball games

Have a handball tournament. If it's just you, is there a wall you can use as you play and see how many times you can return it yourself? What's your best score?

Environment in a jar

Can you create an outside environment in a jar? Clouds of cotton wool? Use other materials to look like grass, blue sky.

Movie challenge

Play cinema – make tickets, popcorn, give your guests a rug and watch a movie together.

Holiday at home

Play hotels using your bedrooms as ‘hotel rooms’ or restaurants by setting up the dining room like a restaurant with menus (or hospitals, vets, banks, etc).

Podcast

Listen to a kid’s podcast or audio book. Podcast suggestions: Brains On, Wow In The World, Circle Round, Little Green Pod, Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls, Fierce Girls, Story Pirates, But Why?

Eat outside

Have a picnic lunch outside. Take books and toys with you. Gather everything you would need to bring along to a picnic.

Decorating

Have a table decorating competition.

Ninjas

Make pipe cleaner ninjas. Add straws for the body, arms and legs and add a lego face. Ready to battle! You could even stick some magnets onto the hands and feet to make them attach upside down to the fridge.

Design a treehouse

Design the ultimate treehouse. Sketch it out and present it to your family as if they were the architects that had to build it.

Supermarket sweep

Create a supermarket in one of the rooms in your house. Take your toys down the aisles and buy what you need. Make sure you are nice to the checkout operator!

Indoor table tennis

Set up a net on your dining room table and play table tennis. Use your hand as a paddle and rolled up towels as the net.

Spell a word

Write the alphabet on concrete with chalk, then hop onto the letters to spell your name. Challenge yourself by then choosing and spelling 3 and 4 letter words.

Work it out

Write the numbers 1 to 12 on concrete with chalk. Throw socks or a ball on two numbers then either add, subtract or multiply them together. Do shuttle runs over 5 metres for the number that you worked out.

12 days of fitness

Everyone acts out the following actions to the song “The 12 days of Christmas”. 12 = star jumps, 11 = raise the roofs, 10 = knee lifts, 9 = side stretches, 8 = jogs in place, 7 =

jabs/punches, 6 = hula hoops, 5 = imaginary jumping ropes, 4 = kicks to the front, 3 = muscle poses, 2 = scissors, 1 = stork stand.

Pirate's gold

The pirate stands back to the pirate's crew. The crew sneak up behind him trying not to be seen moving. Once you reach the pirate's gold (situated behind the pirate), try and get back to the start without being tagged.

Puppeteer

Lie down like a puppet while a puppeteer makes calls to get the puppets to come to life, "I am pulling the string to your arm".

Classic catch

Pretend you are a famous cricket player and see who can take the best catch. Use a piece of fruit or soft toy.

Video ref

Players mime specific sporting scenarios (e.g. running, passing, catching, kicking) in slow motion. What to do: Make a TV square with your hands, as if asking for the video referee to review the play, and describe the scene (e.g. a player dodges a defender then breaks free and scores a try; a ball is hit to short stop who fields the ball and throws to first base). Players then mime the scene in slow motion.

Ball in the bucket

Use an underarm throw and count how many of 3 tennis balls you can land in the bucket. It doesn't count if it bounces out!

Collect-3

This activity needs a feeder and a collector. The feeder rolls 3 balls in quick succession into the target area. The collector has a set time (e.g. 60 seconds) to gather the balls with the assistance of the fielder and return them to a hoop / bucket / container. Rotate roles. Balls out of the target area are not collected for scoring – the fielder returns them to the hoop. If all balls roll out, the feeder has a second attempt.

French cricket

This activity needs a batter and a fielder. The batter stands with feet together and holds the bat in front of the legs. Fielders throw the ball underarm and the batter hits in any direction. The batter is out if the ball is caught on the full or they are hit on the legs.

Do a fitness challenge

Get your parent/carer to download fitness apps to a phone/tablet and complete a 30-day fitness challenge.

Help around the house

Mow the lawn, vacuum the floor, and wash the windows.

Indoor bowls

Play a game of lawn bowls indoors in the hallway or lounge room.

Hang Time

See how many times you can clap while you throw a ball in the air. You could try this with a partner. Try spinning on the spot or catching it in a hat.

Scavenger hunt

A scavenger hunt is all about finding items from a list in certain rooms or areas of the outdoors. Time each other to see you can find all the items the fastest.

Jump rope

Practice skipping and record your personal best. See which family member can do the most without stopping.

Follow the leader

This physical activity can easily go along with Simon Says, and instead of just following, you also do exactly what the leader does, e.g. jumping jacks, dancing, headstands, cartwheels etc.

Indoor obstacle course

Build an obstacle course using items you can find around the house, e.g. dining table, chairs, pillows, cushions, tunnels, etc...

Musical chairs

Great game for the whole family. If you don't have enough chairs, then you could substitute them with pieces of colored construction paper taped to the ground. When the music stops, whoever gets both feet on the paper first claims the spot.

Reach the sky

Standing behind the starting point, throw an object in the air and aim to reach a target line before the object hits the ground. After a successful attempt, you can move the target line further away to increase the difficulty.

Hide and seek

Play a game of hide and seek indoors/outdoors with family members.

Bat tapping

Use a tennis racquet or bat and a ball to see how many times you can tap it up and down before it hits the ground.

Bottle flipping

Fill a drink bottle half-full of water and see if you can flip it to land upright. See how many you can do in a row/in a minute. Challenge others to a competition.

Target practice

Set up some plastic bottles in a range of places around the room or yard and set points for each as a target. Have 10 pairs of socks ready then throw them at the targets to see how many points you can get.

Noughts and crosses

Play a game of noughts and crosses with a family member.

Learn to juggle

Start with one ball and throw from hand to hand. Introduce more balls/objects as you improve.

Shooting hoops

Go outside and see how many baskets you can score on a basket/netball ring. Alternatively shoot for a bucket or garbage bin or a spot on the wall.

Fitness cards

Find a deck of cards and set Diamonds as bodyweight Squats, Spades as High Knees running on the spot, Clubs as Tuck Jumps and Hearts as Plank. Take turns in flipping a card then perform that exercise for the set amount e.g. 8 of Diamonds will be 8 bodyweight Squats.

Play frisbee

Go outside and throw a frisbee with family members. Try to create some new tricks, aim for a specific target or even invent a fun game.

Hacky sack

Use a hacky sack or small ball and keep it in the air via kicking, kneeling or heading. See how many touches you can get before it hits the ground. Play solo or with others in your household.

Darts

Play a game of darts with family members. Go for the highest score, count down from 501 or play other games. A quick internet search will provide loads of ideas.

Boccia

Play a game of Boccia in the back yard with family members. You could even play inside with modified equipment such as stuffed toys.

Dance

Dance around lounge room to your favourite song. Create a dance and teach family members. Learn some new moves. Try using online resources such as Just dance.

Scavenger hunt

Make a list of 10-15 items to find and set a time limit of 5-10 minutes to find the items. This can be done inside or outside if you have a backyard or at a local park as part of your daily exercise routine. Example list: <https://www.aboutamom.com/free-indoor-scavenger-hunt-printable/>

Dance challenge

Play some music then jog around the room or yard. Someone controlling the music will need to stop the music at intervals. When the music stops perform a dance move e.g. The Lawnmower, Sprinkler, Stayin' Alive. See who can come up with the best moves.

Create a trampoline routine

Go outside and jump on your trampoline. Create a routine or challenge a family member to do some tricks.