

What Do YOU Do in the Summer time?

(Learn how to rhyme? Create something sublime?)

Note: This article is basically a part two of the article “School’s Out for Summer!” This article gives more ideas, complete with many easy links so you don’t have to do all the research yourself!

Yay! Summer is here! Time to mentally shut down. Veg out. Succumb to pleasure. Do whatever you feel like doing. Hmmm. But is that really what it is all about? Ya gotta succumb to nothing but pleasure on occasion, but doing so for months at a stretch? No wonder when school starts up again kids have to relearn what was learned the last couple months of school before they can begin their education for the year in earnest.

Kids can keep learning about life in general throughout the summer, especially when things are presented in a light and fun manner. I was reading recently about the very clear link between kids having great family support and doing well in school. So, doing things together as a family can be considered educational support.

Here are some ideas that can be done by kids with their family and also some to do alone.

- Visit museums of all kinds—history, science, airplane, etc.
 - <http://emol.org/phoenix/phxmuseums.html> - Gives a list of free and cheap museums in the Phoenix area.
- Go to national parks
 - <http://www.nps.gov/> - go here to find national parks
- Write letters to military people
 - <http://www.letsaythanks.com/Home1024.html> Easy way to jot a quick postcard
- Go fishing
- Go camping
- Visit your local library’s web site to see what free activities they offer for the summer
- Attend a concert in the park
 - Do a yahoo search for “concerts in the park” to find some in your area
- Invent a new toy or game
- Resurrect old fashioned toys and games
 - <http://library.thinkquest.org/6400/toys1.htm> - Gives several examples.
- Write letters to missionaries
- Play a sport together—basketball, soccer, ultimate Frisbee, volleyball
- Pull out the arts and crafts box and see where your imagination can take you
- Attend a local musical or play

- Try out a new restaurant to get a taste of other countries. Google one of these to try in your area. (links are ones I found for Phoenix area)
 - Greek <http://www.gyrosexpress.eu/>
 - Korean (We have been to this one many times—Delicious! And btw, they also have Japanese food at this one.)
http://phoenix.citysearch.com/profile/41729176/chandler_az/takamatsu.html
 - Swedish (If anyone knows of good Swedish restaurant in AZ, let me know about it. For now I have to settle for IKEA and my own house!)
<http://www.ikea.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/IkeaNearYouView?storeId=12&catalogId=11001&langId=-1&StoreName=tempe>
 - Italian <http://www.locascioitalianrestaurant.com/>
 - Brazilian <http://www.dexknows.com/detailssearch.ds>
 - Indian <http://www.dexknows.com/detailssearch.ds>
 - Thai <http://www.dexknows.com/detailsmap.ds>
- Plan a service project to do as a family
 - Meals to a homeless shelter
 - Care packages
 - Perform at a rest home
 - Make a birthday surprise for an elderly person in your area
 - Take care of someone's yardwork
- Go to the top of a skyscraper to get a new perspective on your city.
- Swim, swim, swim
- Make a mini movie as a family—create your own script or do a ready made one-act play
- Go downtown and ride on the free bus system while exploring.
- Visit a riparian preserve
- Have a “late night” in the backyard with a telescope so you can view the stars
 - <http://www.astronomy.com> -- to figure out what you are looking at! Click on Astro for Kids
- Make homemade ice cream together
 - <http://www.tasteofhome.com/Video--Homemade-Ice-Cream> -- Shows a video of how to make ice cream
- Go geocaching! This looks like a blast!
 - <http://www.geocaching.com/> -- use your GPS to find things others have hidden, or hide your own for someone else to find as you hike and explore different places.
- Plan a theme party—you can learn a lot from this, including organizational skills, addressing invitations, artistry in designing things. Check websites for ideas.
 - <http://www.party411.com/> - This site has ideas that you can get for free. It does have things for sale, but you can make things yourself, or get it at a local store and probably save money.
 - <http://www.partysoda.com/free-party-ideas.asp> - Gives a list of ideas
 - <http://www.partygamecentral.com/> - lists a ton of party game ideas

Yay! Summer is here! What a lot of fun we can have as we continue to learn. Remember that life is for learning and growing. Once we stop learning and growing, we stop living.

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