

THINGS TO DO THIS SUMMER!

I don't know about you, but when my kids were little, I really enjoyed summer vacation – at least for the first week. But then different friends would go on vacation or to a different summer camp and the kids were at home and you would hear the words, “I'm bored”. I can't even type the words without hearing them be drawn out with a bit of a whine. Here is a short list of ideas for you for when you are just not sure what to do with your kiddos 😊 I've broken it into a couple of categories to help make it easy for you to plan and to have them ready to go at a moment's notice!

FUN!

1. Find all the parks in Steinbach. I googled it, there are 21 parks and 20 pocket parks. Can you find them all?
2. Have a water fight – one of the most fun things I've ever seen is when my mom got my dad with a bucket of water! One of the memories that I've kept with me all these years.
3. Play hopscotch – and maybe you have a big enough driveway to make a fun road for the littles (yours or your neighbour's) to drive their bikes.
4. Make Ice cream – here's [a link](#) to a recipe I found.
5. Go to the splash park – I wish these had been around when my kiddos were little!
6. Have a tea party in the backyard – make it fun, maybe dress up! You could even get some china cups from the self help.
7. Make S'mores – if you don't have a fire pit, the church does! Just call and reserve it, maybe do it with another family!
8. Create an obstacle course – actually, older kids can be really good at making this for the younger ones. I remember timing our kids to see how fast they could go through the course. Make some fun prizes: fastest, most outrageous wipeout, most interesting ...
9. Make bike license plates and decorate your bikes.
10. Make and fly a kite. There are some great templates on pinterest!
11. Go to the library. This is a great thing to do when it gets really hot outside!
12. Go on a scavenger hunt. [Here are a few printable](#) ideas but you could make your own list!
13. Cloud Watching – clouds make such interesting shapes and your kids have great imaginations!
14. Outdoor Movie Night – these were always a highlight for our crew! But they do work better a little later in summer when the evenings are starting to get shorter. PJ's and blankets outside are fun!
15. Make a Time Capsule – have each family member contribute something that is important to them right now. Add a current family picture and then store it away. It can be stored inside, outside, put into a wall during renovations ...
16. Make Music – make some of your own musical instruments (yes pinterest again) and make up a new song with your instruments! I would like to hear it!
17. Make [“Garden Soup”](#) – I found this online the other day and need to do it with my granddaughter (2 years old). It looks like a lot of fun!
18. Make [Cloud Dough](#) – Same site as the one above and looks equally fun to do – outside! Have fun checking out this website as there seems to be many great activities for “hooligans”!

SERVE

1. Set up a lemonade stand – or a baking stand. Have all the proceeds go to a mission that is close to your family's heart.
2. Wash a neighbour's windows – elderly people could use some help with the things up high, and need help to stay safe 😊
3. Clean up a neighbour's yard – is there a family with a new baby? They might need a little help as the little one is taking up a lot more time than anticipated.
4. Your Kids School – our kids spend lots of time there during the year. Let's show them how to respect the school by helping out! Weed, clean up garbage both things that need to be done.
5. Interview an older relative – I wasn't sure where to put this but you know, this activity is a service to our older generation. Have the kids think about what they would like to know about the older relative and write out their questions beforehand. What a great bonding experience!
6. Serve the Servers – The people in uniform in our community do a lot for us. Help your kids learn gratefulness by making some treats and a card to drop off for them.
7. Thank you Notes – take some time to say thank you to people that serve your family: doctors, nurses, librarians, pastors. I can guarantee they will put it up to see when they need it!

WORK

1. Go Berry Picking – now your toddler may not be able to do much but I do remember always going picking with my mom. I had to get a pail full. It was an accomplishment! And the younger your child, you may want to wash and use theirs first!
2. Grow a garden – have your kids pick their own one or two varieties of veggies or flowers and plant them and care for the garden.
3. Weed the garden or flower bed – one of my least favourite chores when growing up, but I sure did appreciate the veggies! A great way to learn the benefits of hard work and patience.
4. Go through their clothes – I made sure to do this, usually in August before school, with each child so that we could see what fit, could be hand-me-downs, should be a rag or even was done its life! As they get older, they can do it on their own but you will be amazed at how much they want mom to do it with them!
5. Organize – yes they can get involved! Set a goal as to which area you would like to go through, family room, play or toy room, game cabinet, and then get their help. It may be hard to not get distracted or want to play the games but to see the finished product feels good!
6. Rearrange their room – when they are a little older you can give them some graph paper and have them draw it out and plan on what they would like. This gives you the opportunity to ask questions regarding functionality!
7. Make a meal – our Meals Ministry could always use some more freezer meals. Have your child help come up with an idea (freezable casserole) and then help make it too! Bring it to church with you one Sunday.