



Summer BUCKET LIST

1. **Make popsicles** out of your favorite fruit juice.
2. Put on a **sock puppet show**. (Use markers, buttons, ribbon, and yarn to create your puppet personalities.)
3. Set up a **lemonade stand** and **donate the money** to a charity that advocates for kids (such as Compassion International).
4. Make a **comic book out of sidewalk chalk**.
5. Check movie listings for **matinees for kids and families** during the week.
6. Make a **cardboard fort**. (Ask an appliance store to save a few boxes for you.)
7. Have a **moonlight picnic** in your backyard.
8. Go on a **hike**.
9. Have fun with **face paint**.
10. **Make s'mores** around a fire pit or over a BBQ.
11. Check the web or local papers for low-cost or free **museum days**.
12. Join a **library reading program**.
13. Write letters and draw pictures to **send to family members**.
14. Camp out in a **living room pillow fort**.
15. Have a **Wii dance/karaoke competition**.
16. Make an **iPhone movie** by acting out your favorite storybook.
17. Have a **mini pizza cook-off** with English muffins and mini ingredients (mini pepperoni, tiny chopped veggies, etc.). Slice into quarters and share.
18. Buy your **lunch at the farmers' market**.
19. Host a **field day/potluck picnic** at the park with other families in your neighborhood.
20. Play **Pictionary**.
21. Play **Sculptionary** (it's like Pictionary, but instead of drawing you have to build something out of play dough).
22. Plan a **night of meteor watching** at <http://stardate.org>.
23. Create a **photo shoot** with dress-up accessories (feather boas, sunglasses, mustaches, etc.).
24. Take a **family bike ride**. For an evening ride in the park, use glow-in-the-dark necklaces to decorate the bikes.
25. Have kids make a list of their favorite meals/snacks/lunches to help **plan meals**.

26. **Make play dough.**
27. **Visit a local fire station.**
28. **Find a kid friendly volunteer program** to visit as a family (retirement home, food bank, etc.)
29. **Paint flowerpots and plant seeds.**
30. Make a **water balloon piñata**. (Bathing suits are the best wardrobe choice for this.)
31. Attend a **Home Depot Kids Workshop**.
32. Host a **paper airplane competition** (Prizes for design and distance!)
33. **Make cookies** and surprise grown-ups with them (your postal carrier, your neighbor, the librarian, the men and women at the fire station).
34. **Do outdoor bubble art**. Mix bubbles with food coloring and blow them at a piece of paper to make magical, colorful works of art.
35. Have an indoor/outdoor **obstacle course**.
36. Do a neighborhood **scavenger hunt**.
37. Have a **dress-up day** (grown-ups included) as pirates, princesses, and superheroes.
38. Make and **take lunch to Mom/Dad at work**.
39. **Pajama-jammie-jam ALL DAY**.
40. Have a **family reading competition**. Who can read the most pages by the end of the summer? (Some younger kids may need double credit!) Make it a family treat when everyone meets their goal!
41. **Make a to-do poster**. Have your kids cut, color, and paste pictures of all the things they would like to do before they go back to school. Find creative ways to make them a reality.
42. **Keep a summer journal**.
43. **Make your own ice cream at home**.
44. Teach your kids how to **make a nutritious snack** for themselves.
45. **Unplug for a day (or evening)**. No TV, no phones, no iThings. Use candlelight and flashlights and spend some quality family time unplugged.
46. **Attend a concert in the park**.
47. Cool off by **going ice-skating**.
48. On an old bed sheet or T-shirts, have your kids **create works of art** with nontoxic paints using brushes, feet, and hands (the bigger the canvas, the more fun).
49. Have a **hot potato story time**. During family reading time, one person reads a page then picks the next person to read the next page.
50. **Play hometown tourist** and visit a landmark you have never been to (or haven't been to since you had kids).
51. Pick a yummy recipe and **shop the local farmers' market** for ingredients.
52. **Tie-dye shirts**.

53. **Pick up something you've never seen or tried before** from the farmers' market, and ask the vendor the best way to prepare it. Everyone can try something new together!
54. Ask your kids what they want to be when they grow up, then try to **set up a job shadow** with a professional you know (or even just a hot chocolate/coffee date if your child would like to ask them questions about their career).
55. Have **color wars** with water balloons and guns filled with Kool-Aid.
56. **Organize a block BBQ** and meet all your neighbors.
57. **Go to a drive-in movie.**
58. **Start a fit-family routine** with a walk after dinner or bike rides on Sunday.
59. **Find a pen pal** in a different country via the web.
60. **Sign up for a class** at your local community center.
61. **Have a garage sale.**
62. Use scraps of fabric to **make new fashions** for dolls and stuffed animals.
63. Go mini golfing.
64. Find a tutorial online to **make a pillowcase dress or nightgown.**
65. **Paint Dad's toenails.** Use the colors of his favorite sports team for an extra bonus.
66. Put on your swimsuit and **give the dog a bath** outside.
67. Ride, drive, or bike around the neighborhood and **make a map of your route.**
68. Borrow a projector and **watch a movie on the side of your house.**
69. **Organize a bike, board, and stroller rally** around the neighborhood.
70. **Upcycle a found object** into a new craft project.
71. Have a **taco night** with all the fixings, followed by a homemade piñata.
72. **Plan a road trip**, even if it's just for an afternoon. Decide what you'll do, what you'll see, and where you'll stop to eat.
73. Go on a **weekend camp-out.**
74. Play a game of **flashlight tag.**
75. Instead of a regular bedtime story, **use a flashlight to tell a shadow puppet story.**
76. **Attend the story time** at your local library or bookstore.
77. **Have fun cleaning out the kids' closet.** Put on a fashion show with friends and exchange hand-me-downs at the end.
78. **Update your chore chart** with age-appropriate assignments and rewards.
79. Have a **surprise pajama ice cream run** after dinner.
80. **Make big bubbles** with a kiddie pool and a hula hoop. (Use dish soap and water instead of bubble solution.)

81. **Go on an alphabet walk** to find things that start with each letter.
82. **Check out new books/movies** at your local library.
83. **Download free ebooks for kids** on your e-reader.
84. **Create a countdown calendar** for going back to school.
85. **Make and freeze cookie dough** for when school starts again.
86. **Build a sandcastle.** Bring some fun cake pans for a designer touch!
87. **Make a quilt out of old t shirts.** If you don't sew, trade skills with someone who does. You and your kid can cut out all the T-shirts, clean house, and run errands for your talented friend who can sew.
88. **Create a family newspaper.** Draw pictures and write a story about where you went and what you did on vacation.
89. **Go bowling.**
90. **Trace silhouette pictures** outside.
91. **Sew edible jewelry** with a toothpick needle, Cheerios and marshmallows.
92. **Decorate balloons** with silly faces.
93. **Make bathtub finger paint** with shaving cream and Kool-Aid.
94. **Have a carpet picnic and movie night** (even if it's not a weekend.)
95. **Have a family car/bike wash.**
96. **Make snow cones.**
97. **Make a train/truck track** on the ground with blue painter's tape.
98. **Go to the zoo.**
99. **Have an un-birthday party.**
100. **Carve watermelons** instead of pumpkins.

SURVIVING SUMMER VACATION

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