

TODAY'S FUTURE

Childcare Website

Exciting activities to assist you in promoting the learning and development of young children have been created. Visit <http://knox.unl.edu/child>

Wonderful Low Cost Summer Activities for Kids and Families

Here are a number of wonderful low cost summer activities for kids and families that help families keep their hard-earned money in their pockets.

With each of these ideas, you might fashion "what to do" boxes. Create two boxes - one for "outside" and one for "indoors" - containing index cards with activities written on them. Rotate who in the family gets to pick the card for that day. This is a great way to avoid activities that cost a lot of cash and a fun way to create a family plan.

Low or no cost outings and activities are something to consider for your own kids or a group of friends getting together that will create fun and memories without heating up your wallet or credit card bills:

- Visit a farm, pet store or the animal shelter.
- Visit a fire station.
- Hold cooking lessons at home (bake bread, make homemade ice cream, grandma's cookies)
- Visit a television station, radio station, or newspaper facility.
- Visit a Department of Conservation's nature centers and enjoy educational exhibits.
- Learn to knit or do needlework.
- Get a giant piece of paper and colored pencils and draw your dream house interior view with all the details.
- Participate in free summer reading programs and story times offered by many local libraries.
- Visit zoos and museums that have free or reduced rates for kids on special days.
- Have paper airplane or paper boat races or try making and flying your own kites (books at the library have the instructions).
- Put on a theatrical performance, a puppet show or a talent contest.
- Plant a small garden or container garden and watch it grow.
- Have sack, peanut or egg races.
- Plan a picnic as an activity.
- Hold a bring-a-dish block party.
- Rent a movie and have special "movie night" snacks.
- Take your kids on a tour of family history and photos.
- Search garage sales as family fun and walk away with a few really good deals.
- Play board games on rainy days.
- Go swimming at the local lake, pond, or pool (you can ask for a one day guest pass at a local YMCA to check out the facilities).
- Visit Vacation Bible Schools, Summer Bible Clubs, Kids Camps, Day Camps.
- Walk, hike, and enjoy nature.
- Go camping in the backyard.
- And last but certainly not least....make your own bubble solutions and spend hours dipping bubbles!

Source: Adapted from one written by Megan O'Neil-Haight, The University of Maryland Extension



Do-It-Yourself Bubble Solution

1 Tablespoon Glycerine
2 Tablespoons Dish Soap
9 Ounces Water
Mix it all up (the glycerin added to the mixture is key). Pour it into small plastic bottles or a pie pan, grab your favorite wand and enjoy big beautiful bubbles.