

Creative and Inexpensive Ideas For Summertime Fun

Bubbles, Bubbles and More Bubbles!

Bubbles are fun whether you are 2 or 62! You can easily make your own bubble solution by mixing together 2 cups of water, 2/3 cup of dishwashing soap and 1/4 cup of corn syrup. You and your child can use almost any round, open-ended object to make bubbles, including bent clothes hangers or pipe cleaners, cookie cutters, yogurt lids with the centers cut out, straws or even a fly-swatter!

Cloud Watching

We all remember those lazy summer days, lying on the beach or on the grass, watching as a parade of cloud shapes floated above our heads. Take your child outside and share this fun and imaginative activity with them. (Remember to wear your sunglasses and sunscreen!) You can extend this activity to make up stories or songs about the clouds and what you see in them.

Memory Boxes and Collages

Collect all your summertime memories in a special box. Create a memory box out of an old shoe box by having your child decorate it with construction paper, crayons, markers, glitter, etc. On your daily outings - a walk around the neighborhood, a trip to the beach, a day at the park - have your child collect items that will remind them of this day. Rocks, shells, acorns, and flowers are all "special treasures" to children. At the end of summer, you and child can curl up and sift through the box and relive all of your fun summertime adventures!

Teens often enjoy making collages of magazine pictures or words or objects related to their experiences. They just need poster board and glue. You can ask friends or family members for old magazines they are going to throw out or recycle!

Treasure Hunt!

Children love a treasure hunt! Create a treasure hunt by hiding clues around the house or backyard, with each clue leading them to another clue until finally they find the "treasure." Some ideas for the treasure can include, a few coins, a lollipop or other small candy, or a small toy or trinket. If you have younger children who are unable to read, you can draw pictures of the location of the next clue, or use a digital camera to take photos and print them off on inexpensive paper. Teens can create a treasure hunt for younger children or each other. For older children, you may want to use the whole neighborhood for the treasure hunt.

Plant a Garden

Let children experience the satisfaction of growing something on their own. Let them fill a plant pot with soil and then plant a few seeds of their choice. Place the planter outside this summer and give your child the responsibility of taking care of their plant. Watch them delight as their beautiful flowers blossom or their bright vegetables begin to grow!

Sources:

Family Fun Magazine

ParentCenter.com



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