

Frugal Summer Fun from **A** to **Z**

Ideas for Having lots of Fun without Spending lots of Money!

from The Character Mom

A

Art - From shaving cream and chalk drawings to real paintings for grandma's art collection.

B

Balloons, Bubbles, and a Big Box - Need I say more about simple pleasures?

C

Cookouts - Nothing brings people together better than a campfire except food eaten around a campfire or grill. Invite friends over for dinner.

D

Drama - Put on family plays and puppet shows (make your own with old socks, plastic spoons, or toilet paper rolls with glued on photos faces). Have a talent show. Make crazy costumes and your own music videos,

E

Eat Treats - Cooking together and eating together bring you closer together. A couple of my favorites:

- Juicesicle - Just freeze juice in plastic ice cube trays or Dixie cups. Let your kids put in the toothpicks or Popsicle sticks.
- Simple Homemade Ice cream -
 - 1 Tbs. Vanilla
 - 2 cups cream or half & half
 - 1 cup milk
 - 3/4 cup sugarMix together and freeze.
(from Williams Sonoma)

F

Field Trips - Designate one day a week to go somewhere interesting:

- Library- Sign up for the summer reading program.
- Fire or Police Station
- Museums (Most museums have free or discounted days. Ask your favorites.)
- Business - Call your local bakery, farm, factory, construction site, etc.

G

Games - Designate one night a week for family game night. Take turns letting your kids choose.

H

Homemade crafts - Teach your child how to make a craft or learn a skill such as woodworking, sewing, baking, etc. Go to a craft store and let them pick out a kit.

I

Insects - Go on a nature hike and hunt for, identify, and learn about bugs.

J

Joking around - Just be silly together! Wrestle, tickle, have a pillow fight. Get some kids joke books.

K

Kite - Make one or just fly one. (You can get one at most dollar stores.) Go to a kite festival near you.



Lake - Play on the beach, swim, or fish.



Movie Night - Rent one, go to the cheap movie, or try the drive-in.



Nature/ Neighborhood - Explore the area around your home whether that is nature or a neighborhood park.



Outside fun - Play capture the flag, freeze tag, hide and seek, and all the games you used to love to play in P.E. class.



Photos - Take silly or serious family pictures. Look at old photo albums or make a new album or collage. Hunt for and take pictures of objects that look like letters.



Quality Time - Go on a outing with just one of your kids at a time so you can really talk.



Relatives - Visit them.



Service Projects - Contact your local church or non-profit and see how you can serve with your time or talents as a family.



Tent- Make a tent fort in your living room or go camping.



Undercover Secret Spy Missions - Anonymously do acts of kindness. You can write a secret note in white crayon on white paper. Attach watercolors for them to reveal the secret message by painting over the top.



Vocal Talents - Recite a verse, perform a musical, sing karaoke, and make sure to get it on video.



Water is Wonderful! Play for hours in the pool, slip and slide, sprinkler, or just have fun:

- Water Wars - Balloons, Water Guns, or Sponges - all you need are a bunch of cheap yet absorbent sponges and a bucket of water designated for each person. (Get the car cleaned while they are at it.)
- Water Art - Give your preschooler a bucket of water, a paintbrush, and a shady spot on the cement and let her paint with water.



"X"-treme Sports - Any sports from mountain climbing to soccer and kickball are great family fun.



Yard Sales or Thrift Stores -You can find great and entertaining items for change.

- Have your own yard sale - This is a great way to clean out and simplify. If your kids get to keep the money they make, they will have more incentive to de-clutter.



Zoo - Go to the zoo or do any activity that involves animals.

-Sarah Holmes (AKA The Character Mom) loves to encourage and equip moms to teach their families Christian character through fun and simple ideas and insight. Go to TheCharacterMom.com for more family-friendly training ideas.