



50 SCREEN-FREE SUMMER IDEAS CHECKLIST

CREATIVE FUN

- ☐ Build a cardboard fort
- ☐ Make pet rocks with googly eyes and glitter
- ☐ Write and illustrate your own picture book
- ☐ Turn the backyard into a fairy or dinosaur garden
- ☐ Put on a puppet show
- ☐ Create a 'museum' of homemade art and inventions
- ☐ Make your own playdough and sculpt funny creatures
- ☐ Design a board game and play it with the family
- ☐ Build a LEGO city with its own backstory
- ☐ Make shadow puppets and create a nighttime story

BACKYARD ADVENTURES

- ☐ Go on a nature scavenger hunt
- ☐ Make a mud kitchen with old pots and pans
- ☐ Camp out under the stars (or string lights)
- ☐ Try 'cloud watching bingo'
- ☐ Host a bubble-blowing contest
- ☐ Paint rocks and hide them around the neighborhood
- ☐ Play flashlight tag at dusk
- ☐ Set up a mini obstacle course
- ☐ Make bird feeders out of toilet paper rolls and peanut butter
- ☐ Collect leaves and make a leaf rubbing book

QUIET TIME ACTIVITIES

- ☐ Read aloud under a blanket fort
- ☐ Start a summer journal or comic book
- ☐ Work on a jigsaw puzzle
- ☐ Try origami or paper crafts
- ☐ Listen to an audiobook while drawing or painting
- ☐ Have a tea party with stuffed animals
- ☐ Practice simple magic tricks
- ☐ Make friendship bracelets or beaded jewelry
- ☐ Start a collection (stamps, bottle caps, feathers)
- ☐ Play board games or card games together

WATER PLAY WITHOUT A POOL

- ☐ Sponge toss with buckets
- ☐ Wash the car together
- ☐ Make a DIY slip-and-slide
- ☐ Ice cube painting
- ☐ Create a 'pouring station'
- ☐ Play water balloon baseball
- ☐ Run through sprinklers in silly costumes
- ☐ Freeze tiny toys in ice and dig them out
- ☐ Float paper boats in a kiddie pool or puddle
- ☐ Fill squirt bottles and 'paint' the sidewalk

JUST PLAIN SILLY

- ☐ Dress like pirates and go on a treasure hunt
- ☐ Have a backwards dinner (dessert first!)
- ☐ Make up your own holiday and celebrate it
- ☐ Try a 'no talking' game for 10 minutes
- ☐ Have a picnic in the weirdest spot you can find
- ☐ Dance party in pajamas
- ☐ Play charades with made-up animals
- ☐ Make a silly family talent show
- ☐ Create 'secret handshakes' for everyone
- ☐ Write a letter to your future self and hide it