

“Pack Your Bags; We’re Staying Home”

A few suggestions from the downloadable booklet by Carolyn Nicolaysen

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T otallyReady.com – PDF 33 page downloadable booklet - \$3.95

Just a few ideas from the “Pack Your Bags” booklet so you can enjoy a “STAYCATION.” Explanations and lots of other neat stuff are in the booklet so order it to get the rest of Carolyn’s fun ideas, recipes, crafts, & directions!

Have a **Movie Night** – If summer, move TV and couch and chairs outside or use a blanket and pillows – or even a projector and sheet if you have a projector or know a friend who does.

Campout – set up a tent in your back yard. Make a small fire pit with bricks or rocks – or use the barbecue grill. Make a foil dinner or Dutch oven meals. Have S’mores – use lantern, glow sticks or flash lights to play board games – tell stories around “campfire.” Play charades – tell family stories and share memories.

Try **Scrapbooking** pictures and memories – be sure to write about the event by journaling the picture in the scrapbook

Have a **Theme Day** – like Pirates and make a pirate ship – wear appropriate clothes – eat breakfast with your hands – BBQ chicken legs served with grilled vegetables and bread (a loaf of French or unsliced bread so each can pull off chunks to eat. Have jerky and chocolate gold coins for snacks. Dinner can be a stew and bread – find wooden spoons at the dollar store. Other activities – walk the plank, sink the pirate ship, swab the deck – make a family flag, have a treasure hunt, use pirate talk. (go online to find pirate phrases to substitute for regular talk)

Enjoy a **Pioneer Day** – pull taffy – make candles – milk a cow (vinyl glove filled with water w/pin holes in 2 fingers. Someone hold the glove while another person “milks the cow.” Make stilts – play 1850 games – tell pioneer and imigrant stories – have a Dutch oven meal – make butter in a jar.

Plan a **“We’re So Lucky” day** – write thank you notes to those who serve you. Make bean bags for other children – or refurbish old toys to give away.

International Travel – choose a country – learn about it – eat their food – make a passport – do their crafts and games

Have a **P J day** – stay in pajamas and catch up on reading together or separate. Read the classics and watch the movie – Treasure Island, Swiss Family Robinson, Heidi. Work on a puzzle – watch cartoons or a favorite movie – have simple pre-prepared food.

Create a Water Park – Use water guns, make a slip n slide, use the sprinklers – fill kiddie pool with sand and build sand castles – play catch with water balloons & a towel – two players use the towel to catch the launched or thrown balloons

More Suggestions from gathered sources

Cook Together: **Foil Pack Taco Chicken – A better Cinnamon Roll – Mini-carmel apples**
 Mashed Potatoes comfort meal – Uncle Tom’s Butterscotch Brownies
 Wacky Cake – Angel Cookies – No bake cookies –
 Pizza – each add own toppings – use homemade or store bought crust

Good Housekeeping Magazine – 10 Rainy Day Activities

“In the Good Old Summertime” Activities by Lyle & Tracy Shamo at Meredian Magazine

**Games & Activities from Family Fun Magazine – familyfunmagazine.com -
(one of the greatest magazines if you have children or grandchildren)**

Fishing Pond for the Littles – have someone behind a sheet and use a created fishing pole and string to fish for goodies or tiny toys

Learn **Family History** for Kids on World GenWeb for Kids or Genealogy for Kids

Build an **Easy Kite** and go kite flying

Have **Showtime** with a karaoke machine – make your own guitars (cardboard) & costumes

Play **Fox & Hounds** with Checker Board

Put **Activity Books** to new use – musical coloring books – color till music stops, move to next book

Make a **Board Game** with your Family Stories

Ask the Oracle with silly questions and answers – pass the question, someone else writes the answer without seeing the question

Might I Bite? A game of 20 questions

Have a **Frozen T Shirt Contest** – figure out how to get it open and on before anyone else

Sneaker Leap – sneaker on a rope to jump when the rope swings his way

Hanging Targets made from bended round wire clothes hangers wrapped in crepe paper – throw ball through target and score like Golf

Construction Zone – build with bendable straws

Bottle Bash Soccer with 2 liter plastic bottles filled half way with water – and a soccer ball – use teams

Prelutsky's Poetry Wheel – A wheel with words and phrases to use in creating a poem. Attach an arrow with a brad that can open clasps to secure arrow. Each person Spins arrow once – phrase is title – spin arrow 5 times – write down word or phrase and make poem using all 5 words or phrases

Fish with your Feet – small wading pool – lots of dish soap to make lots of bubbles - use small toys – Kids sit on the side and use feet to gather treasures they can't see because of bubbles.

Spin & Skip (great fun & great exercise) – 3 ft braided nylon rope – colored electrical tape – empty single serving Pringles can with lid – ½ cup uncooked rice for each. Attach can to rope then tie rope to ankle with loop in rope – spin can in circles and jump rope with other foot.

Tiddle a Wink (a button Skee-Ball game) – Poster board rings (28", 21", 17", & 8") use double sided tape to secure rings. Cut out felt launch pad. Use large button to flip 10 small buttons. Highest total wins.

Spooky Photos – cover camera's flash with a colored sticky note – picture takes on hue of sticky note.

Wrap up a Small Gift and wrap in succession of larger boxes. Use pair of dice and 9x13 pan to roll then in – choose 4 (less likely) as chosen # - whoever rolls that number, puts on coat, hat, scarf, mitts, and tries to open box until someone rolls same number then new person tries. Can change to 7 (more likely) if game moves too slow. Winner who finally opens final box gets the gift.

Bossy Ball – Randomly stick 7 to 12 strips of masking tape on a playground ball. With a permanent marker to write a different rule for throwing & catching the ball – overhand & backward, underhand & between the legs – sitting down – eyes closed – in mid-jump – while singing, etc. Play regular catch but once a player catches the ball – throw as directed by the words under or closest to the palm of the right hand – and the player catching must try to do so in the same manner. Then that player uses the words under the palm of his right hand for the next throw.