

100+ Free or Almost Free Summer Activities for the Kids

Submitted by [GoGo Girl](#) on June 19, 2009 – 12:10 am [30 Comments](#)

Summer is officially here on June 21, 2009. I love summer but I do sometimes have a hard time keeping the little angels happy and occupied.

With the help of some twitter friends, here's the Girlgetstrong.com list of 100+ free or almost free things to do this summer.

1. Attend free concerts in your local parks
2. [Free Movies at Regal](#) cinemas Family Fun festival
3. Camp out in your backyard under the stars or in a tent
4. Go [bowling for FREE](#) all summer long.
5. Go beach combing on low tide
6. Make a [mini portable sand box](#)
7. Go to the library and check out books and DVDs
8. Make green slime by [BHG](#)
9. Host a backyard water fun day – Sprinklers, slip-n-slide, kiddies pool
10. Make homemade [ice cream sandwiches](#)
11. Have a backyard campfire – make s'mores
12. Make a Creepy Bug box by [BHG](#)
13. Make [grasshopper pie](#) - (while maintaining that its full of REAL grasshoppers for full effect)
14. Visit your local pet store and use the visit to talk about animals
15. Try a new kind of hunt with your GPS - [geocaching](#)
16. Bubble blowing – make your own with dishsoap and water mixed together
17. Create chalk drawings outside or play hopscotch – have someone stand still and trace their shadow with chalk
18. Making [snow cones](#) is also another big hit with my kiddos

19. Host a neighborhood backyard Olympics – invite friends over
20. Watch the Animal Planet DVD on a rainy day
21. Have theme days: Cowboy day, serve BBQ lunch; Circus day; Backwards or Beach day
22. Hold a neighborhood talent show-challenge other families
23. Let your kids finger paint with pudding in paper plates – and eat it
24. Making homemade [chocolate suckers](#)...this is always a big hit and not as messy as it sounds (Wilton makes all different colors of candy melts and really neat molds)
25. Have a garage sale
26. Make your own [pet rock](#)
27. Make [homemade popsicles](#)
28. Become a photographer with a cheap digital camera
29. Take a bike ride in your neighborhood or local public bike trails
30. Check out your local churches for camps that are running (some for free)
31. Create a treasure map for the kids to find some hidden treats
32. Discover a local landmark and learn the history
33. Going to a drive-in movie is a must for the summer
34. Find a penpal from overseas and see what they are doing
35. Find new parks in your area and explore them
36. Leave a message on your driveway for a special visitor with chalk-even for dad coming home!
37. Take a day hike on local trails
38. Go watch a baseball game
39. Attend local art festivals
40. Attend local farmers markets

41. Go to the local water/ sprinkler park
42. Visit your local parks – take along a picnic
43. Visit your local school playgrounds
44. Go berry picking
45. Give the kids a spray bottle with a touch of vinegar and get them cleaning (worked for me for a few cents)
46. Go bird watching and learn about a new bird everyday – google birds in your area
47. Go for a walk and count things such as squirrels, birds, cats, or dogs
48. Go to the book store and browse
49. Grilling at the lake
50. Swimming at the lake
51. Fishing
52. Tree climbing
53. Guitar playing out in the front yard
54. Bonfires where permitted
55. Ghost stories while walking on moon-lite nights
56. Looking for bugs in stumps
57. Playing in a pool
58. Start learning simple word or phrases from another language
59. Have a flash light play after dark in your yard
60. Have the kids sleep in the living room, while watching a movie and eating popcorn!
61. Attend free movie nights in your local parks
62. If you need new art, buy some canvas and have the kids paint masterpieces
63. Start an ant colony and learn how they work

64. Let the kids form a band
65. Learn about the stars
66. Learn their own instruments
67. Let your kids get creative with a piece of aluminum foil
68. Make a Bead Drum by [BHG](#)
69. Go to the driving range
70. Make a fort with chairs and blankets (favorite for my kids)
71. Make BOX forts in the backyard out of appliance boxes
72. Make a pretend chirping cricket by [BHG](#)
73. Make a structure with marshmallows and toothpicks
74. Go to a fast food restaurant (McDonald's) for an ice cream or french fries
75. Go Feed the ducks at a local pond
76. Go fly a kite
77. Go for an "adventure" walk and collect things
78. Go on a bug hunt (daddy's job, that one, ha ha)
79. Have water fights – invite others over!
80. Create an outdoor treasure/scavenger hunt – in your yard, neighborhood or a park
81. Play "dress up" outside
82. Paint faces
83. Join a "flash" group
84. Watch movies by theme (ie, villain week, cat week, comedy) and compare all the movies
85. Make a cel-phone movie and have the kids write the script.
- 86.. Wash their bikes

87. Start your own book club with friends
88. Make your own friendly fireflies by [BHG](#)
89. Learn a new word everyday
90. Write their own lyrics for the band that they have created
91. Library events
92. Movie day where we spread a blanket on the floor and just chill out when it's just too hot to be outside
93. Paint the driveway, fence or house with water
94. Play hide and seek
95. Schedule a day during the week, like: Museum day, Pool day, Games day
96. Set up a chart for rewards: read 20 minutes=2 stars; do dishes=2 stars; take out trash=1 star after they earn so many stars, go for a treat, like a movie
97. Set up a chart of daily chores expected from them
98. Summer lunch on the lawn,
99. Visit a retirement home (phone first)
100. Visit garage sales for some cheap deals
101. Wash your car

I went a bit over, but there were so many ideas filling up my in-basket. Summers are full of great memories for kids – memories that can last a life-time.

What are you going to do with your kids this summer? What do you remember most about summer as a kid? I love Summer!