

What Can We Do Can—cut apart and when you need an idea, draw it from the can.

Note: similar activities can be found in other cities . . .

See

http://pinterest.com/melissa_taylor2/summer-activities-with-kids/

“More frugal family fun:
stay-a-stay-at-home-mom.com”

Hike a new trail—see Vancouver Parks & Rec, or Beacon Rock State Park, Dog Mountain, Multnomah or other Falls.

Scrapbooking: family history, school/church activities, baby book, family reunion, grandparent or other ancestor’s life . . .

Catch fireflies or butterflies.

Go to the Zoo (discount on 2nd Tues), or pet store.

Tell ghost or family history stories, retell children’s favorites using a great storyteller style, *The Cremation of Sam McGee*, or *The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere*—with animation and action!

Try a new park/playground—see Vancouver Parks & Rec.

Pick flowers for someone—someone sick, alone, a neighbor, someone you want to show you care; optional: press or dry them.

Water gun or balloon fight.

Family bike ride—explore your neighborhood.

Make s’mores, Rice Krispie Treats, or try a new recipe.

Go fly a kite!

Have a family slumber party in the living room, with games, treats, maybe even a pillow fight!

Build a blanket or pillow fort.

Make cookies to take to a neighbor.

Play in the sprinkler.

Try a lemonade stand—add options, such as cookies, popcorn, or Rice Krispie Treats, sell near a park/playground or at an extended family event?

Be paper airplane engineers—whose can fly the longest, highest, or do the most tricks. You may like to check out a book on paper airplanes.

Backyard scavenger hunt: things that begin with the letter _____. Or do a bug count . . . how many of which kind of bugs (can make a tally chart).

Plant or care for the garden.

Go swimming—ocean, river, lake, YMCA, Firstenberg Center, Marshsall Center . . . backyard pool . . . bathtub . . .

Practice telling jokes and funny stories. You may check out some books from the library.

Watch a family favorite or classic movie; optional—read the book first or afterward, or watch different versions of the same story. Talk about the storyline, characters, plot, whether the characters could have made better choices . . .

Go on a picnic—you may progress through the summer, trying a new park every week (see Vancouver Parks & Rec.); you may pick a theme, such as Ladybug picnic (take all black and red food and accoutrements), Teddy Bear Picnic (take things that begin with B, look for butterflies, things blue, Blueberries for Sal, The Three Bears, Berenstain Bears, or other bear stories . . .), Pirate/Princess picnic (take a “dessert” island/ice castle . . .), Hawaiian/Luau (tropical foods, pulled pork sandwiches—recipes online for pulled pork—Hawaiian music, make leis of paper, etc. . . .) . . .

Play cards—Concentration, Go Fish, Flinch, Uno . . .

Make Ice Cream—kick the can ice cream, plastic baggie ice cream . . . slush or fruit & yogurt popsicles . . .

Play in the mud. Learn about soil.

Thumb wrestle, leg wrestle . . .

Go to a museum . . . Clark County Historical Museum, Pearson Air Museum, Fort Vancouver, Columbia Arts

Center, Center for Columbia River History, Dunbar's Fine Art & Design Studio, Northbank Artist Community, Art on the Boulevard . . . in Vancouver; in Portland: Portland Art Museum, OMSI, Portland Children's Museum, Oregon History Museum, Wells Fargo Museum, Museum of Contemporary Craft, Portland Police Museum, Ninth Judicial Circuit Historical Society, Kidd Toy Museum, Architectural Heritage Center, Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, Faux Museum, Oregon Maritime Museum, Oregon Jewish Museum, Oregon Rail Heritage Center . . .

Play hide and Seek—options: hide a Waldo figure, hide different color shapes, find everything blue in a room, find everything that starts with the letter ____, find all the squares/circles/triangles around the house . . .

Blow bubbles.

Play volleyball with balloons—use a cord and sheet for the net.

Visit the library—storytime or other activities; check out a book about a famous person or local history; check out a book or video to learn to play chess/bowling/golf, an instrument, dance, exercise/yoga, repair things, build things, learn or practice a language, kid care, decorate, knit/crochet, arts/crafts, history, kitchen science, mysteries, a foreign place, tools/giving your home curb appeal, train or care for a pet, tornadoes/earthquakes/disasters and preparing for them, model trains, a college philosophy course . . .

Learn origami or Scherenschnitt (paper folding art, paper cutting art). See <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Papercutting> or <http://www.designsponge.com/2013/02/25-amazing-papercut-artists.html> or <http://pinterest.com/ania/paper-cut-art/> or <http://www.webdesignerdepot.com/2009/05/100-extraordinary-examples-of-paper-art/>

Build a sand castle, an ice castle, a cake castle, a block castle, a sugar cube castle or Temple . . .

Take pictures—of each other and family fun for posterity, as an artist (try new angles, composition,

etc. see photography books in library or how to on internet), or to send to someone you love far away.

Sing a song—sing it strong, sing it long, sing it quiet, sing it like a bee, sing it fast, slow, high, low, like an opera singer, like a cowboy, like a rock star . . .

Feeling Blue? Kids—find everything blue around the house; adult/trivia—name as many songs or literary references to blue as you can; youth explore some R&B artists/music.

Make shadow puppets—use a lamp or flashlight, or the sunlight through the window.

Have a 72 hour campout in the house or back yard—pretend that it's an emergency (choose one: power out, earthquake, severe lightning or wind storm, etc.—each one has different challenges).

Practice building a campfire and cooking in different ways—Dutch oven, sticks, foil, a grill, etc.

Play slip and slide.

Play Simon Says, or Silent Simon Says.

Draw with sidewalk chalk.

Mom 'n Daughter make-overs/Beauty Parlor/Spa Day (hair and make-up and/or nails: manicure, pedicure); or Daddy-Daughter make-over.

Dad 'n Son Barbershop "Quartet": 1. Have a close shave (practice or pretend shaving), 2. Get the "sniffles" (sniff all the man scents), 3. Sing together old favorites (may use a pretend mic or karaoke set), 4. Read the newspaper together, and talk about the news.

Write in a nature or garden journal.

Play a "bored" game—Dominoes, checkers/chess, Candyland, Monopoly, etc.

Speak Pig Latin.

Play Charades—animal charades, name that song/book/movie charades, famous or folk sayings, favorite characters, . . .

Write a Pen Pal . . . could be a cousin, a missionary, a grandparent, Aunt, Uncle, friends that moved away . . .

Various commercial kids crafts available at Michaels, Kazoodles, Island Hobbies, Learning Palace (Portland), Lowes, Home Depot . . .

Play “Rock, Paper, Scissors”, “Hot Potato”, “Here We Go ‘Round the Mulberry Bush”, “The Farmer in the Dell”, “London Bridges”, “Red Rover”, “Red Light, Green Light”, “Mother May I?”, etc.

Play Hop Scotch—indoors or out (you can use strips of fabric or tape to outline, or felt or flannel squares to jump in)

Play “Four Square”, soccer, basketball, practice throwing a football or baseball (where there is enough room not to hit a window), water or popbottle bowling (fill water or pop bottles partway with water, opt. add sparkles, pretty beads, or other things to make them interesting).

Put on a magic show.

Make a terrarium.

Make a pretend car wash under chairs or piano bench inside (for kids to crawl through, or with boxes make one for toy cars), or with a sprinkler hose outside. Pompoms can be brushes.

Make or play with pinwheels—plastic ones can be run under a gentle stream of water.

Acquire a pet frog and care for it.

Tell funny secrets, or play the telegraph game.

Take a magnifying glass on a nature tour; or binoculars. Look in a hobby store for different kinds of lenses, and learn about how to bend light.

Go cloud watching.

Have a “No Talking” or staring contest (no laughing!), a bubble gum blowing contest, a holding your breath contest, jumping jacks or push-ups contest, . . .

Play Leap Frog, Spider Walk, Crab Walk . . .

Go to storytime at a bookstore, library, grandma’s, or provide a storytime for friends, neighbors, or cousins.

Visit a farm or ranch.

Play a fishing game (cut out felt or paper fish, put paperclips on their mouths, use a magnet on a string to catch them—try catching more than one at a time).

Make a fish kite (google carp kite).

Go fishing.

Do a puzzle. You can make your own puzzles, then trade them to put together.

Play dress up, make up a skit, act out a story (especially a scripture story), have an impromptu skit contest with a bag of various props for each team.

Make a pet rock. It can help you remember to pray morning and night if you leave it on your pillow when you make your bed each morning.

Tour a fire station or attend a Fire Volunteer event.

Draw a map of your room, your home; show where the smoke alarms are. Draw an evacuation plan in red. Agree on where to meet.

Memorize your parent’s names, your phone number and address. Write emergency information on a card to put in your wallet or purse. Include all the phone numbers in your family.

A large cardboard box can be a boat (Noah’s Ark—throw all the stuffed animals in and pretend to be on Noah’s Ark; Nephi’s boat—act out the story of Lehi’s family crossing the ocean; sing “Row Your Boat”, and all the boating songs you can think of), a doll house, a tunnel or cave, a surprise box, a toddler house, a cashier’s counter to play store, a car or bus (sing “The Wheels on the Bus”) . . .

Climb a tree or a pole. Do chin-ups or chair dips.

Play Frisbee or Tag.

Wash the car or the dog.

Decorate cupcakes like critters.

Volunteer.

Have a cocoa party (“tea party”).

Jump rope—try double dutch.

Go birdwatching and write as many different kinds of birds as you can find. Or color birds by number.

Find a 4-leaf clover.

Visit a State or National Park—see <http://www.oregon.us.mensa.org/PDX/parks.php>

Feed the ducks—a fun park with ducks, a caboose, play structure, picnic tables, water to play in, restrooms: Arlington, OR . . . about 2 hours east of here on Hwy 84. Can be fun for a half day adventure, or a stop-over if you are going to the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, Baker City, OR. Look at the dams and the windmills along the way.

Learn to juggle or play Hackey Sack.

Teach grandma to text, do internet genealogy/indexing, or how to use her phone or TV.

Have a yard sale.

Play “I Spy with my little eye”, or “I Hear with my little Ear”, or “I Smell with my nose so well” . . . giving clues, and other(s) guess what it is you see, or hear, or smell. Good for a car trip.

Learn how to put up your tent! Have a backyard camp-out.

Write a poem, a haiku, a limerick, an acrostic (using your name, or a good characteristic you see in another person, or something about where you live), a ballad, a cinquain, a diamante, an epitaph, an ode, a sonnet, . . . see <http://www.kathimitchell.com/poemtypes.html> or, <http://thewordshop.tripod.com/forms.html> or, http://www.tooter4kids.com/forms_of_poetry.htm

Go stargazing, or to the planetarium.

Walk a dog.

Tour a factory.

Play with clay, play dough, or salt dough.

Make homemade cards.

Ride the bus downtown, across town, down to Portland, or some other destination, enjoying the ride—be an observer of things and people.

Paint—try different media and styles. Watercolors for kids are easy, but if you feel exploratory or expressive: <http://www.busybeekidscrafts.com/Painting-Crafts-for-Kids.html> or, <http://tlc.howstuffworks.com/family/paint-crafts.htm> etc. Older kids may want to try paint by number, or learn from an art instruction book or video.

Tie dye.

Learn the Macarena or other Spanish or Latin dance. As almost anything else, you can find it on YouTube. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vlzWuFkn88U> or, Line Dancing, Zumba . . .

Build with Legos, blocks, Jenga, dominoes, or anything else stackable.

Go berry picking (or other produce).

Try dry spaghetti “pick-up sticks”.

String beads, macaroni, popcorn, dried fruit, flowers (make a lei) . . .

Play marbles or jacks. Build a marble maze or track.

Make a band: real instruments, instruments borrowed from the kitchen, home made instruments, or use your voices to imitate different instruments.

Have a bike safety or fire safety practice.

Tell or write a progressive story as a family.

Pretend you are visiting another country—with costumes, foods, simple words/stories . . .

Play hangman, Tic Tac Toe, Dots and Boxes, do a crossword puzzle or Sudoku, Search a Word, . . .

Learn to play croquet or horseshoes.

Make a backyard maze or obstacle course.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_types_of_games