



the no-bummer Summer

fun ideas for families



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Play a long distance game of Battleship.

Compete with a grandparent, relative, or friend in another city using r FaceTime. Both sides need a game if you use the actual board or you can play an online version. Chess and many other games are offered online, too.

Bonus edition: Interview your opponent with three questions after the game.



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Invent a new superhero.

Then make a video featuring your new star. Hint for new superpowers (using video editing): walk through walls, disappear and reappear, jump from one floor to the next, etc. Or give your hero funny powers like the ability to slide anywhere on their knees. Or their little finger can turn pencils into French fries. Send the video to all your friends and relatives or post on YouTube.



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Start a long distance reading partnership with a friend, relative, or grandparent.

Young kids: Have long distance partner read picture books so the kids can see the pictures.

Elementary-aged kids: The long distance partner reads books without pictures while the kids draw pictures.

New Readers: Read a book to the long distance partner.

Teenagers: Read the same book on your own time and discuss it over the phone.



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Make up your own bingo games.

Think of money principles, extended family names, countries of the world and capitals, Bible verses and references, names of Jesus. You'll need between 40-50 items. Then fill in bingo cards randomly with 24 of those items. (Center square is free.) Put the 40-50 items on separate slips of paper. Draw them randomly. Give a clue of what the item is and players place a penny or a goldfish on the corresponding answer (if it's on their card).

A blank Bingo card pdf is included on the last page of this printable to help you get started.



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Experiment with paper airplane designs.

Have contests between your airplanes for the one that flies the straightest, longest, or farthest. Have other contests for the smallest airplane, biggest, or most creative.

Get your stopwatch and tape measure ready.



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Read a children's book and then make a video of it.

One person reads the book (dramatically). Another captures the video. Others act it out.

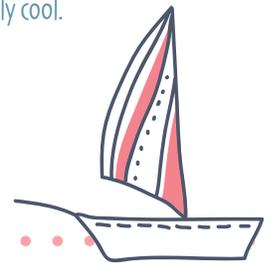
Costumes are optional. Real or stuffed animals can play cameos—or be the star!



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Make stop action videos with legos.

You'll need a tripod for the camera/phone. Put together your Lego set/. Then place your people. Run the video 1 second and stop. (The time will vary.) Then move your people just a little—one step for instance. Then run the video 1 more second and stop. Continue until your scene is finished. More instructions and examples are available online. It takes a lot of patience, but the results are really cool.



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Do a photo of the day or week exchange.

Ask a grandparent, friend, or relative to participate. These could be all selfies with perhaps a funny hat, glasses, or other props and disguises.



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Have a giant water fight.

Invite your friends and neighbors. Swimming goggles recommended. Use squirt guns, plastic cups, sprinklers, water balloons, etc. Fill buckets to have water readily available when needed. Winners are the people who stay the dries. Or, better yet, get the wettest.



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Make your own PVC marshmallow shooters.

You can find simple to complicated designs online or invent your own. (An adult may need to cut the PVC to the right lengths.) Have a war with your family, friends, or neighbors. (Goggles recommended.) Or you can have shooting competitions with stacked plastic cups or other objects to knock down.



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Learn magic tricks from videos or books.

Put on a performance for other kids. Card tricks are a great place to start.

Can they guess how you do it?

The more you practice and perfect your tricks, the more people you'll fool! When you get good at this, you may even try to make up your own tricks.



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Host a karaoke night.

Free online karaoke is available. Think spotlights (flashlights), smoke (dry ice), etc. The more dramatic, the better.



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Put on a dance contest.

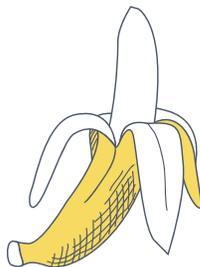
Include all the neighbor kids or other friends.



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Make cookies or treats for:

1. People you appreciate: a pastor, teacher, childcare worker, coach
2. People who may be lonely: neighbor or shut-in
3. Others: mailman, policeman, etc..



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Go camping in a friend or relative's living room.

(With their permission, of course). Tent sleeping bags, flashlights needed. Tell funny stories. Sing songs. Eat camp food like s'mores roasted in the oven. No electronics.



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Watch your friends and cheer them on!

What sports do your friends play? Do you have friends that play music, dance, or act? Go to their event and let them know you think they're great. Take them out for pizza afterwards to celebrate. .



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Wash cars for free.

Collect donations for a special cause or do it just for fun. (Some people may still think there's a catch. Watch their surprise when they find out someone's really doing it for free!)



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Take some time to love your neighbor.

Trashcan Boomerang: After the garbage truck comes on trash day, pull all the trashcans on your street back to the house. Leave a note for your neighbors telling them you're glad they're your neighbors.

Dash for Trash: See who can pick up the most trash in your neighborhood.

Smoothie Greetings: Make a smoothie and deliver it to a neighbor.



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Catch fireflies in a jar.

See who can catch the most. Name each lightning bug. Watch them glow and then let them go.



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Make your own disc golf course.

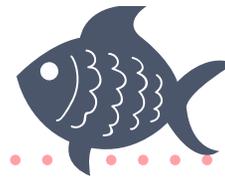
The "hole" can be a tree, a bucket, or a hula hoop. Make up some silly rules like, on hole #5 you must stand on one leg while chewing gum when throwing the disc. Or On hole #13 throw with your opposite hand.



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Play sardines.

Sardines is like Hide and Seek, except in reverse. One person hides while everyone else covers their eyes and counts. Then everyone tries to find the person that hid. When someone finds the hider, they also hide in the same spot. This continues until the last person finds where everyone else is hiding. (Hint: They're packed in and probably giggling.)



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Have a popcorn throwing fight.

Get your parent's permission.



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Go Christmas caroling at friends' or neighbors' houses in July.

Appropriate hats set the atmosphere even if the weather doesn't. Share some Christmas treats with them. (Who says you can only enjoy Christmas music and treats once a year?)



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Make your own family Olympics.

Egg relay, bean bag toss, jumping the farthest, etc.
And award the winners with medals of course.



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Create your own scavenger hunt for your bicycles.

Make a list of things participants need to find: a license plate with the number 5, a bird with a bright color, the signature of someone in your neighborhood, etc. Get creative!



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Mom's Original Idea:



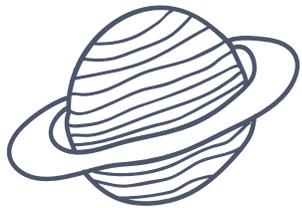
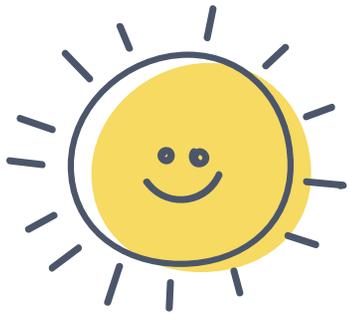
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Dad's Original Idea:



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BINGO



		free		