




2013 Summertime Fun Activities to keep the Learning Going and Just for FUN



Here are some fun and beneficial activities from the educational and therapeutic staff at Alternatives For Children for you to share with your child. Let your imagination take flight as you enjoy Summer Fun with the whole family!

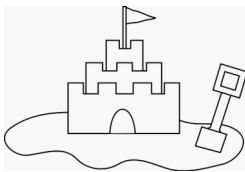
Fine & Gross Motor Skills Activities

- Buy some wooden clothespins - Have fun “hanging up laundry” on the line or pin the clothespins to the side of a plastic container. 
- Sidewalk chalk is so much FUN and can be used on many surfaces. Have your child lean on one hand while drawing with the other.



Have your little one help you in the garden. Weeding and Watering can become a game!

- Outside play with large balls - bounce - throw - kick. Singing while playing with balls is FUN.
- At the beach or in your sand box - Build a sand castle. OR - Wet the sand - smooth it flat and draw pictures or write letters.

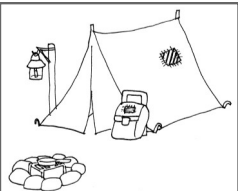


- Out in the yard - Using washable water color paints - let your child “paint” themselves. Arms - legs - feet - hands. Name the body parts as you paint! Or make it really fun and paint with PUDDING! Messy, but so much FUN.
- Some good “heavy work” - let your child carry buckets of water to fill other buckets or the kiddie pool. **Always empty the kiddie pool when you are done playing.**
- You know it’s work - they’ll think its FUN - have your child shake out the throw rugs that are in the house. Watch out for flying dust!

Speech Therapy Activities:

- Go to the beach! Have your child help pack items you need for the beach. Try giving your child clues as to what the item is rather than providing the label. Have your child describe items by color, size, touch/feel, and use.



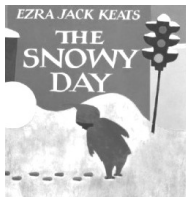
- Go camping! Make a pretend campsite in your house using sheets and blankets. If you have a real tent, set up a camp in the backyard. Roast marshmallows, make a camp fire, or collect fireflies! Use language while setting up camp by describing what you are doing or give your child directions for setting up camp. 

- Make a SUMMER collage: Choose a category and cut out a variety of pictures from magazines, newspapers, advertisements to make a collage. Some examples - include foods that are cold, clothes you wear in the summer or summer games/activities.
- Make a discovery box: Place an object inside a shoe box. Cut a hole in the lid big enough for your child’s hand and tape the lid to the box. Have your child put his/her hand in the box, feel the object, and try to guess what it is. Give your child clues. Provide the label if your child can’t guess. Then start over with another object.

Summer FUN!

Social Emotional Skill Activities

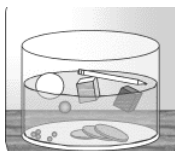
- Play a game of “What Can You Do?” Take turns praising and sharing each other’s accomplishments. Begin by speaking for the child, “_____ can hit a ball with a bat.” Then share what you can do. Keep going until the child can answer some of his/her own accomplishments. Make it more interactive by then actually doing the activities you just listed. GREAT GAME for the WHOLE FAMILY at dinner time!
- Involve your child in cooking activities. Have them wash the fruit, stir cake batter, measure flour, crack eggs, or cut cookies. Children also enjoy setting the table, putting clean pots and pans back on the shelf.
- On a hot summer day, cool off by reading some wintry books such as -
 The Snowy Day - Ezra Jack Keats
 Snowballs - Lois Ehlert
 First Snowfall - Anne & Harlow Rockwell



Learning Made FUN!

Educational Skill Building Activities

- Take a walk in the evening with the family - and see how many different colors, textures, and sizes of trees, leaves, birds and clouds that you can see and name.
- While helping your child choose an ice pop or getting dressed - hold up two different items to have your child choose one. You can incorporate color identification by saying “Do you want the red ice or the blue ice?” “Do you want to wear the blue shirt or the green shirt?”
- Collect shells at the beach. Help your child sort them into categories (Big/Small - Same/Different). Encourage your child to count the shells you have collected. Play a game by asking your child to give you 6 shells. Then let them have a turn and choose a number. Continue back and forth always changing the number. Just for FUN you can also paint the shells!
- SINK OR FLOAT - Using a variety of toys or household items let your child experiment to see which items will sink and which will float. This can be done in the kitchen sink or in a bucket outside.



- FREEZE - Place plastic bugs, toy cars, or other small “treasures” in an ice cube tray with water and freeze. When they are frozen - place a cube into the child’s hand or in the sun to melt and see the “prize” emerge. Play a guessing game with your child - “How long do you think it will take for the cube to melt?” (Close supervision required with small objects)
- SPONGE WORTHY - Give your child 2 buckets - 1 filled with water and 1 empty - and a large sponge. Show your child how to “transfer” the water from one bucket to the other by squeezing the sponge. Make it a family FUN hot weather game some evening.

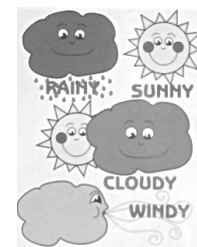


Make mini s’mores with Teddy Grahams, mini marshmallows, and chocolate chips. While making and eating the s’mores use words like



CRUNCHY
SOFT
GOOEY
SWEET

- What are you Wearing Game - You can, or ask your child to “name” all the things they are wearing - shorts, t-shirt, bathing suit, sandals, hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, etc. Always use color descriptors - “You/I are/am wearing blue shorts.”
- What’s the Weather? -- Talk about the weather, is it
 HOT
 WARM
 HUMID
 RAINY
 STORMY
 SUNNY



- Family FUN with Watermelon Have watermelon as an afternoon snack or with dinner. Collect and count the seeds. (Make sure you don’t buy the Seedless Watermelon!



Go to your public Library and find books about Camping, Going to the Beach, Going on Vacation.

READ! READ! READ! It’s so much FUN!