

# 16 Awesome Kid-Fun Activities



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## 16 Awesome Kid Fun Activities

Kids are busy people. But, on occasion, these busy little people can run out of ideas. At which time, you are presented with: "I'm bored." And just like that, you're supposed to fix it. "No problem!" I say. You have in your hands, the best little tool kit around for the job. Why not try a couple or three or four of these creative ideas and have some fun. Inside or out. Sunny day or not. They're plenty of fun, easily organized and easy on the budget, too.

Gather your supplies. Add kids. Have fun!

### Bird Watchers

Make a natural bird feeder - day old bagels, peanut butter, bird seed, sunflower seeds, string.

Tie the string around the bagel, rub on some peanut butter. Roll in seeds and hang on a tree branch.

Place outside a window where it can be easily viewed by your child.

For longer lasting fun:

Build a bird feeder - or buy one ready made.

Remember to keep it filled.

A bird identification book is an extremely handy tool.

Allow your child to try to identify the visitors and learn about each one.

Make up a story about each one.

What do they do when they aren't visiting your birdfeeder.

Where do they go.

Where were they and what were they doing before they came to your window.

### Homemade Slip & Slide

Take 1 large tarp or 2 smaller ones and lay them end to end, securing with the rounded top edge, plastic garden or fence supports. Look for the supports that have 2 sharp ends you will insert into the dirt. These are rounded at top, which is all that will be exposed once they are pounded all the way into the ground. These supports are covered in plastic and should work fine for inserting through the tarp and into the ground. Be sure to pound all the way into the ground to avoid a tripping hazard. If extra protection is desired you can cover the stakes with sand, dirt or even a towel.

Saturate the length of the tarps with water from a garden hose. Let the hose continue to run along the beginning edge of the slide. To make it extra slippery add some tear free baby shampoo down the sliding area and spray with water. You may have to add more shampoo now and then to keep it slipping and sliding.

Loads of fun and extra clean kids too.

## 16 Awesome Kid Fun Activities

### Nibble Nibble

This activity can be played with as little as one child, but it is oh, so much more fun with a crowd.

With a piece of kitchen string, thread cheerios, lifesavers, pieces of bread, pieces of cake, etc. anything that will stay put on the string, (but can easily be pecked off). Cut this length of string to about bracelet length and when this length of string is full, tie into a loop (like a bracelet). Tie or thread each loop onto a piece of rope which has been strung across the room horizontally. If you thread vs tie, it's a good idea to tie a knot spaced between loops, to keep others from encroaching on another's workspace. Have as many loops as there are kids. Each child is positioned under a candy loop. The rope is then twisted, so it is set to whirling. The players will try to grasp the booty on their loop with their teeth. First one to empty their loop wins.

### Flashlight Tag

Older kids love this game, since it's played in the dark. It's a combination of tag and hide and seek. The seeker has the flashlight and counts to 50 while the other players hide.

The object of the game is to have the seeker find one of the other players and when the light is shined on them then they become the seeker.

The only rule: The seeker must keep the flashlight on at all times, while he is seeking out the other players. It becomes a continuous cycle.

### Freeze Tag

More tag fun and this is suitable for all ages. Freeze tag. In this variation the person who is "it" has to tag all of the other players and the last person tagged becomes "it." Once a player is tagged, they must freeze in the spot where they were tagged. They can be unfrozen by another player, who has not yet been tagged, by touching the frozen person whereby they now can continue play.

### Plan Dinner and Dessert

Do your kids love helping in the kitchen? I'm sure they love to eat. Most kids do. Plan a dinner from start to finish with your children. Let them choose a dinner that they will be able to help make. Don't forget a yummy dessert to finish it off.

This not only entertains but helps to build confidence and ability in learning to cook AND cleaning up as they go.

## 16 Awesome Kid Fun Activities

### Treasure Hunt

This is fun for all ages and you can scale the hunt to fit the ages of your children. Draw a map to several different areas, when they find the first item it should include a clue to the next item and so on. At the end of the hunt they should find the buried treasure!

Scavenger hunts can provide hours of fun for kids of all ages. In fact, if you have a wide range of ages, you might even enlist the help of the older children to create the hunt for the younger ones. Each child will learn some valuable skills, and you'll be helping to thwart their boredom.

### Plant a Garden

Buy a seed packet or an already planted flower or vegetable. Or both.

If you're starting from seed, you'll need a pot and some soil. Follow the directions on the seed packet. If you're starting from an already potted plant, just decide if you want to plant outside or keep inside in the pot in your room?

**Pro Tip:** If you plan on eventually planting outside, add some soil to a cake-style ice cream cone. Add your seed, place on a tray indoors until the weather permits and then plant outside – cone and all. The cone will degrade naturally. Your new seedling will grow happily outdoors for you.

Flowers, especially, annuals, bloom quickly and offer a quicker reward over a garden seedling. Why not try an edible flower and open up a whole new arena for your little gardeners. Some edible seed varieties are nasturtiums, calendula, dandelion, pansies, violets, chive, or any of the flowering kitchen herbs. Suddenly the evening salad becomes a plate of beautiful.

Inside – Outside. In a Pot or Not. Any way you do it – growing your own garden is a whole lot of fun. Additionally, if they grow an edible, they'll see the reward of growing their own food.

### Indoor Campout

You don't have to go outside to have a fun campout. Pitch a tent in the living room or bedroom or basement.

Sing camp songs, play indoor games, boiled hot dogs on the stovetop are just as good to eat as those on the fire. Even a rainy, cold winter night, if you pitch that tent and play pretend, you can have a very cool campout.

Some classic campfire tunes are: You Are My Sunshine, There's a Hole in the Bucket Dear Lisa, He's Got the Whole World in His Hands, I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing, or even Old MacDonald Had a Farm. Does anyone in the family play an instrument? Guitar or Kazoo, it all adds to the fun.

## 16 Awesome Kid Fun Activities

### Scavenger Hunt Game

This game can be played with only one child, if you're finding boredom scratching at your door.

It is, though, more fun with a group of children.

In this game the seeker (or seekers) for a prize will be guided from place to place by clues. The hunt begins with this rhyme:

"Perhaps you'll find it in the air;  
If not, look underneath a chair."

At that everyone will look under their chair. There may or may not be something, but one lucky person will have a clue beneath his chair. Or maybe not! You don't have to put the clue under a chair where a child would be sitting. It's a better idea to hide under a chair within the room, but not where a child is sitting. With that the fun begins. They all must hunt for clues.

Upon finding the correct chair the note will say the following:

"No, you will not find it here;  
Search the clock and have no fear."

At this point, the clue will be read aloud and all must seek out the next clue.

Under the clock the clue reads:

"You will have to try once more;  
Look behind the open door."

Tied to the correct doorknob is:

"Well, we don't have a stable.  
So, look beneath the kitchen table."

Under the kitchen table another note reads:

"If your quest remains uncertain,  
You will find it 'neath a curtain."

And now, the quest is rewarded by finding the prize.

Note: If you are playing with a group of children, it's fun to have several doors left ajar, several clocks displayed around the room, several blank notes tied randomly around the room in an effort to throw the search off. Keep it age appropriate, the youngsters will most likely want to find their quest sooner rather than later. Older kids will enjoy a more in-depth, lengthy search. Maybe take it outside and adjust your rhymes to accommodate your play area.

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### Life Size Portraits

Supplies needed:

- ) Craft paper
- ) Chalk, markers or crayons

Inside or outside, there's an equally fun option. If your child is young, there may be a bit of help needed, the older kids can accomplish this easily on their own.

1. You'll need large pieces or rolls of paper from the craft store that you can lay out on a flat surface. Have your child lie down on the paper with his arms just a little apart from his body so you (or friend) can outline his whole body with a marker. After you've outlined him let him fill in the details of hair, clothes and facial features with crayons or colored markers.

Now, the life size portrait is ready to hang on his bedroom wall. Your child will love to have his own artwork where he can admire it and show it off to his friends.

2. For this outdoor version, you'll need some sidewalk chalk. Sweep off a space on a patio or driveway where it's safe for your child to play. Have him lie down on the cement in such a way that you get a chalk outline of his entire body. Then let him work on adding details. You can assist with picking out colors to help him learn those as well. Or make this fun and different by allowing him to make himself into a funny monster or other creature.

### Leaf Collage

Gather a collection of leaves from the yard. Be sure they are dry but not brittle. Lay them out on a piece of craft paper, construction or art paper. You will be lightly brushing paint over the tops of the leaves, (carefully – you don't want them to tear). Essentially, using the leaves as stencils, so when the leaves are lifted off the paper, you'll see the outlines only. Use different colors for different leaves. Use your imagination. Very cool art project. Plus, the added advantage of learning the names of trees in your yard and how different each tree leaf looks.

### Leaf Creatures

Gather a collection of leaves from the yard as in your collage above.

Lay them out on a piece of waxed paper. Carefully arranging them to create creatures, animals, people, monsters or whatever you desire, while using their leaf shapes as would fit your design. Such as long, thin leaves might be arms. Nice big round fat leaves would be a great head. Bigger and rounder yet, a body or maybe your figure is a tall, thin person or monster, you might use a long, leaner leaf. Look around, gather as many leaves as you can find, then come back and start arranging. Imagine what creative creatures you might invent.

Once finished, carefully place another sheet of waxed paper on top. Your design is now sandwiched between 2 sheets of waxed paper. Enlist the help of Mom to iron these together and you have an interesting, authentic work of art to frame or hang as you like.

Note: When ironing, sandwich the waxed paper sheets between towels, so they don't burn or stick to the iron.

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### Inspiration Box

This box can take on many forms. You might call it an Inspiration Box or a Suggestion Box or Memory Box. It's kind of a piggy bank for ideas rather than coins. So, what is your idea? What would you like to keep top of mind? Vacation ideas? Happy Moments? Wishes? Things That Happened Today That Made Me Smile Box. Anything you would like NOT to forget.

A shoe box is perfect for this project. Cut a hole in the lid of the box. Cover the box and lid separately, so the lid can be removed when needed. Cut a slot in the lid big enough to insert pieces of paper.

Think of your box in the manner of a suggestion box, anyone at any time may drop a note inside for later reading. Pick a time when this box will be revisited or opened. Once per month? Once per year? Somewhere in between? This will depend on what you want your box to accomplish.

For instance, if it's a Happy Moments box, you might want to revisit it on the anniversary of its beginning to have a look and reflect on all the things that made each child happy enough to slip that piece of paper into the box. It's a great mood changer. Or Vacation Ideas Box, maybe you'll revisit a few months before you plan your vacation, gather ideas and have a family discussion on where you go this year. That's the beauty of the inspiration box. It will be unique to your family, which makes it all that much more fun.

Do your kids balk at chores? Why not a Task Box? That might be fun. Rather than assigning each child a chore, make it a lottery. Each child pulls, from the box, a ticket which gives them the chore they "won." Turns chores into a game rather than – well - a chore. Note even the name has a better connotation than "chore." Different perspectives - different outcomes. They might just look on chores more favorably from now on. Maybe. This might work better on a weekly basis. New week – new chore. Added incentives might be included. Such as: A free pass or a free exchange with someone else. Here's your opportunity to get creative.

### Jig Saw Puzzles

Inexpensive. Engaging. Habit Forming. Irresistible. Sometimes mind boggling. Call me old fashioned, but if you have a puzzler in the family, this is one activity that will be met with extreme enthusiasm. Go big – Don't shy away from that 5000 piece puzzle. Instead, set it up on a not-so-often used table and leave it as a work-as-you-go project for the whole family to have a go at from time to time. Makes a great summer project for those moments when boredom threatens.

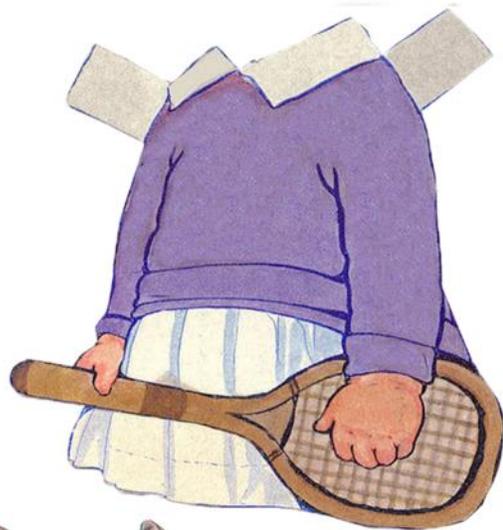
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### Paper Dolls

Not so long ago, paper dolls were standard in a little girl's play kit. If your little girls have never seen a paper doll, maybe it would be a fun project for a rainy day. Even little boys can have fun constructing and pretending with them. It's as much an art craft project as it is pure play. Cut out the dolls, extra feet and clothes below. Glue your doll to a piece of cardboard for a sturdy backing and have fun. The extra feet pieces, when glued to cardboard and cut along the black lines will fit snugly into the corresponding feet on your dolls, allowing your dolls to stand up on their own. The clothes can be pasted to construction paper for durability. Alternately, printing onto heavy cardstock works just as well. For a bit more creativity, maybe your little one would prefer to design a few more outfits. Construction paper, lace trim, buttons, it's all good. Perhaps, add to your paper doll family by finding a few cute animals in an old magazine. Cut them out, glue to cardboard and voila, instant pet. A bit of good-old-fashioned, creative fun.



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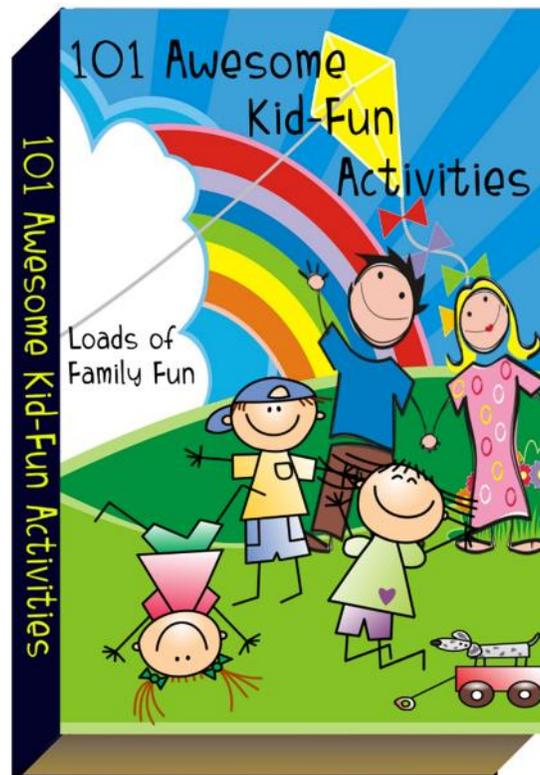


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I hope you and the family had a ton of kid fun! And, successfully uncovered some new and interesting activities for overcoming that dreaded boredom when it hits.

Have you seen our companion book: 101 Awesome Kid Fun Activities?

It's packed full of more than 101 totally different, creative and inspiring ideas translating into loads of family fun.



**LEARN MORE HERE**

[www.nursery-rhymes-fun.com/HappyKids.html](http://www.nursery-rhymes-fun.com/HappyKids.html)