



## OUT AND ABOUT SUMMER ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS

1. Go fishing at Kiwanis Park in Tempe. With 125 acres and a huge recreation center there is always plenty to do there.
2. If your fishing is a little slow, you can always rely on the fresh fish farm, Sedona Rainbow Trout Farm located at 3500 North State Route 89a Sedona, AZ (928-282-5799). It can be pricey but if you eat what you catch it's worth it.
3. Take your kids to the library. All the area libraries have story times for the younger kids, and programs and events for the older ones. You can also check out Culture Passes to get into things cheaper. Did you know just reading to your children can increase their vocabularies and comprehension. Point out words and punctuation and show that you read left to right this will help them in learning to read on their own.
4. There are places where you and kids can take a Behind-the-Scenes Tour, and some of them like the Stuffington Bear Factory and Cerreta Candy Company are free and do not require reservations for individuals or families.
5. Shamrock Farms have tours. You must have a reservation to come on our tours. Please call them at (602) 477-2462 or go to their Request a Reservation on their website.
6. There are more than 400 animals on display at Cabela's in Glendale. Some were real animals that were stuffed, and some are original creations. All are lifelike, from the tiny mouse to the huge elephant.
7. Home Depot has monthly classes for kids that allow them to build something. They get to wear an apron, learn how to use tools, get free materials and leave with a masterpiece.
8. Lakeshore Learning Store provides an opportunity on Saturdays to make a craft.
9. Every Wednesday from 3:30 to 4 pm., Wildflower Bread Company offers a complimentary cookie, milk and activity at locations in Phoenix, Goodyear, Scottsdale, Tempe and Chandler.
10. Take the kids swimming. If your kids don't swim yet many of the area parks now have splash pads or splash playgrounds during the summer.
11. The City of Surprise has two, Hollyhock Community Pool, 15808 N. Hollyhock Street in Surprise, (623-222-2530). There is a nominal fee. Heritage (Marley) Park 15073 W. Sweetwater Ave, (623-222-2000). This is a small splash Pad no fee.
12. The City of Glendale offers a free Splash Pad at 83rd Ave. & Bethany Home, 623-930-2820.
13. The City of Peoria offers a Slash Pad at 8866 W. Thunderbird Road (about 89th Ave.) 623-773-7137. This features batting cages, a skate park and fishing pond.

14. Enchanted Island is located at 1202 W. Encanto Blvd., Phoenix. You can purchase an all-day wristband that includes the Splash Zone. Hours vary so check their website for information or call (602) 254-1200.
15. Museums aren't (always) boring! Here are some the children will enjoy. Phoenix Children's Museum, 215 North 7th Street, (602) 253-0501. The first Friday of the month is free from 5-9 pm!
16. I.d.e.a. Museum is located at 150 W. Pepper Pl. in Mesa. Check out their website for more information. Pack a lunch and go the local Park it's great. This Museum has lots of hands on things for the kids to do.
17. The Arizona Science Center is located at 600 E. Washington Street, (602) 716-2000.
18. The Hall of Flame Firefighters Museum, 6101 E. Van Buren Street.
19. Harkins Theatres offer a Summer Movie Pack for kids. Get a friend to sign up for the same showing and take turns taking the kids.

## **FUN ACTIVITIES AT HOME**

1. Delay your sprinklers for later in the day. Let everyone get on their bathing suits and have fun jumping through the sprinklers on a hot day. You can teach them about water conservation, ways to show and explain matter.
2. Check your 10-day forecast and look for a windy day in the coming week. Pick up a kite for the kids. You can discuss what is air? Can we see it? Can we feel it? Can we catch it? What is it? It's a gas and called matter. There are many things you can do to learn about matter and make Science fun.
3. Make homemade play dough.
4. Let your children help you bake something. You can make cake batter with them and let each child pour some batter into a small round or square child size baking pan and let them each make their own .cake and frost it when they're done. You can discuss measurement with them. You might have them practice how many tablespoons in a cup, how many cups in a gallon, etc.
5. Declare a "bored" game day. You can purchase inexpensive old board games, like Chutes and Ladders, Candyland, High Ho Cherrie O's, etc. You could also just throw in some card games, Old Maid, Go Fish, etc. Board games can be great math games. They are counting spaces, 1-1 correspondence, or even adding and subtracting. There are lots of different math applications taking place in games.
6. Have a water balloon fight. These are inexpensive and you can have the kids do a water balloon toss - they start out close together but take a step back with each toss to increase the distance. The last one to break their balloon wins. Of course with what was left they can have an all-out water balloon battle. Make sure you have the kids pick up the balloon remains especially if you have very little ones or pets. This activity helps with the development of large motor skills and eye hand coordination.
7. Create a "mini-me". Find a piece of large heavy-duty paper (such as butcher paper) wide enough for your kids to lie down on. Use a dull pencil to trace their entire body on the paper from head to toe.

Now let the kids decorate the paper to look like themselves in the same clothes they are wearing, same color eyes, hair, etc. When they are finished, help them cut out their mini-me for a proud display. The drawing and cutting are great fine motor skills and it helps them to recognize body parts and how uniquely made they are.

8. Pajama Day. Stay in your pajamas all day long. Make pancakes in the morning, bake a pizza for lunch and lounge around watching kid movies. You can get creative and have flashlight races on the wall or ceiling. Make shadow images on the wall-make them bigger then smaller. You can talk about opposites, big-little, up-down, on-off, in-out, inside-outside, etc.

9. Build a "fort" in the living room. Small children get a kick out of playing with giant cardboard boxes. They can color them, cut windows in them (with your help). If you don't have big boxes it could be as simple as a few kitchen chairs gathered in a circle with a large bed sheet thrown across them and draped to the floor. The kids can hide from mom and dad, read books, or pretend they are camping out in the living room. Great for stretching the imagination and using problem solving skills to make it all work together.

10. Have children cut out pictures of different fruit & vegetables. Make 10- 12 page paper book. Have children glue 1 picture on each page of their book. They can take their book to the Local Farmers Market and pretend they are on a scavenger hunt and locate each item in their book. You can extend this for literacy by writing the names of each item under them in the book, ask your children to describe the items and write their words in the book.

11. Cover the kitchen table with a plastic table cloth. Get out large cookie trays and cornstarch and water. Pour some cornstarch into the tray and add some water to it. You need to squeeze it with your hands and when you squeeze it and it becomes a solid and you open your hand and it becomes a liquid. You have just enjoyed some Science with your child. It's very easy to talk about solids and liquids and what makes them different. You can even explain the world is made up of matter, solids, liquids and gas.

12. Make "Kick-the-Can ice cream. A great way to get outdoors as well as create a fun, memorable treat.

13. Encourage pretend play by picking up an inexpensive roll of tickets at an office supply store. Kids can then collect tickets from parents, siblings and friends for a dance performance, puppet show, or at-home movie night.

14. Clear a large open space in your living room and get ready for some fun. Cut out large squares of wax paper and fasten them around your feet at the ankles. Turn on some classical music and "ice skate" around the living room. You can also use cheap white paper plates. Make sure the surface you are "skating" on is not too slippery!

15. Let your kids paint a "masterpiece" on your sliding glass door. Send them outside with a set of watercolor paints and spray bottles full of water. After your child has finished painting, don't forget to take some pictures and then let them clean with wiping it clean with a cloth.

16. Provide your children with unwanted pictures or "doubles" markers or crayons, glue sticks or tape, and some scrap pieces of paper. Let them cut up the pictures however they would like and make

them into a book as they dictate their story to you, write it down. Help your child staple the pages together and "voila!" a homemade bedtime story.

17. Create a drive-in movie experience by using large cardboard boxes to make cars. Line them up on front of the T.V. and play your favorite movie. Set up a concession stand in the kitchen and have children use "play" money to buy their favorite treats.

18. Design your very own "kid-inspired" restaurant. Sit down with your children and help them make menus by creating simple meals from items in your refrigerator or pantry. Dress up and take turns role-playing the waiter/waitress, chef and customer.

19. Gather items from your yard (rocks, sticks, grass) and make your own zoo. Allow your children to paint the rocks like their favorite animals and then create a habitat for each. Once the zoo is complete, have your child take you on an official "tour" through their zoo. Help the "tour guide" look up fun animal facts ahead of time to share with the "party-goers."

20. Using about 2 feet of contact paper, create a sticky picture. Attach the contact paper at your child's level, sticky side out. Be sure to secure at all four corners. Next, provide your child with various art supplies such as scrap paper, cotton balls, tissue paper etc. let them have fun creating their "work of art." You can also use lids from milk cartons & recycle items.

## **MATH FACTS**

1. To be successful in math, students should be able to recall basic math facts quickly and accurately. Fact practice is introduced in first grade and continues each year after that.

2. There is no single, best way to learn math facts, except for practice. Flashcards work well. Some students learn by writing things down. Other kids do better working on the computer. Try different ways and go with what works for your child.

Here are some links to websites that will help reinforce speedy and accurate recall of basic math facts:

- <http://www.arcademicskillbuilders.com/games/alien/alien.html>
- <http://www.arcademicskillbuilders.com/games/mission/mission.html>
- <http://www.playkidsgames.com/games/mathfact/default.htm>