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Summer
Activity Hub



Summer Activity Hub

Family
Days Out

Indoor
Activities

Summer
Camps

Outdoor
Activities





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INDOOR ACTIVITIES

Decorating flower pots

As well as being a crafty afternoon activity, it also provides the kids with a long-term gardening project.

What you need

- Clay flower pots
- White paint
- Coloured paint
- Paintbrushes
- Other optional craft supplies

What to do

1. To make sure your chosen base colour(s) really pop, first coat your clay pot in white paint.
2. Once this has dried, paint your design onto the pot. You can follow a pattern, turn it into a ladybird, or model it after your favourite animal.
3. Add glitter, googly eyes, ribbon, whatever you like!
4. Once your gorgeous creation has dried, plant something pretty in the pot and have fun growing and tending to your flowers.

Toilet roll butterflies

Simple project for any child who likes crafts, but isn't necessarily artistic.

What you need

- Toilet roll holders
- Coloured card
- Paint
- Glitter
- Craft supplies
- Safety scissors
- PVA glue



What to do

1. Paint your toilet roll holder to create the body of your butterfly. Allow to dry.
2. Draw a set of butterfly wings onto your coloured card. Cut them out using the safety scissors.
3. Decorate the wings using markers, crayons, glitter glue, sequins or anything else you think looks great.
4. Once your toilet roll holder is completely dry, secure the wings to the back using PVA glue (or tape if you don't have glue).
5. Draw eyes and a mouth on your butterfly and enjoy your colourful creation.

Fairy Garden

This is going to be a little home for the fairies that live in your garden.

What you need

- Shoe box
- Sand
- Pebbles
- Seashells
- Flowers
- Leaves
- Flower pot
- Small jar
- Glitter

What to do

1. Fill a shoe box with sand and cover with pebbles, seashells, flowers and leaves.
2. Turn a flower pot on its side and settle it among the pebbles – this will act as a little fort for your fairies.
3. Place a small jar in the fairy patch, partially filled with glitter 'fairy food'.
4. Get your little one to check in on their fairy garden and tidy it up a bit when necessary.



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DIY jewellery

What you need

- Newspaper
- Bowl of dried penne or macaroni pasta
- Paint
- Paintbrushes
- Glitter glue
- Wool

What to do

1. Lay some newspaper down on the table and get your little one to decorate the pasta in whichever way they'd like, using paint and glitter.
2. Thread the wool through the decorated pasta shapes to create necklaces or bracelets.
3. Fun for a rainy day, but also a nice idea for a gift if a friend or relative has a birthday coming up.

Neanderthal cave paintings

Lots of fun, although Mum will need to help with this one.

What you need

- Teabag
- Water
- White paper
- Baking sheet
- Hairdryer
- Charcoal
- Red and brown crayons

What to do

1. Fill a cup with warm water and let the teabag stew.
2. Rip the edges of your sheet of white paper and lay it out on a baking sheet.
3. Once your tea mixture has cooled, pour it over the sheet of paper.
4. When the paper has been completely stained, lift it out of the liquid and dry it off with a hairdryer.
5. Once it has dried completely, use your charcoal and crayons to copy the pictures cavemen drew on their walls.



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Mad Scientist

If your kids like to get messy, this is the activity for them.

What you need

- Clean, empty jars
- Water
- Food colouring
- Corn flour

What to do

1. Fill some jars with mixes of water and various food colours.
2. Create slime by combining two-parts corn flour with one-part water. Add a few drops of food colouring.
3. Let your child have fun mixing their concoctions and being diabolical scientists



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OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Fizzy Paint

These paints are perfect for drawing on the concrete outside and are way more exciting than chalk.

What you need

- 60g of corn flour
- 250g of baking soda
- Washing-up liquid
- 120ml of water
- Food colouring
- Paintbrush

What to do

1. Mix the corn flour and baking soda, with a couple of drops of washing up liquid and the water.
2. Split into separate batches and add different drops of food colouring to each.
3. Your kids can then decorate the path or driveway outside with these fun, fizzing paints using a paintbrush. And don't worry, the rain will wash it away when they're done.

Tin can bowling

This craft project doubles as an outdoor game, which means your child will also get fresh air and exercise.

What you need

- 10 used and washed tin cans (labels removed)
- Paint
- Craft supplies
- Tennis ball



What to do

1. Decorate your washed tin cans using paint.
2. If you're feeling very creative, you can add glitter or even bedazzle your tin can bowling pins.
3. Once the design has dried completely, take your cans outside to play.
4. You can arrange them in a 'V' like bowling pins or stack them up. Then try to knock them down with your ball.

Water Relay

What you need

- Buckets
- Water
- Plastic cups

What to do

1. Split the kids into as many even teams as needed.
2. Fill one bucket with water for each team taking part and place them at the start line. Place a second empty bucket for each team some distance away.
3. On 'Go', the first player from each team scoops water out of their water bucket using their plastic cup. They must then run to the second bucket to deposit the water.
4. Once this is done, they must run back and hand their cup to the next team member who repeats this process.
5. The first team to fill the second bucket wins.



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Cold Potato

What you need

- Pin
- Water balloons
- Water

What to do

1. Use a pin to poke a hole in a water balloon, then fill it with water (make sure that the balloon has a slow but steady leak).
2. Get the kids into a circle and toss the leaky balloon from one player to the next – spraying everyone in the process.
3. Be sure to throw the balloon quickly as the goal is to ‘pass the potato’ before it runs out of water.

Welly Garden

Nearly every home has a few pairs old wellies that kids grew out of - now you can put them to good use.

What you need

- Old wellies
- Soil
- Seeds

What to do

1. Use the wellies as flower pots, getting Mum or Dad to bore a few holes in the sole for water drainage.
2. If you're feeling creative, go ahead and add glitter, ribbons or whatever else you'd like.
3. Fill with soil and easy-to-care-for seeds and let your little one tend them in the garden.



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Digging for Dinosaurs

What you'll need

- Newspaper
- White tape
- Old crockery
- Loose change
- Sand
- Paintbrush

How to play

1. To create your dinosaur skeletons, twist and manipulate sheets of newspaper into the shape of a bone and cover in white tape.
2. Bury your bones, old crockery, coins and other artefacts in various parts of the garden under small piles of sand.
3. Send the kids out into the garden and let them excavate each site with old paintbrushes.



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FAMILY DAYS OUT

Cycling

A cycle in the park, through local woodlands, on a hiking trail or down the local town (provided the roads are safe) is good exercise for your kids and a chance for family bonding time. Finish off with a movie night and nibbles to wind down in the evening.

Beach Trip

Go for a Saturday swim (or paddle) at the beach and bring a picnic. The kids can also make rock pools and sand castles or even dig for treasure. Don't forget the 99s!

Nature scavenger hunt

This can teach kids about nature and also gives them a crafty project to occupy them when they get home. Create a scavenger hunt list –this should contain common nature items like pebbles, leaves, long grass, daisies, twigs, etc. Every time your child finds something from the list, they should store it in a sandwich bag. Once you get home, tape each item onto a page in a scrapbook, write a little bit about it and then decorate.

The Zoo

You can't beat a family day out at the zoo. You and the kids will easily spend hours wandering around the grounds, looking at all the fascinating animals and learning new things about them. There are also places to stop for food and souvenir shops for your children to pick up a memento of the day.

Farms

There are a number of family-friendly farms around the country that allow parents and kids to visit and interact with the animals. While many will have traditional farm animals, there are specialised farms, like Kia Ora Mini Farm in Wexford, that have exotic farm animals like llamas and alpacas.



Markets

There are a number of local farmer and craft markets held around the country that are the perfect destination for a good-weather day. Plenty of food choices for the whole family and there are normally one or two street performers to enjoy.

Arts and crafts afternoon

Places like Giddy Art Studios offer families that chance to spend a morning or afternoon making fun pottery projects. A great opportunity to put your creativity to the test and have a personalised souvenir to remember the day, like a jug or piggy bank.



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SUMMER CAMPS

Horizon Adventure Camps

You'll find these adventure centres in Westport, Tipperary, Kildare and Dublin, where they cater for day and residential campers. Kids can try out lots of new activities like surfing, kayaking, climbing, abseiling, sailing, aeroball, fencing, archery, Canadian canoeing and quad biking. There are also great evening entertainment sessions.

Kellogg's GAA Cúl Camps

These GAA camps cater for girls and boys aged 6-13, providing a fun-filled week of activity during the summer holidays. The camps' main goal is to maximise enjoyment and encourage involvement in Gaelic Games. All activities are game-based and allow kids to learn and develop new skills.

Whizz Kids

Because not all children love sports or running around, this is a camp to suit the techies amongst us. Whizz Kids provides a range of fun IT courses for children aged 8- 18. Summer camps are run in Ireland's universities and Institutes of Technology, giving children access to modern computer labs, and facilities normally only available to third level students. Every child has their own PC and all other equipment is also supplied. Residential camps are available for teens, while younger kids have day camp options.

Let's Go

Let's Go! Summer Schools offer multi-activity sports camps to towns nationwide during the months of July and August. Let's Go! has been in operation for over 30 years catering for kids between 5 and 13 years. The programme of activities is updated every year, including Zorbee Ball Roll, KMX Karts, GAA, Grab Soccer, Assault Course, Camp Games, Bouncy Castles and more.



Star Camp

This is Ireland's only nationwide performing summer camp. They are open to all children between the ages of 4 and 13, regardless of ability – all you need is enthusiasm! Your child will spend the days singing, dancing and acting, all while building their confidence and developing their imaginations and creativity. There are also arts and crafts for those that enjoy working with their hands.

Donegal Surf Camp

This surf camp is a fully supervised residential surf and adventure camp. Based in Bundoran (Ireland's surf capital), programmes run during midterm breaks, Easter and all through the summer. During the summer, campers can stay from one week to four weeks. And it's not just for budding surfers – the camp also provides climbing, abseiling, kayaking, cliff jumping, day trips, archery, zip lining, talent shows and more.