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Entertain The Kids For Free – Good Weather

By Dylan

As a parent I have found that, not only is free entertainment helpful financially but it also benefits the kids. I have friends whose kids are not satisfied unless they are “being entertained” usually at one of those hideously expensive theme parks where you have to pay to get in and then spend a fortune on treats and eats. However, free entertainment stimulates their minds more and tires them out if they enjoy it. If they are simply distracted by rides and toys they switch off and then lack enough imagination to entertain themselves if you need them to for a time.

The Woodland Walk Activity is best done either in the Autumn or in the Spring but can be done at any time. You will need a couple of plastic bags and a picnic. This activity is great for getting your child to take an active interest in nature.

Find a good woodland walk near you that you can either drive to or catch the bus. It doesn't necessarily need to be woodland, a park will do if there are enough different trees and flowers. Start your walk and see how many different things you can find. If you're doing this in the spring time you might want to take some kitchen roll with you to keep flowers in but make sure you don't pick too many. One of each will be fine and if there's not enough then leave them alone.

When we've done this in the past we have brought home bags full of moss from the trees, different twigs, berries and nuts, various leaves and flowers, small stones and feathers. Whatever you can find you can collect. Let your child get interested in their surroundings and really look to see something new.

A picnic is great if it's warm enough and it breaks the walk up a bit, although my daughter hardly even noticed she was walking so far. It also gives you a chance to see what you can hear around you.

When you get home get a large piece of paper (we use the back of a roll of wallpaper) and some glue and see what scenes you can make from what you have collected. Younger children will enjoy sticking things on randomly and maybe doing a bit of colouring around it as well. Older children could try and make a picture out of the things they have in the bag. Use your imagination. It's great fun and can use an entire day if you want it to.

If your child is older/more enthusiastic about their surroundings then why not see if you can name the

plants/birds, either while you're out or when you get back. It can be as much of a learning experience as you want it to be but you can be sure that they'll enjoy doing it. My children love it.

Dylan maintains the <http://allaboutkidssite.com> website and is also involved with <http://www.iinfodaily.com>, an information site.

Keeping the Kids Entertained Through Summer With Outdoor Toys

By Vincent Norman

When the kids are at home throughout the summer, you may be wondering how you can keep them entertained. The great thing about summer time is that the weather is nice and it gives kids the opportunity to play outdoors. One way that you can keep them entertained is to purchase some nice outdoor toys that the kids can play with this summer. They'll enjoy themselves and you won't have to worry about trying to entertain them every few minutes. Here is a look at a few great outdoor toys that you may want to purchase for your children.

Swing Sets

If you want your kids to have a great time outdoors this summer, one way that you can entertain them is with a nice swing set. There are all different kinds of swing set systems that are available today. You can find some that only offer the swings, while there are others that offer slides for kids to play on as well. Some sets have multiple slides, some even come with mini play houses attached to them. The swing set you choose will probably depend on the number of kids you have as well as the money you have to spend on the set.

Sandpits

Kids love playing in the dirt. Why not get them a nice sandpit that they can enjoy. Sandpits are relatively inexpensive to purchase and your kids can have hours of fun in the backyard. There are sandpits that come in cool shapes, such as in the shape of a turtle. Some sand pits are actually off the ground and covered with umbrellas to make sure your kids don't get too much sun while they are enjoying their time playing in the dirt. The sand usually isn't very expensive either, and you can purchase a few buckets and shovels, and your kids are set for hours of fun outdoors.

Climbing Sets

Climbing sets are another type of outdoor toy that many kids enjoy. Do you have kids that love to climb all over the place, why not purchase them a climbing set for the backyard. Usually these sets come with bars to climb across, swinging bars to swing and climb on, and more. Just make sure that kids are careful when they use this equipment. It may be a good idea for you to watch them to make sure they are safe.

Water Toys

Water toys for the outdoors are a huge hit with kids during the summer time. There are all kinds of different toys that use water. Consider some fun water guns for kids to play with. Small pools can be fun, and there are even fun sprinkler systems for kids that can be used right in the backyard. It is a wonderful way for them to cool off and enjoy themselves.

If you are going to purchase these toys for your children to enjoy this summer, try purchasing online. You can find many great deals online and it's easy to shop too. It allows you to carefully look through the toys available to find the best ones for your kids and the best prices as well.

Vincent Norman is a freelance writer living in the UK. He regularly contributes articles for The Online Shopping Centre, who offer the best range of online outdoor toy stores in one convenient site:

<http://www.onlineshoppingcentre.co.uk/toys/outdoor-toys.html>

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