

School Holiday Activities

We have created a huge range of activities, craft ideas and games to keep the kids active and entertained over the holidays. You can print them out and tick off the activities as you complete each one.

Any age group

These activities are suitable for children from pre-school to teens.

From your pet's point of view

Write a story from the point of view of one of your pets. What is a normal day like for them now that you're home all day?

Storm in a teacup

Fill a jar with water until it's around three quarters full, add one drop of washing-up liquid to the water, add a sprinkle of sand, tightly screw on the lid of the jar and make sure it doesn't leak, turn the jar upside down and shake it vigorously in a circular motion, turn the jar back up the right way and put it down on a flat surface. Watch your storm brew, swirl, and dissipate.

Love heart paper chain

Fold a large strip of paper in half, four times. Unfold and use the creases as a guide to accordion-fold the paper until it is very small. Use scissors to cut the shape of half a love heart, with the folded edge as the middle. Unfold the paper to see the love heart chain. Use red paper or colour in the hearts with different designs.

Toilet paper roll owls

Push opposite sides of an empty toilet roll in together on one end to make little owl ears. Stand the roll on the open end and use a black marker to draw curving wings along the side, feather patterns across the middle and two big eyes and a little beak across the top.

Charades

Take turns acting out the title of a book, movie, TV show, place or person for others to guess. No speaking!

Mad libs

Ask a grown-up to write a short story, omitting all the nouns, adjectives and verbs, leaving a blank space. Ask others to give you a noun, adjective or verb randomly and fill in the blanks. Read the silly story for some laughs and learn about grammar at the same time.

Create your own board game

Make a board game to play with your family.

Act of kindness

Make some letters/cards for your neighbours to say hello, and pop them in the letterbox on your daily exercise routine.

Chalk drawings

Find some chalk and sketch your best drawing on the driveway.

Memory game

Play a memory game - list of animals, food or places in order of the alphabet – or to make it really hard start your next word with the last letter of the last word i.e. Tiger – rat.

Guess that song

Sing a song to a family member, see if they can sing with you. Play guess that song.

Scavenger hunt

Go on a scavenger hunt for coins around the house, see how rich you can become!

Just dance

Learn the Nutbush dance.

Make your own dance

Create your own dance moves Just Dance style, film it and ask your friends or family to see if they can copy you.

Trivia

Create a trivia game and play it with your family.

Fortunately- unfortunately

Play fortunately, unfortunately, Fortunately I won \$10, unfortunately I lost it the next day...

Music quiz

Install music quiz on your device - guess the name of the song.

Letters of thanks

Write a thank you letter to an essential worker.

Game time!

Play categories or charades, make up the questions.

What's that instrument?

Listen to 10 different songs from 10 different artists and try to identify the instruments.

Clouds in the sky

Look at the clouds and see what things you can imagine.

Sleep over

Make a cubby in the back yard and camp out for the night.

Bat and ball

Bounce a ball on a bat and count how many times you can do it without it touching the ground. See if you can beat your score each time.

Bear hunt

Go on a teddy hunt walk around your neighbourhood for your daily exercise.

What's that face?

Take photos of as many different facial expressions as you can make.

Squiggle art

Draw a squiggle on a piece of paper and pass it to the person next to you. Turn the squiggle you receive into a drawing of an animal.

Surrealist Creature Drawings

Tri-fold a piece of paper to create sections. The first person in the group draws the head, refolds the paper so only the middle section shows and passes it along. The second person draws the body, refolds the paper so the bottom section shows and passes it along. The next person draws the legs and feet. Unfold the paper to see your unique, surrealist creature.

Giant flower watercolour painting

Use a pencil to sketch a simple flower where the petals take up the entire page. Paint with vibrant colours and a contrasting background.

Magazine collage

Using scissors, glue, paper and old magazines, create your own collage artwork.

Bug hunt

Hunt for insects around your garden and draw what you see.

Wardrobe review

Go through clothing from previous seasons, try on and cull things that are too small.

Get arty

Graffiti the garden fence with chalk.

Crack out the clay

Make a small bowl, plate, egg cup or statue from air dry clay.

Get moving!

Have a Living Room Disco – play freeze, musical chairs, have a dance off.

Things with paper

Make Origami animals or paper ninja stars, fold paper and cut out paper snowflakes, make a paper chain to hang up in the dining room, fold paper planes and see how far they will fly, make a paper cut out family, make a paper plate whale.

Reorganise

Organise the books on your shelf into a rainbow of colours.

Secret notes

Write notes of love, compliments or doodles and hide them around the house for family to find.

Draw

Try shadow drawing, leaf rubbing, painting bark or stones, use a mirror to draw a self-portrait, sort through all your crafts and art supplies. See if something inspires you. Organise and sharpen all your pencils, and test all your markers, can you draw or paint with your feet?

Be your own bootcamp!

Create an obstacle course or make up a workout and do it together (e.g. 25 star jumps, 20 squats, 15 crunches, hop like a bunny around the lounge room, frog leap a family member).

Jump rope

Can you get to 100 without stopping?

Card making

Make greeting cards for the stationery cupboard to be used for birthdays and other occasions.

Family activities

Paint a family portrait to be framed and hung or research your family tree – see how far back you can go, work together to create a family emblem, motto or song. Include elements that are important to you and your family.

Poetry challenge

Write a short story or poem that includes a dog, an umbrella and some sushi or write poetry or a song or a short story about 2020.

Garden time

Find 10 different shaped leaves in the garden, press flowers within a few heavy books, take some garden clippings and see which ones you can get to grow roots for replanting, do some research on composting. Can you create a home compost garden?

Poster challenge

Choose an inspirational quote and create a poster for your room.

Time capsule

Make a mini time capsule of this time to be opened in 10 years.

Letter writing

Write an email letter to a friend, relative or teacher.

Get imaginative

Lie on a rug in the garden and spot cloud shapes. Make up a story about what you see.

Knitting

Learn to finger knit, French knit or braid wool into friendship bracelets.

Celebrity head

A parent writes the names of some famous characters or people that every person in the family would know onto small pieces of paper and places them in a bowl. Each player pulls a piece of paper from the bowl and gets help from someone to tape it to their forehead. Going

around in a circle, each player gets to ask a question to the group to help them figure out what name is on their head.

Cloud jars

Fill a large clear container with water. Completely cover the top of the water with shaving cream. In a small container, mix blue food colouring with some water. Use an eye dropper or disposable pipette to drop blue water onto the shaving cream "cloud" and watch the rain form.

Teeny tiny twig rafts

Make a raft with twigs and leaves and have a competition to see which raft floats the furthest in water.

Fancy frames

Find an old photo frame and decorate it, make a gallery for everyone to admire.

Switch off

Take the challenge to switch off from all device time! How long can you go for? One day? Two days? A week?

Art apart

Describe an artwork to your friend without seeing it! See if they have drawn the same thing as you.

Emergency superheroes

Practise making 000 calls, one person be the caller the other the police, fire or ambulance operator.

Henna hands

Decorate your hands with beautiful patterns using makeup pencils.

Kind signs

Find some post-it notes around the house and write kind words to your family members to remind them how much you love them.

Mystic moon biscuits

Observe the moon, then try to make moon shapes using biscuits.

Random act of kindness

Perform a random act of kindness for someone to see if it makes them smile.

Salt dough

Create some salt dough and make sculptures. Use two cups of flour, one cup of salt and one cup of water. Mix the flour and salt in a bowl and add the water. The dough should come together into a clean ball.

Secret code

Create your own secret code. Can someone crack it?

Karaoke night

Bust out the latest songs!

Watch for wildlife

How many animals come into your backyard in 10 minutes, an hour or a day?

Homemade pizza

Invent new toppings of your choice – including dessert pizza!

Story shopping

Collect five items from around the house and use them create a story.

Origami fortune teller

Make an origami fortune teller <https://www.dltk-kids.com/world/japan/mfortune-teller.htm>

Yoga

Try an online yoga course <https://www.youtube.com/user/CosmicKidsYoga>

Costume night

Everyone in the family dresses up! You might even like to theme the night? Disney? Pirates?

Indoor picnic

Throw an indoor picnic, set the mood with fairy lights, pillows and rugs.

Film a cooking show

Pretend you are the next master chef! Explain why your recipe is amazing and how it is made step by step.

Bubbles

Make your own bubbles. Just mix 4 cups (950 ml) of warm water with 1/2 cup (120 g) of white sugar. Then, stir in 1/2 cup (120 ml) of liquid dish soap to complete your solution.

Puzzle time

Make up a find-a-word or a crossword or any kind of word puzzle for someone in the family to do when you are finished.

Back in the classroom

Set up a classroom with your toys and teach them a lesson for the day. Make sure you give them a meal break too!

Art critic

Imagine you are a famous art critic. Draw some pictures and put them up in the house. Take the family around to each picture, analysing the deep meaning of each of your works of art.

Salesman

Grab something from the kitchen. Imagine you were trying to sell that item to a member of the family. Convince them how much they need it and that they should buy it from you (but do not really expect them to give you money! You are just pretending!)

Word-at-a-time

Create a word-at-a-time story with as many people in your family as you like. Remember, each person can only contribute one word at a time in the story, just like the title says.

Healthy snack

Prepare some healthy snacks for your family. Have you tried coconut chips, ginger chews, carrot sticks, strawberries dipped in yoghurt?

Back in the old days

Do your parents have their old school photos or reports somewhere in the house? How different are they from yours?! Imagine you were their teacher at a parent teacher night. What would you say?

Go to the opera

Useful Links: The Sydney Opera House has lots of online activities for kids if you wanted to check it out: https://www.sydneyoperahouse.com/visit-us/bring-the-kids/for-the-kids.html?fbclid=IwAR1MNssWGxwm1I1YekYtAnjYzYkCM1k_AZ8iCwsGykTebTgIIVHXcyW_4vH0

Handball

Get back to basics with the old handball challenge. Fun for the family. Mark out a square or a line or use a spare wall outside.

Taronga Zoo

Check out the Taronga Zoo site and do a virtual family excursion. Watch the animals by day or experience their interactive modules and hear from the zookeepers. Plenty of activities. Taronga TV coming soon too!

<https://taronga.org.au/taronga-tv>

Cards

Play a card game or build a house of cards.

Dominoes

Make your own version of a domino wall by setting up a series of small objects that will cause the following object to topple over. Or you could use real dominoes to build a complex path design that's just waiting to be triggered.

Wind chime

Using found objects, make a wind chime by tying them together and hanging them at different heights. Suspend them from a structure outside and listen to the effect.

Bingo

Play word bingo, number bingo, family bingo or create your own version.

Decorate cookies

Bake from scratch or use a packet of plain biscuits and decorate them with anything you like! Mark a special occasion, make funny faces or spell out a word.

Indoor table tennis

Set up a net on your dining room table and play table tennis. Use your hand as a paddle and rolled up towels as the net.

Spell a word

Write the alphabet on concrete with chalk, then hop on the letters to spell your name. Challenge yourself by then choosing and spelling 3 and 4 letter words.

Work it out

Write the numbers 1 to 12 on concrete with chalk. Throw socks or a ball on two numbers then either add, subtract or multiply them together. Do shuttle runs over 5 metres for the number that you worked out.

12 days of fitness

Everyone acts out the following actions to the song "The 12 days of Christmas". 12 = star jumps, 11 = raise the roofs, 10 = knee lifts, 9 = side stretches, 8 = jogs in place, 7 = jabs/punches, 6 = hula hoops, 5 = imaginary jumping ropes, 4 = kicks to the front, 3 = muscle poses, 2 = scissors, 1 = stork stand.

Pirate's gold

The pirate stands back to the pirate's crew. The crew sneak up behind him trying not to be seen moving. Once you reach the pirate's gold (situated behind the pirate), try to get back to the start without being tagged.

Puppeteer

Lie down like a puppet while the puppeteer makes calls to get the puppets to come to life, "I am pulling the string to your arm".

Challenge time

Challenge a sibling to a balancing competition.

Classic catch

Pretend you are a Steve Smith or Elise Perry and see who can take the best catch. Use a piece of fruit or soft toy.

Video ref

Players mime specific sporting scenarios (e.g. running, passing, catching, kicking) in slow motion.

Ball in the bucket

Use an underarm throw and count how many tennis balls you can land in the bucket. It doesn't count if it bounces out!

Collect-3

The feeder rolls three balls in quick succession into the target area. The collector has a set time (e.g. 60 seconds) to gather the balls with the assistance of the fielder and return them to a hoop / bucket / container. Rotate roles. Balls out of the target area are not collected for scoring – the fielder returns them to the hoop. If all balls roll out, the feeder has a second attempt.

French cricket

The batter stands with feet together and holds the bat in front of the legs. Fielders throw the ball underarm and the batter hits in any direction. The batter is out if the ball is caught on the full or they are hit on the legs.

Indoor bowls

Play a game of lawn bowls indoors in the hallway or lounge room.

Hang time

See how many times you can clap while you throw a ball in the air. Try it with a partner, try spinning on the spot or catching it in your hat.

Simon says

Simon either begins a command with “Simon Says” or not. To stay in the game, kids must only follow the commands that begin with “Simon Says”.

Ride your bike

Go for a bike ride with a family member. Create a time trial circuit and challenge yourself each week to beat your time.

Jump rope

Practice skipping and record your personal best. See which family member can do the most without stopping.

Indoor obstacle course

Build an obstacle course using items you can find around the house. Dining table, chairs, pillows, cushions, tunnels, etc.

Musical chairs

Great game for the whole family. If you don't have enough chairs, then you could substitute them with pieces of colored construction paper taped to the ground. When the music stops, the person who gets both feet on first claims the spot.

Stretch it out

Players make a body position remembering to keep both feet inside the hoop/circle and both arms outside of the hoop/circle.

Reach the sky

Standing behind the starting point, throw an object in the air and aim to reach a second line before the object hits the ground. After a successful attempt, you can move the target line further away to increase the difficulty.

Hide and seek

Play a game of hide and seek indoors/outdoors with family members.

Noodle hockey

Place two pool noodles on the ground approximately shoulder width apart. Using a beanbag try to hit the beanbag past your oppositions' goal line.

Target practice

Set up some plastic bottles in a range of places around the room or yard and allocate set points for each as a target. Have 10 pairs of socks ready, then throw them at the targets to see how many points you can get.

Noughts and crosses

Play a game of noughts and crosses with a family member.

Obstacle course

Build an obstacle course in your house/yard and time yourself and family members to complete it.

Play frisbee

Go outside and throw a frisbee with family members. Try to create some new tricks, aim for a specific target or invent a new game.

Hackysac

Use a hackysac or small ball and keep it in the air via kicking, kneeling or heading. See how many touches you can get before it hits the ground. Play solo or with others in your household.

Boccia

Play a game of Boccia in the back yard with family members. You could even play inside with modified equipment such as stuffed toys.

Football /soccer ball juggling

Using a round ball, see how many times you can kick it and keep in the air before it hits the ground.

Dance

Dance around the lounge room to your favourite song. Create a dance and teach family members. Learn some new moves. Try using online resources, such as Just dance.

Scavenger hunt

Make a list of 10-15 items to find and set a time limit of 5-10 minutes to find the items. This can done inside or outside if you have a backyard/ local park. (Example list: <https://www.aboutamom.com/free-indoor-scamenger-hunt-printable/>)

Dance challenge

Play some music then jog around the room or yard. Someone controlling the music will need to stop at intervals, when the music stops perform a dance move eg. The Lawnmower, Sprinkler, Stayin' Alive. See who can come up with the best moves.

Name poems

Use the letters from your name as the starting letter of words that describe you. Turn this into a poem and decorate it. You could do one for family and friends. For example, Smart Adorable Magical = SAM.