

Coronavirus, School Closures, the Children are on a Long-Term Vacation: Ideas for Activities at Home

During these challenging times we are living in - we need all the help we can get occupying our children and providing ourselves with a few quiet moments to breath. Here are some ideas for activities for the kids, that can be done using things you have around the house.



Forced and Unplanned Vacation: The Challenge

The forced school vacation, a result of the attempt to keep the Corona virus contained, can be a very challenging experience for both parents and children. We're forced to deal with long hours at home, stress from the news and a change in our routine. To make things a little easier for the kids and for yourselves, try implementing a variety of home activities every day, that will lessen the stress and 'bring color' into the house.

Creative Activities: Arts and Crafts

Here are a few ideas to start with:

- Use an empty cardboard box to build a house, a robot, a truck, an animal or anything your child likes. They can cut the box, glue different things on it, or color it.
- Use empty toilet paper rolls or empty juice bottles to create a family. Draw faces on them, glue paper clothing on them and use cotton balls to create their hair. Your kids can use their new toys to make up stories.
- Use different tools and techniques- for example, drawing, coloring, sculpting, photographing or filming. Combine the techniques: you can try clay animation, for example.
- Take pictures and tell stories using paper, a special app on your phone or a computer program.
- Use little plastic covers, cupcake holders, or other objects that you can string and make jewelry.
- Make paper mâché using old newspapers, glue and water.
- Show your children how to fill old socks with paper or scraps of fabric to make different quirky creatures.
- Make a sock puppet from old socks and buttons.
- Make a simple book with your child. Let them make up the story and decorate the pages.
- Make an "activity box" filled with useful objects and materials for creative games. The activity box can include things like colorful papers, empty food containers and plastic cups.

An idea for a creative game: Color stain animals

You'll need:

- A plastic surface or old newspapers
- A large sheet of paper
- A container of liquid color (like paint)

Cover the table or floor with the plastic surface or the newspapers. Fold the sheet of paper in two and then open it. Let your kids drip color on one side of the paper, and then fold the paper onto the color and slide the paper around. Open the sheet again and gently reveal... a wonderful imaginary butterfly! Encourage your kids to add details to the picture, like stains, antennas, legs, a hat and even a wand! Ask them to name the winged animal, and help them write the name on the paper.

[Click here](#) to download a collection of coloring pages that

Creative Activities: Drama

Your child can enjoy the following activities on their own, and they can also be played together:

- What luck that it's almost Passover! Instead of throwing out old clothing, put them in a costume box that will be used for dramatic acting. Every few days you can surprise your child by adding something new to the box.
- Use dramatic acting, songs and movement to act out different events from day-to-day life. Play doctor and patient, mom and dad, store owner, fire fighters or restaurant. Whatever interests your child. You can also participate, and pretend to be a costumer walking into the store.
- Make up a new story: you can start the story with a simple image from day-to-day life, and have everyone take turns telling what happens next. The longer the game goes on, the more imaginative and surprising the story will get.

Creative Activities: More Ideas

- Cook with your child, starting with simple family recipes.
- Use old sheets to build a tent or a house, and hang them on the backs of chairs or a table. You can have a picnic on the living room carpet.
- Play 'Guess Who': let your child write the name of the character or personality on a note. Stick the note to your forehead without looking at it. Using questions, try guessing who the character is. Then switch roles.
- Eat a meal at a 'restaurant': give different family members jobs such as waiter, chef, dish washer. Switch roles for different meals or days.
- Teach your children to photograph things in an interesting way. Encourage them to get close to objects in the house, look at them from different angles, photograph only a piece of the whole.

© raisingchildren.net.au, This information was translated and edited with the consent of the Raising Children Network website.