



## Summer's Here!

May 2022

### Summer's Here!

April showers brought May flowers and now...  
Welcome to Summer!

#### Tips for summer days.

##### Let the kids get messy.

- They will come clean. Outside rain dances, puddle jumping, boat races in the gutter, and mud baths, mud fights, and mud pies are all a part of childhood.
- Craft boxes filled with old scraps of yarn, material, boxes, glitter, glue, buttons, etc. can make an inside day creative and fun.

**Send them outside.** Children do not need to be entertained constantly. Outside without electronics is a must for problem solving, daydreaming, processing growing up, and fun.

- Ask them to collect things for a museum from your yard - rocks, leaves, bark, grasses, weeds, etc.
- Take flowers and let them press them between pages of a book and turn them into lifelong memories behind glass and a frame.
- Set out objects they can make an obstacle course with. a whistle and a timer to see if they can better their scores.
- Giant boxes make great playhouses. Give the little ones a paintbrush and some paint and let them paint their house. Add a few drops of dish detergent to make paint come out of clothes or put them in old rags and let 'em go!
- Make a reading spot under a shade tree, or a treehouse where they can curl up and read.
- If they have a pet, let them bicycle/walk the dog or play with the animal in appropriate ways.
- Encourage gardening. Strawberries are fun to grow.
- Chores make our kids feel like they are responsible and part of the family.
- Lemonade and cookie stands. My



Baseball, soccer, dress-up, and ice cream in any form is summer!

entrepreneur says that he got interested in business and economics this way.

- Turn on sprinklers or fill up a pool and let them play and swim. The neighborhood pool can be a place for mom to read and rest when the kids are older. We set up a fenced in area for our little ones and gave them plastic bins full of water and toys, so mom could focus on older children or talk to a friend.
- Have a trunk or box that you can fill with dress-up clothes. Their imaginations can go wild. Older kids can put on a play.

**Outings** Sometimes we and the children are ready to get out of the house. Day trips, morning trips, and weekend trips can be a learning experience and fun.

- Visit local museums. These often overlooked collections tell a story of history. Encourage the older kids to ask questions.
- Nature centers and parks are great for picnicking and playing frisbee, frisbee golf, soccer, bubbles, tag, blind man's bluff, etc.
- Meet up with another family for the playground or splashpad.
- Pack a lunch. Cut up veggies with a small bowl of peanut butter or ranch dressing for dipping, fruit, and a cookie make a good come and go lunch for active kids who would rather be playing.

**Organizing** Summer's a great time to tackle a closet, an attic, a basement, or change out seasonal clothes. Send the kids outside or get them busy with that craft box and go to town. It can be an hour project or a three day project. Older kids can be a big help.

- Rearranging bedrooms, freshening up a look by adding a few new pillows, or decluttering can allow you and your children time for creativity, listening and talking, and trying some of the kids ideas.
- Keep everything within budget, repurpose an old piece of furniture or baskets. Get creative!

**Dating** Date your spouse, but also one-on-one dates with each child will build the relationship and make wonderful memories. Mom and Dad can take turns going out with one or the other child. Go to a movie, a fancy restaurant, or a play place. Involve yourself in your child's play. Give them 100% of your attention. Boys could buy or pick flowers for mom. Get dressed up and go fancy. Get dressed down and do a project together.

**Whatever you do, have a great summer, and enjoy your children!**

## Russian Project

We have been able to send over \$2000 to Mission Eurasia for the refugees from the Ukrainian war.

Any donations we receive go to Mission Eurasia to provide "I Care" boxes of food, medical supplies, and a Bible.

Our donate button is down, but you can send a check or call with a credit card. 100% of funds will go to Ukraine.

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## It's here!



If you are dealing with pain, mental or physical, and wonder where God is in the midst, you will want to read this 30 day devotional. Dara talks about real struggles as she seeks to find God's hand through chronic pain due to spina bifida occulta and depression due to childhood neglect and abuse. Each day offers an encouraging devotion, a prayer, and an opportunity to journal what God is telling you through His word.

You can also join the conversation on the Face Book group: Dancing in the Pain.

Book is now available on Amazon with a five-star rating and at <https://www.abidingtruthministry.com/product/dancing-in-the-pain/>



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