

August Monthly Activity Packet (Can be used any time of the year)

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Summer of Money

This packet includes activities that help young children understand money.

Recommended Books

Mrs. Pirate by Nick Sharratt

Mrs. Pirate goes shopping. She buys items for the ship. This is a great book for children who are just starting to read.

My First Job by Julia Allen

A small boy is asked to perform his first household jobs. Dimes and feelings of success are his rewards.

Ox-Cart Man by Donald Hall.

A farm family use their time and energy and talents to grow or make almost everything they need. They also grow or make extra things to take to market and sell.

10 Fun Things To Do This Summer for Little or No Money

1. Pack a picnic

Grab an old blanket, some sandwiches and apples, fill a jug with ice water or tea and head out to your local park. Bring the Frisbee and wear your old shoes to walk a cool creek on a hot afternoon. Turn off your phone and leave the Game Boy behind. Play all day and nap in the shade. Walk in the grass barefoot. With all of the technology that surrounds us, it is easy to forget that this was how families had fun together for thousands of years. And it is still a great way to reconnect and share a summer day.

2. Host a Family Talent Show

Designate a night of the week as New Talent Night. Every member of the family shows off a talent, big or small. Learn a simple magic trick, teach yourself how to juggle, tell some jokes, or sing a song. No judges allowed. It's not about the mastering of skills or winning, it's about FUN!

3. Have a Neighborhood Fun-Course Meal

Assign each of your neighbors one course of a grand meal. You serve drinks with everyone at your place, then everyone moves to the next neighbor's house for appetizers. Everyone walks to the next neighbor's for the salad, and it continues until every participating household has served their menu item. It's easier than you think (you only prepare one course), you get to walk off a few calories, and you'll get to know your neighbors like never before!

4. Play a Game of Disc Golf

Grab or borrow a Frisbee for everyone and head to your local park or schoolyard. Unless you want to get serious about, any flying disc will do. Follow the general rules of golf, with each player picking the next "hole" - it can be a tree, a swing set, or a wall (anything but a roof!). You can keep score (fewest throws wins) or play for fun. Many cities and universities also provide free or low-cost official disc golf courses. These feature poles with baskets as the "holes".

5. Organize Your Photographs

Kids LOVE this one! Pull out the box(es) of your loose photos or open your digital collection and go through them with the family. For the cost of an inexpensive photo album, you can laugh and relive some treasured memories, while organizing them for the future. Send your best digital photos to get prints and (carefully) mark identifying info on the back of your prints for future generations.

6. Play “Minute To Win It”

You have probably seen the TV show, which challenges contestants to accomplish silly skills using household objects, like pencils, plastic cups and ping-pong balls. Review the games here and gather the items for a night of hilarious living room Olympics.

7. Swap a Box of Fun with Another Family

Invite another household to swap a box of their favorite DVDs, video games, board games, and books with a box of yours for a week (label them so they all get back to the proper home). You will both be surprised with new discoveries and fresh new fun without paying a cent on rentals.

8. Explore Nature

Borrow a nature identification book from your local library, and explore a park or woods nearby. Identify the many trees, plants, birds, water creatures, insects and other animals that you see, and collect leaf samples to press at home. Bring along a jar, a net, binoculars and a magnifying glass for closer inspections. You and your kids will be amazed at the diversity that lives along a trail, and in your neighborhood park.

9. Play “Old-School” Paper Games

Long before Mario Bros. or Halo, kids entertained themselves with paper and pencil. Pass on these old-school games to your kids and show them there is more to life than an Xbox! Fold and play paper football, play Battleship with two sheets of graph paper, mark your territory with dots and boxes, challenge each other with tic-tac-toe, sharpen your vocabulary and noose-tying skills with hangman, or play others you remember.

10. Make a Homemade Art Gallery

A fun indoor activity for rainy or extremely hot summer days! Find some of the world’s most famous paintings in a book or online and grab the crayons or paint. Everyone selects a painting and recreates it (hey, it’s not forgery unless you claim it’s the original!). Hang them up around the house to give your home a new touch of sophistication!

