

Organizing Tips for Summer Fun

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"I'm bored!" is a familiar phrase parents often hear when kids are home for the summer. The following tips can help keep your children happy and organized all summer long:

Tip #1: Have a Summer Calendar

It's important to plan your children's summer schedule just as you would during the school year. Use the following resources to help plan your family activities for the summer:

- Check out your local newspaper for listings of activities in your area or go to http://www.sltrib.com/ci_12478192 for the Salt Lake Tribune Summer Fun Guide.
- Get a copy of your library's calendar for free activities during the summer. Check out the Utah Public Library listing at <http://www.publiclibraries.com/utah.htm> to find a library near you.
- Go online to check out free activities in your specific city or state.
- Be sure to schedule free time for your children so they don't become overbooked or stressed.

Tip #2: Keep Up on Chores

Having your children keep up on chores during the summer will help make their back-to-school transition easier. Use the following ideas for making creative chore charts:

- For pre-reading children: take photographs of each child performing their daily chores and put these into a photo album for them to reference each morning.
- Make a weekly chore chart on an 8 1/2" x 11" paper and let kids put a sticker by each chore they complete.
- In addition to their regular chores, create a jar of extra chores kids can choose from whenever they say "I'm bored!"

Tip #3: Create an Activity Jar

Have a ready-made resource of activities to use as needed. You can create your own activity jar by doing the following:

- Sit down with your family and have them come up with their own list of activities to do when they're bored. List each activity on a slip of paper and store them in a jar.
- Download a free copy of **100 Things to Do When Your Kids Say "I'm Bored!"** from www.simplyinorder.com. Cut out each activity and put into your activity jar.

Tip #4: Have a Ready-Made Picnic Basket

Sometimes a beautiful summer day creates a desire to be outside enjoying the weather. Having a ready-made picnic basket allows you to get out of the house quickly without spending a lot of time in preparation. Use the following tips to create your own grab-n-go picnic basket:

- Use a basket to keep non-perishable picnic supplies together until ready to use.
- Create your own checklist of items to bring on your picnic or download a free copy of **Picnic Basket Checklist** at www.simplyinorder.com.
- Create a list of your favorite picnic locations complete with addresses and driving instructions.

Tip #5: Have a Snack Bucket

"I'm hungry!" is another phrase parents often hear when children are home from school. Creating a snack bucket ensures your children are eating parent-approved snacks throughout the day. Create a snack bucket by doing the following:

- Keep parent-approved healthy snacks easily assessable in one basket or on one shelf for children to access on their own.
- If you're concerned about portion control, create individual snack buckets for each child to access whenever they're hungry throughout the day.