

50 FUN ACTIVITIES TO DO WITH YOUR GRANDCHILDREN



50 THINGS TO DO WITH YOUR GRANDCHILDREN

1. Set up a lemonade stand. Make unusual flavors like apple lemonade and pineapple lemonade along with the traditional favorite.
2. Stare at clouds. Make up stories about what you see.
3. Make one super-duper ice-cream sundae — don't forget the whipped cream, cherries, and two spoons.
4. Scope out populated parking lots for state license plates. Keep a list and try to find all 50.
5. Go on a nature walk, pointing out bugs, trees, birds, and butterflies. Bring binoculars.
6. Build a birdhouse or bird feeder.
7. Paint watercolor portraits of each other — the sillier the better.
8. Ride bicycles to someplace new or show your grandchildren around your neighborhood.
9. Check out a book from the library, and take turns reading chapters out loud .
10. Go on a picnic, even if you travel no farther than your backyard. Set out a blanket, and bring portable music and a Frisbee.
11. Decorate T-shirts. You'll need two plain white 50/50 polyester-cotton tees, fabric paint, brushes, and shake-on glitter, rhinestones, buttons, or other embellishments.
12. Teach your grandchild a hobby you love: crocheting, guitar, woodworking, cooking, etc.
13. Take photos of each other posing at local landmarks and even just places you like.
14. Build an outdoor tepee from old sheets and a few poles.
15. Go to a museum exhibit you've never seen. The more unknown to both of you, the better*.
16. Tour your local firehouse. Call ahead to make arrangements; ask if your grandchild will be allowed to climb on a fire truck or sit inside and steer.
17. Make up a story, taking turns one sentence at a time. You start the story, then your grandchild continues it, you take over again, then he does, until you have an ending.
18. Make puppets with socks and markers, and put on an outdoor show.
19. Spread out an old sheet on the grass and paint your hearts out.

20. Pick strawberries, peaches, and raspberries from a pick-your-own farm. Bake a pie with your purchases.
21. Fold homemade paper airplanes and see whose goes the farthest.*
22. Put on your bathing suits and run through a sprinkler in the backyard.
23. Go out on a photo scavenger hunt using the ideas on the sheets at the back of this booklet.*
(Sheet 1 for younger children / sheet 2 for older children)
24. Break out the sidewalk chalk to play hopscotch or draw designs on the sidewalk or driveway.
25. Make a playground for a bug with glue, cardboard, and found objects
26. Plant flowers or vegetables in your garden or in a window box and let the grandchildren get dirty.
27. Wash your car; wear swimsuits.
28. Fire up the barbecue grill and do a family cookout. Don't forget the chocolate, graham crackers, and marshmallows for s'mores.
29. Fly a kite.
30. Make your own ice cream. Web site for ideas is in the back of the booklet.*
31. Play "volleyball" with a balloon.
32. Go camping — your local woods, a scenic campsite, or your backyard.
33. Play miniature golf.
34. Blow bubbles. When you run out of liquid that comes with the wands, use the recipe in the back of this booklet.*
35. Teach your grandchild to play marbles.
36. Visit the newest baby animals at the zoo. Buy ice cream to celebrate the births.
37. Get pedicures.
38. Pluck a thin, flat blade of grass. Stick one end between the tips of your thumbs and the other between your thumb heels. Straighten your thumbs out gradually until the grass is taut, pucker up and blow so that the air makes the grass vibrate, producing that high-pitched, piercing whistle. If that doesn't work, try two blades.
39. Have a board-game tournament on the lawn.
40. Go rowboating or canoeing.
41. Get the schedule for local outdoor concerts and theatre and bring the grandchildren.

42. Go bowling
43. Take a field trip to Lark Toys and ride the carousel.*
44. Browse a garage sale, giving your grandchild a few dollars to spend.
45. Get yourselves to a county fair and try out something new.
46. Go to a farmer's market, making a salad with what you get.
47. Play 20 Questions on your next car ride.
48. Show your grandchildren how fun it is to shuck corn. Eat all that corn you shucked. Typewriter style.
Chomp chomp chomp. Ding!
49. Have a porch-side tea party with your good china, aromatic tea like raspberry or mint, and muffins or scones.
50. Keep a scrapbook so you'll both remember all the special things you did together.

- See Resources page at the back of this booklet

Web Sites for more information

Ice Cream without a machine:

<http://www.kevinandamanda.com/recipes/dessert/easy-homemade-ice-cream-without-a-machine.html>

Templates for making paper airplanes:

<http://www.funpaperairplanes.com/>

Homemade bubble solution and directions for giant bubble makers:

<http://happyhooligans.ca/homemade-giant-bubbles/>

Fun museums and other places to take your grandchildren:

The Works: <http://www.theworks.org/>

Curious kids can touch, try, and explore on our exhibit floor, and take on engineering design challenges in the Design Lab.

The Bakken Museum: <http://www.thebakken.org/>

A one-of-a-kind museum exploring the mysteries and the history of electricity and magnetism.

The Bell Museum of Natural History www.bellmuseum.umn.edu/

Two floors of dioramas display all of Minnesota's habitats, along with the birds, animals, plants and insects of Minnesota. The Touch and See Room gives a hands experience with shells, pelts, bones and more.

Mill City Museum www.millcitymuseum.org

Mill City Museum is located on the historic Mississippi Riverfront. Here, visitors of all ages learn about the intertwined histories of the flour industry, the river, and the city of Minneapolis.

The Landing <http://www.threeriversparks.org/parks/the-landing.aspx>

This 88-acre living history museum depicts life in the Lower Minnesota River Valley from the 1840s–1890s with authentic 19th-century buildings, demonstrations and a scenic river trail and overlook.

Lark Toys <http://www.larktoys.com/>

For over a quarter of a century, LARK Toys has offered remarkable toys, most notably handmade wooden toys. At LARK Toys is an exquisitely hand-carved carousel where each animal is a rideable work of art.

Reptile and Amphibian Discovery Zoo <http://www.theradzoo.com/>

This zoo is home to over 150 kinds of animals from all over the world exhibited in naturalistic recreations of their native environments.

Cascade Bay Water Park <http://www.cityofeagan.com/index.php/cascade-bay>

Cascade Bay Waterpark is part of the city of Eagan parks & recreation department. Here you'll find waterslides, tube slides, a lazy river and a large activity pool.

The World's Largest Candy Store

Minnesota's Largest Candy Store is a yellow hangar-like building at Jim's Apple Farm south along 169 to Mankato or Emma Krumbie's. Inside are tables and tables of candy of every kind. There is no web-site.

Vertical Endeavors <http://verticalendeavors.com/minneapolis/>

Vertical Endeavors offers numerous top rope climbs, Auto Belays, three bouldering areas, hand-carved cracks and sport lead climbing and lessons. They are located in both Minneapolis and St. Paul.

Jeffers Petroglyphs <http://sites.mnhs.org/historic-sites/jeffers-petroglyphs>

Amid the prairie grasses are islands of uncovered rock, where American Indian ancestors left carvings — petroglyphs — that tell a story that spans more than 7,000 years.

Niagara Cave <http://niagaracave.com>

Take a 1-hour guided tour of Niagara Cave , one of the most fascinating and unique geological attractions in the United States. It has been rated one of the top ten caves in the United States .

River Bend Nature Center <http://www.rbnc.org/>

Connect with nature by hiking or biking over 10 miles of trails or taking part in a myriad of activities from geocaching to learning about prairie bugs!

Carleton College Goodsell Observatory <http://apps.carleton.edu/campus/observatory/>

Join Carleton's resident astronomers and view the moon, stars, planets, and nebulas through Goodsell's telescopes. Open houses are free and held the first Friday of each month.

Chutes and Ladders <https://threeriversparks.org/parks/hyland-lake-park.aspx>

The huge, award-winning creative play area at Hyland structure includes platforms, hexagonal climbers and slides up to 50 feet long. There is also a section designed just for children under 5 or those with disabilities.

PHOTO SCAVENGER HUNT 1

 <p>bird</p>	 <p>leaf</p>	 <p>insect</p>	 <p>spider web</p>
 <p>ice cream</p>	 <p>flower</p>	 <p>pinecone</p>	 <p>clouds</p>
 <p>rocks</p>	 <p>animal</p>	 <p>trees</p>	 <p>sign</p>
 <p>shoes</p>	 <p>door</p>	 <p>red car</p>	 <p>someone playing</p>
 <p>something with many colors</p>	 <p>window</p>	 <p>water</p>	 <p>stick</p>

PHOTO SCAVENGER HUNT 2

AN UNUSUAL DOOR	ICE CREAM	BRANCHES OF A TREE	LIGHT AND SHADOW
A CORNER	WHEELS	PEELING PAINT	WINDOW REFLECTION
SHOES	MAILBOXES	STAIRWAY OR GATE	NUMBERS
SOMETHING WITH MANY DIFFERENT COLORS	WORDS ON A BUILDING	SOMETHING VERY YOUNG OR VERY OLD	MOVING WATER
SOMETHING THAT MAKES YOU HAPPY	SOMETHING YOU DON'T LIKE	A PAIR OF HANDS	A GROUP OF ANIMALS