

Summer *Survival* Guide

By Jessica Getskow Fisher

Summer Survival Guide

© Jessica Getskow Fisher, 2011
www.lifeasmom.com

All rights reserved. No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form without the express written permission of the author and publisher.

As the purchaser of this ebook, you may print a copy for your personal use. All other reproduction is strictly prohibited and protected under copyright law. Please use discretion when following any advice and recommendations in this book. Information is not a replacement for common sense. This is just information.

If you would like to purchase additional copies, please contact jessica@lifeasmom.com or visit www.lifeasmom.com

This document contains affiliate links. I get a small referral fee from vendors such as Amazon. If you prefer not to click through when you make a purchase, just go to the site directly.

Table of Contents

Introduction	6	Scavenger Hunt	108
Plan to Have Fun	7	Finding Good Family Films	111
Summer To-Do Lists	11	Film Suggestions	114
Summertime Schedule	17	Be Prepared	117
Monthly Calendars	18	Create Summer Adventure Bags	118
Daily & Weekly Checklists	24	Adventure Bag Checklists	120
Summertime on a Dime	27	Road Trips	122
Summer Budget Worksheet	33	Road Trip Scavenger Hunt	123
Garage Sale Worksheet	34	Road Trip Packing List	126
Vacation Budget Worksheet	35	Emergency Preparedness	128
Travel Planning Worksheet	36	Emergency Supply List	130
Get Crafty	41	Save the Memories	131
Craft Supplies Checklist	43	Scrapbook Pages for Kids	132
T-Shirt Art	51	Camp Wannalaffalatta	136
Print Your Own Passports	54	Digging for Dinosaurs	139
Ya Gotta Eat	55	There's A Mouse in the House	143
Summer Meal Ideas	56	Gone to the Dogs	147
Weekly Meal Plan	69	Bugs & Creepy Crawlies	151
Monthly Meal Plan	71	Bears	156
Exploring Your Farmers' Market	72	Food Glorious Food	159
Pick-Your-Own Farms	75	Art	162
Read	77	Music	166
What's In It for Mom?	85	Traveling The World	169
Looking for a Good Read?	89	The Good Ol' USA	172
Brushing up on Reading Skills	91	Blast Off into Space	176
Make Friends with the Library	96	The Great Outdoors	180
Summer Reading Plan	98	Welcome to the Jungle	183
Books I've Read This Summer	99	Come on the Safari with Me	186
Bookmarks	100	Oceans of Fun	190
Family Nights	101	Back on the Farm	196
Game Suggestions	104	About the Author	204



Introduction



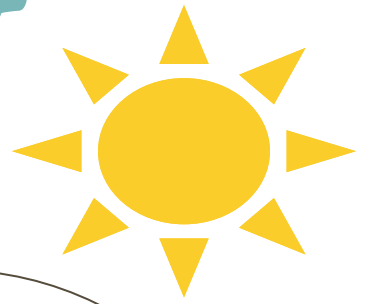
Summer vacation is one of the highlights of a child's life. No more tests, no more books, no more teacher's dirty looks. Too many parents, however, dread the coming of summer, not because they don't want to spend time with their children, but because they're not really sure what to do with them.

Hot summer days can seem extra long when kids are bored and parents are without a few tricks up their sleeves.

Yet, summer vacation need not be something to dread. With a little pre-planning, you can develop routines, maintain your sanity, enrich your children's days and enjoy quality time as a family.

You can not only survive the summer, but you can also thrive!

Summer "To Do" List



Places to Go

Things to Do

Books to Read

People to See

Movies to Watch



Redeem the Days

The little old lady in the grocery store is right. They grow up all too quickly.
The days will slip away when you're not looking.

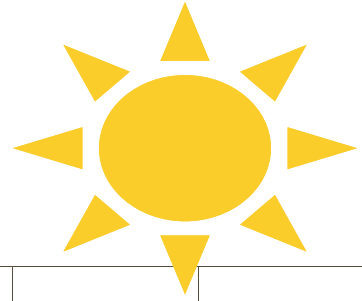
So what should we do?

- turn off the TV
- put down the magazine
- turn off the computer
- log out of Facebook
- let the voice mail get it
- ignore the tweets

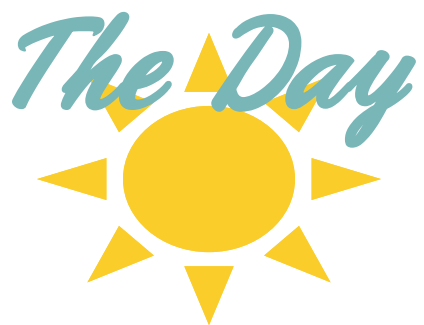
Instead....

- take a walk
- play a game
- ride a bike
- build a sandcastle
- bake a cake or cupcakes
- make a memory
- redeem the day

May 2011



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Mother's Day	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 Memorial Day	31				



Routines:

Outings/ Errands:

Projects:

Breakfast:

Lunch:

Dinner:

Snacks:

Contact:



“I’m bored.”

My 2 to 10 year old crowd had a great time making collages. I handed them scissors, magazines, paper, and glue, as well as old file folders to decorate. One of the easiest crafts we could have done. I stood by to help cut and just talk. They were so absorbed in their projects. It was great fun to watch.

Create an “I’m Bored” Box

This is a great “bag of tricks” to keep on hand for rainy days, too hot days, days when kids are just not easily pleased, or just a day when you all want a change of pace.

Build one of your own for the dog days of summer and have reinforcements for “one of those days.”

Here’s what you can include:

- scissors (and adult supervision as needed)
- glue sticks
- crayons or colored pencils
- old magazines you don’t care about
- construction or craft paper
- envelopes and stationery for letter writing



- art and craft books
- activity books – These may or may not include crafts, but they are full of activities for kids to explore. Some good ones include: [The Little Hands Nature Book](#), [Gizmos and Gadgets](#), [Science Play](#), and [Great Games](#)
- logic, mystery and thinking books – These are better suited for older kids who may not be into “little crafts.” Some to explore include: [A Case of Red Herrings](#), [Mad Libs](#), and [Mind Benders](#)
- Sudoku, word searches, and cross word puzzles
- *I Spy* books
- shadow paper
- etching paper
- glow-in-the-dark stickers
- *Make a Plate/Make a Mug* kits
- origami paper and instruction book
- beads and string
- old picture frames to paint, acrylic paints, and brushes
- bouncy ball kit – you’d be surprised at how easy it is to make your own bouncy balls
- other ready-to-go craft kits



Dress for Summer Success

Over the years, I've tried to fashion our summers like old time summer camps – without the bad food, bugs, and outdoor toilets. Following that theme, having a t-shirt to commemorate our summer has been a fun thing to do with my kids.

One year, I printed out a family camp logo onto iron-on t-shirt transfer paper and ironed them on shirts for everyone. Other years we've been content to tie dye t-shirts as a craft project.

On the next page is a summertime logo you can print out.

You can buy iron-on transfer paper at Stuff Mart or any office supply store. [Amazon](#) sells it, too. Print off as many copies as you have campers, and follow the directions on the package. You'll need to reverse the image when printing so that when you iron it on it reads correctly. Also, be sure to take note of any curing time after you iron.

If you want, you could tie dye your shirts to give them a little extra flair. Kids love that!



T-Shirt Art

For the writing to read in the right direction, you will need to reverse the image before printing. Consult your printer's manual or the directions from your iron on transfer paper for more information.

Sample





Tie Dye Tips for Success:

- **Use stained white t-shirts.** Don't go buy new shirts, just tie dye ones that are no longer good as "white" shirts. Save new ones to wear as new.
- **Buy [a kit](#).** Sure, you can get [individual boxes of Rit dye](#) but I was amazed at how much easier it was to work with the kit. It came with everything we needed, plentiful directions, and the dye came in convenient squirt bottles. No need for plastic tubs or buckets of hot water. Easy peasy.
- **Read the directions.** I am notorious for doing things without reading the directions first. It drives my husband batty. After jumping right into this project, I found myself consulting the directions multiple times anyways. Read the directions *first* and avoid making unnecessary mistakes. Which brings me to my next point....
- **Use the plastic gloves that come with the kit.** Yes, there's a reason why they included them in the box. Thankfully, blue hands only last about 24 hours. (Ask me how I know.)



- **Do all of this outside on the grass.** Your lawn can handle a little colored water. Your flooring? Not so much. We sat on the grass with a rimmed cookie sheet as our work surface. This created a relaxed environment with little risk of mess.

Print Your Own Passports!

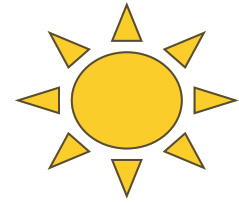
Kids love to imagine that they're grown-ups. Print off passports that they can carry with them about town on your adventures.

On the following pages, you'll find customizable "passports." Fill in each child's name. Print them out and glue a small photo on the back. Laminate them for protection. You can also purchase self-laminating id card protectors.

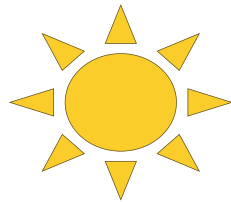
Punch or mark their cards each time you go on a big adventure.

Print your own passports!
Kids love to imagine that they're grown-ups. You can fill in each child's name, print out a passport for each and laminate them.

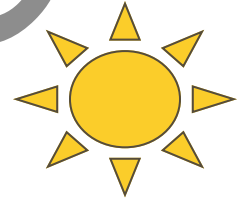
This Passport to Adventure
Belongs to



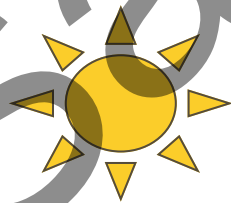
This Passport to Adventure
Belongs to



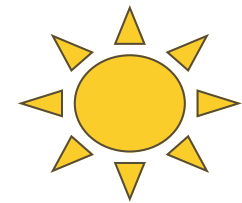
This Passport to Adventure
Belongs to



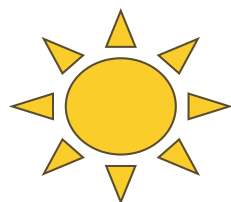
This Passport to Adventure
Belongs to



This Passport to Adventure
Belongs to



This Passport to Adventure
Belongs to



This Passport to Adventure
Belongs to

