

Family Fun Ideas for June

DAY 1 - Make a summer calendar with your child. List special things you want to do.

DAY 2 - Take your child to the local library and sign up for the summer reading program.

DAY 3 - Have a summer birthday? Write the party invitations. Include both words and pictures.

DAY 4 - Read a book with an author's name that begins with the letter A, tomorrow with the letter B, the next day with the letter C, and so on.

DAY 5 - Play Tic-Tac-Toe with letters or words. Younger children can use letters other than X and O, such as b and d. Older children can use summer words.

DAY 6 - Choose a letter at random. Have your child find items around the house that begin with that letter sound. Challenge older children to write more words than you that begin with that letter.

DAY 7 - See how many places in your home, not in books, your child can find words to read.

DAY 8 - Visit the library today. Find an alphabet book that is more than just "A is for Apple."

DAY 9 - Sing the alphabet song one time each hour throughout the day. Stop other activities for a moment and simply sing.

DAY 10 - Does your newspaper have a special children's page? Encourage your child to read it and complete the activities.

DAY 11 - Ask each person to bring a Mother Goose rhyme to lunch. Share the rhyme.

DAY 12 - Help your child make a puppet from a paper bag, an old sock, or a stick. Put on a show.

DAY 13 - Challenge everyone to learn a new word today. Use it at least three times. For more challenge use some of the words again tomorrow.

DAY 14 - Visit a used bookstore. Let your child buy a cheap favorite or two. Treat yourself to a favorite, also.

DAY 15 - Read under the stars. Take a blanket and book outside and read by flashlight.

June Ideas Continued

DAY 16 - Play Memory. Use pictures, letters, letter sounds, sight words, or even a traditional deck of playing cards.

DAY 17 - Set up a scavenger hunt. Leave notes around the house leading to other notes. The final note leads to something special.

DAY 18 - Visit the library. Check out a fiction book. Check out a book to read together and a book to read alone.

DAY 19 - Have a No TV or No Screens Night. Read, tell stories, maybe do arts and crafts, or play other games instead.

DAY 20 - Start with magnet letters on the refrigerator today. Older children can start with magnet words.

DAY 21 - Write your child's name in a vertical column. Use each letter to begin each line in a poem.

DAY 22 - Play word games such as Boggle Jr., Scrabble Jr., or Word Yahtzee today. Set up a family tournament.

DAY 23 - Encourage your child to start a new hobby. Check out the library for information about the hobby.

DAY 24 - Pick a letter out of a bag. Find who can name the most things that begin with that letter.

DAY 25 - Make a model together. Remember to read the directions together first.

DAY 26 - Bake fortune cookies today. Write short messages on small pieces of paper and bake into the cookies. Be careful not to over bake the cookies.

DAY 27 - Turn your child into a pet detective. Observe an animal closely and describe with as many details and adjectives as possible.

DAY 28 - Plan a book swap party. Admission is one book. Each child arrives with one book to donate and leaves with another book to read.

DAY 29 - Choose a famous person. Go to the library and find out more about him or her.

DAY 30 - Have a family campfire outside and tell stories. Or gather together inside around a large bowl of popcorn.

Family Fun Ideas for July

DAY 1 - Ask your child to design a book cover for a favorite book. Be sure that it is complete. Another related activity is an advertisement poster for the favorite book. Encourage other people to purchase.

DAY 2 - Create your own Memory game. Play with pictures of animals, letters, or summer words.

DAY 3 - If you have a busy summer and don't have time to read at night, then read in the morning.

DAY 4 - Visit the public library. Check out some nonfiction books. Consider a variety of books on similar topics.

DAY 5 - Stuck in traffic? Make up a story using the characters, actions, and setting you see.

DAY 6 - Choose a word, cut out the letters, rearrange the letters in alphabetical order, and re-create the word. Older children can choose a sentence, cut out the words, shuffle the words, and re-create the sentence. Still older children can choose a paragraph, cut out the sentences, shuffle the sentences, and re-create the paragraph.

DAY 7 - Find a simple science experiment to do with your child today. Read the instructions together and complete together.

DAY 8 - Cut out a story from the newspaper. Have your child read it and create a headline. Compare to the original.

DAY 9 - Add to the Memory game. Make more pictures. Match upper and lowercase letters, beginning sounds, or rhyming words.

DAY 10 - Lie on the grass and look at the clouds. Make up stories about the shapes.

DAY 11 - Write messages in mirror image. You can write a message for your child, and your child can try to write a message for you. Hold to a mirror and read.

DAY 12 - A rebus is a story that replaces some words with pictures. Make a simple rebus with your child. Older children can create more challenging stories.

DAY 13 - Play a game of "I Spy." Start with "I spy something red" or "round" or "beginning with /b/." Give additional clues after each guess.

DAY 14 - Start a jigsaw puzzle. Offer age appropriate puzzles. Or make your own jigsaw puzzle. Cut up a summer picture. Mix the pieces. Put back together.

DAY 15 - Visit an author's website. Read about the author and check out the activities.

July Ideas Continued

DAY 16 - Everybody bring a joke to dinner. No jokes? Do some research. Find something funny. Practice first.

DAY 17 - Going to the mall? Stop by the library along the way. Pick up a pile of books for the next rainy day.

DAY 18 - Can you think of 26 animal names, each starting with a different letter of the alphabet? (For the letter X, it can be positioned in the middle or end of the word.)

DAY 19 - Bake cookies with your child. Double the recipe. Ask your child to do the additional math.

DAY 20 - Play the Trip Game. "I am taking a trip with a cat. What else can I take along that rhymes with cat?" or "I am taking a trip with a dog. What else can I take along that begins with same sound as dog?"

DAY 21 - Visit the library today. Ask the children's librarian what seem to be the most popular books for the summer. Check out those books.

DAY 22 - Do a crossword puzzle with your child. The older the child, the more difficult the puzzle can be.

DAY 23 - Make alphabet soup. Print names on paper, cut out the letters, put into a pot, stir well, pull letters from the pot one at a time, and try to spell the names.

DAY 24 - Use the Memory cards and play Go Fish instead.

DAY 25 - Buy a sports magazine for reluctant teen readers. Not into sports? Try hobbies.

DAY 26 - Let your preschool child "read" to you tonight. Observe closely. You may be surprised at what you see. Let your older child read to you tonight, too. Sit back and enjoy the moment.

DAY 27 - Purchase something from the back of a cereal box today. Make sure your child does all of the work.

DAY 28 - Watch something on PBS or the Science channel or the History channel. Talk about it. Do some research for more information.

DAY 29 - Make words that relate to summer. Play Memory, Old Maid, or 20 Questions with the words.

DAY 30 - Rainy day? Have an indoor "camp-out." Make a tent from a blanket. Eat s'mores and read stories. Maybe try some storytelling.

DAY 31 - Have only a few minutes? Play some simple games. Use words from a story being read, or use some summer words.

Family Fun Ideas for August

DAY 1 - Play a board game today. Let your child read all of the cards. Help out when needed.

DAY 2 - Buy something with words on it, such as a hat, t-shirt, or ball. Encourage younger children to talk about the letters. Encourage older children to talk about the message.

DAY 3 - Play a basketball game of Horse. Use other animal names or summer words too. Play tag. Answer questions when tagged.

DAY 4 - Go online to find computer games that everyone in the family can enjoy.

DAY 5 - Ask the librarian for a book of tongue twisters. Practice one or two to share with others at dinner.

DAY 6 - Play some Dominoes. Use the traditional tiles or create your own tiles for matching letters.

DAY 7 - Connect the Dots today. Create pictures, letters, or names. Start with just dots, then graduate to traditional numbers, and then to letters that follow the alphabet.

DAY 8 - Write menus for dinner. Add candles. Make an in-home restaurant.

DAY 9 - Have a reading contest with older children. See who can read the longest without taking a break.

DAY 10 - Taking a trip? Play the alphabet sign game. Find signs that contain words that start with the letters of the alphabet. Start with the letter A and go in order.

DAY 11 - Spend the day asking only open-ended questions that begin with *why* or *how*. Good luck.

DAY 12 - Play Dominoes. Make your own set with pictures, letters, or words.

DAY 13 - Visit the library today. Choose an adventure or fantasy story. Read, relax, and enjoy.

DAY 14 - Each person brings a poem to read before dinner. Practice reading out loud beforehand.

DAY 15 - Going to the mall again? Stop at the bookstore at the mall.

DAY 16 - Ask your preschooler to sort socks by color; silverware by utensil; and reading material by book, magazine, or newspaper.

August Ideas Continued

DAY 17 - Say a word, let the child say the opposite. Say "up" and the child says "down".

DAY 18 - Ask an older sibling to read to a younger sibling. No siblings? Grab a cousin, a neighbor, or a friend. Sometimes even a pet will work out.

DAY 19 - Start the day with sticky notes in the bathroom. Write something for every member of the family.

DAY 20 - Label sheets of paper for members of the family. Draw a picture for each. Include as many details as possible.

DAY 21 - Make a shopping list today. Add a special treat. Ask your child to help out at the store.

DAY 22 - Research time capsules. Have your child make one. Put it away for a summer or two.

DAY 23 - Write a secret message in lemon juice. Have your child hold it over a light bulb to read. Or help your child invent a secret code for sending messages. Then leave notes for each other.

DAY 24 - Create your own letter Bingo game. Make some boards with 5 by 5 squares. Insert some letters into the squares. Create alphabet cards. Cut out a few chips, or use small toys for markers..

DAY 25 - Write some notes on sticky notes. Place around the house for children to read all day long.

DAY 26 - Visit an author website. Most can be found through simple searches.

DAY 27 - Time for alphabet soup. Print the child's name on separate letters. Put the letters into a pot. Ask the child to reach into the pot, pick out the letters, and complete his or her name.

DAY 28 - Make connections. Talk about how this summer is similar to last summer.

DAY 29 - Play word games with summer words. Try to recall words that bring back the best memories.

DAY 30 - Write a sentence on a strip of a paper. Cut out the words. Try to use the words to make the silliest sentences possible.

DAY 31 - End the summer with a family field trip. Remember to talk about what you see.