

Here are 10 ideas to keep your children engaged and educationally stimulated while having fun this summer. Also, check out the lobby at Phoenix Advantage. We offer free monthly issues of parenting magazines that are full of local activities for your family to enjoy!!

1. Get them to engage in learning disguised as fun

Invest in screen-time Invest in the right kind of screen time

You're unlikely to be popular if you ban computer games altogether, so instead why not rent or buy one or two new ones, make sure you select something with educational merit.

2. Help them build a new skill foundation- Introduce something new, in hopes that it turns into a passion

3. Eliminate boredom altogether

A family board game can provide all kinds of learning opportunities – counting, strategizing, negotiating and turn-taking – as well as providing plenty of laughs.

4. Register for a library card

Children should be encouraged to read daily. Not only does this enhance their reading ability, it also optimizes their comprehension. This is critical for success in the language arts, as well as mathematics.

5. Buy your child a journal

Encourage your children to keep a diary. This can be written or in the form of pictures or photographs and will help improve literacy, art, memory, and ICT skills. (Information Communication Technology)

6. Encourage creative play

Imaginative play is very important, but it's something which the rigid structure of school life often struggles to facilitate. This makes summer break an ideal time for delving into imaginary worlds. A box of dressing-up props can be a great starting place.

7. Plan a weekend trip

Field trips are a great way to educate and entertain a child during the summer months. Additionally, it helps bring each family member closer through bonding. There are many state parks, nature conservation areas, zoos, museums, and other places – such as local libraries – that offer specially-designed summer programs for families.

8. Go day-tripping

Visits to zoos or aquariums are great fun and packed with science-learning opportunities. Similarly, local castles or stately homes can be a three-dimensional history lesson (with a picnic bonus if it's a nice day).

9. Enroll in an educational camp

Things to consider are: Cost, location, day camp or sleepaway camp.

10. Encourage overall wellness

Physical activity is crucial for the development and educational success of a child. Ensure that your child moves around, gets outside in the sunshine, and interacts socially with others their age to create a well-rounded personal, social, and educational experience. Physical activity helps children develop skills such as concentration, team work and logic which can be transferred to the classroom. If you have a garden, or even a window box, encouraging your child to get busy with a packet of seeds and a trowel for a little science lesson in disguise.