

Stuck for things to do in the long summer holidays?

Early years settings and schools are often asked to share ideas about what parents can do with their children over the long summer holidays.

So a group of staff who work in local nursery schools, nursery classes, pre-schools and daycare settings recently got together. This leaflet is a result of us sharing our ideas about activities to do in the summer.

We have counted, and there are at least 50 ideas here! They are based on our experiences as professionals and as Mums bringing up children in West Berkshire.

Our most important reminder is that our wonderful West Berkshire Family Hubs in Calcot, Thatcham, Hungerford and Newbury are open pretty much all the summer and run a variety of drop-in activities for pre-school aged children.

Victoria Park Nursery School & Family Hub
Newbury, Berkshire RG14 1EH
01635 41296

office@victoriapark.w-berks.sch.uk
www.victoriapark.w-berks.sch.uk



50+ ideas for the summer

ideas for keeping your family entertained





Outdoor places to go

- Snelsmore Common
- The Chase in Woolton Hill
- Northcroft Park
- Hungerford Marsh
- Your local play park
- A new play park further away
- Thatcham Lakes
- Look-out tower at Greenham Common
- Canal towpath
- Donnington castle
- Inkpen woods
- Penwood woods
- Canal walk and over the railway (Thatcham)

Things to add to an ordinary walk

- Scarecrow hunts
- Blackberry picking
- Geocaching
- Have a picnic
- Puddle jumping in the woods
- Throw paper planes

- Wildlife walks – Inkpen common, Hungerford marsh
- Use your phone to photograph what you find
- Treasure hunt (in the garden)
- Rolling down hills (Northcroft, Coombe, Beacon hill)
- Cloud spotting
- Cow-spotting on Greenham/Hungerford common
- Rabbit spotting
- Climb a tree
- Train spotting
- Walk to a new park or playground
- Watch the sunrise
- Bike rides
- Paddling in puddles
- Splash park in Victoria Park

Indoor places to go

- Pets at home animal experience (may need to book)
- Sit in a barbers shop to watch haircuts
- Go on a bus
- Visiting the train station
- Library
- Shaw House
- Visit the dentist

Have you thought about ...

- Visiting some local allotments
- Going camping in the garden
- Donnington Castle in the dark
- Finding numbers on front doors
- Picking strawberries
- Blowing bubbles in the park
- Visiting a flower shop

Craft ideas

- Leaf rubbings
- Salt dough
- Make your own playdough
- Photo book
- Den making indoors or outside
- Cook together
- Make treasure maps for walks

Groups to look out for

- Family hubs - open all summer in Newbury, Thatcham, Hungerford and Calcot
- Summer holiday church camps
- Church toddler groups
- Mum and baby meet-ups in Debenhams
- Prayers & Bears at Kintbury church
- Newbury Rocks
- Newbury Mums Meetups (Facebook)
- West Berkshire Mums (Facebook)

Treats to save up for:

Whilst we've tried to make everything on the list free or low cost, we do have some extra recommendations about treats to save up for: Four Kingdoms in Headley, Bucklebury Farm Park, Finkley Down Farm in Andover, Steam in Swindon and the Living Rainforest in Hampstead Norreys. The last 2 are perfect for rainy days!

The Corn Exchange has a range of activities during the summer for younger children. And there are usually a couple of shows that are just perfect for under 5s.