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10 fun activities for kids to do at home

By Kenia Morales

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With such a cold weather my girls spend more time inside. This means that automatically they watch more television, which is something I don't want them to do. Don't get me wrong I can honestly say that I have become a great fan of Dora the Explorer and Sponge bob "thanks to my girls" but, I do not want them glue to the TV the whole day. I want them to use their imagination, learn new things and get rid of some energy. So, I schedule many activities with them during the day. In return I see that they have less time to pull each others hair because they are busy having fun. However, they are not the only ones enjoying themselves; they are giving me more space when engaged on individual activities and better yet! I am also having more fun with them. Yes, I have released my inner kid and you can too. Here is a list of fun thing to do with kids at home:

- Always have plenty of crayons and a special place for your kids. So, that they can use just for creating their little Picasso drawings. Make sure you praise their efforts. The special place can be a little activity table or even in the floor.
- Always have at home: construction paper, glue, children scissors etc. have them create paper crafts. For example draw a heart cut it, pasted with glue on construction paper, and add some glue with glitter for decorative purposes.
- Put on children's music and dance like there is no tomorrow with them. If you are truly in the mood of superstar/goofy then you can pretend to sing with a microphone and have your kids play their toy instruments and vice versa.
- For special days such as holiday's and birthdays make easy to do crafts with your child and give crafts to friends and family as gifts. Don't forget to tell your love ones how much help you got from your little assistants.
- Bake cookies or cake and let them help you.
- Challenge your little Einstein's brain with blocks and puzzles.
- Read stories
- Play dress up
- Hide a toy and help them find it by leaving little clues like blues clues cartoon.
- Play games similar to Simon says, hide and seek etc.

Kenia Morales is the publisher of online magazine <http://kpatra.com> "For Every Aspect of Today's Woman. Visit her site to find a variety of women related issues and topics" click here <http://www.kpatra.com/keniascolumn.htm> to find Kenia's little piece of heaven her inspirational column

Cruises For Kids - Enjoyment For The Whole Family

By Ryan Bombard

Adults and couples have been enjoying vacation cruises for quite some time but the trend has changed nowadays as the cruise lines are now providing these enjoyment facilities to kids as well. Cruises are now equipped with fun and enjoyment facilities for all members of the family.

Facilities offered to kids

Each cruise line has its own activity list for kids. The fun activities would generally include water slides, video arcades, pizza parties, miniature golf, plenty of games, sports, magic shows, art classes, science projects and much more.

In addition to the above, the kids can also enjoy Jacuzzis and swimming pools on board. Certain age groups are also taken on shore excursions when the ship docks at a port. These fun activities for the kids have the added advantage of allowing the parents to have more time for their own pleasure pursuits on the cruise.

Babysitting facilities are also offered by many cruise lines. Kids are grouped together age-wise under the watchful eyes of trained professionals.

Preparations for Taking Kids with You on a Cruise

If you are planning a cruise with your kids, you need to make proper preparations. As kids are liable to fall sick, you should carry medicines such as aspirin, eardrops, cough syrups, heating pad etc.

You should also carry a collapsible stroller. Although these are available on board, it is better to carry your own to save the cost of borrowing one. Furthermore, your child and you will be accustomed to your own stroller.

It is advisable to check beforehand the type of child care facilities available on board so that you know what to expect. It is possible that you might have to entertain your kids at night so you should carry games, video games and books.

Your kids will enjoy the cruise more if they have some of comforts available at home around them. Therefore, anything that can be conveniently packed should be brought along. This will give you extra comfort during the cruise.

Next time you take a cruise, bring your kid(s) along and let them enjoy all the fun filled activities.

Ryan Bombard writes about various cruise vacation topics.

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