

GIANT LIST OF IDEAS FOR BEING HOME WITH KIDS

(for: actual quarantine, school closures, weekend social distancing, anytime!)

Thanks to the [Princess Awesome & Boy Wonder](#) Community for the amazing suggestions!!

- Have each kid pick a topic they'd like to learn about and spend 30 mins each day on that topic
- Spend one day reading every single picture book we have in the house
- Bake something every day
- Have each kid write a letter and/or emails to a different friend or family member each day
- Use all of our building toys on one giant structure
- Wash our hands!!!!
- Races of various kinds in the backyard (hopping on one foot, crabwalk, walking backwards, etc.)
- Try stop motion animation with playdough
- Facetime grandparents a lot
- Inventory the plants & wildlife (from bugs on up) in your yard.
- Learn the parts of plants/flowers & how they function (bonus if they learn the Latin names).
- If you aren't too squeamish & have a spare clear shoebox size tote or 5-10 gallon tank, catch some pillbugs (roly pollies, sowbugs) & observe them (if you really do this, I can tell you how to set them up. I have about a thousand of them currently because it's too cold here to thin the herd & they've been reproducing all winter. They're pretty interesting).
- write a short story & illustrate it.
- learn how to do simple book binding.
- make paper (from your old mail!)
- [GoNoodle!](#) Great for guided movement, relaxation, etc.
- Board games, card games
- Legos.
- We have some extreme dot to dot books (1400 dots) that the kids love, especially the 5 year old!
- Lots of reading, playing with the dog,
- Working on learning to sew using stuff we have on hand.
- Card making/scrapbooking projects (mostly for me but kids can do it too).
- Getting the garden ready, we need to weed and work the ground. I might get seeds and we'll set up to have our own starts this year.
- Make tents and reading caves :) flashlights, tidy snacks, books, and pillows!
- Have a shadow show in the reading tent (we used blankets over chairs or a table)
- Get binoculars and learn about the birds near your house, look them up on google and search for their birdcalls on YouTube
- Learn how to make a stuffed animal
- Play with cornstarch and water and cheap action figures
- Watch all the hand washing videos & vote on your favorite. Discuss why each good, helpful, funny. The Holderness parody one is hilarious, the Vietnam Tiktok one is great choreography, some have good songs etc.
- Also pick your favorite song with a 20 second refrain or verse perfect for hand washing length of time.
- Have a board game day
- Write a story cooperatively. One person picks a character and the other picks a setting and then go gangbusters together.

- The folding picture story one! We called it “eat poop you cat” one person draws a small picture across the top of a paper the next person writes a sentence that describes that picture and folds Over the paper top of the paper hot dog style to cover the picture. So the 3rd person only sees a sentence and they have to draw a picture. They fold over the sentence.
- Any and all art is fun at home: beading, painting, drawing, play dough or kinetic sand, sewing, etc. when my daughter was young we could do art all day.
- Zumba or Dance-along videos on YouTube
- Draw self portraits on blank faces
- I've had them draw maps of places and then make directions from one place to another to see if someone else could follow it.
- We've done scavenger hunts, indoor treasure hunts where they follow clues through the house to a "treasure" at the end (could be candy, a movie, whatever), and a lot of charades.
- I made videos with my 3rd grade daughter teaching kids how to write code. [Check out the videos here](#)
- glow stick party
- popcorn + movie marathon
- Declutter toys!
- [Lots of art projects!](#)
- Dig up all the activity books, presents, etc that never got played with, and use those!
- There's always time tested building a tent in the house with blankets and chairs. Great for just before nap time.
- Do a study on planets, then have the kids create their own planets- how big is it, where in the universe is it located, atmosphere conditions, can it sustain life, how long is a day/year, name it, etc.
 - you could even spread the planets out around the house to show "approx." distance from each other.
 - [Watch this](#) to learn about relative distance
- Design a new space craft, draw plans, then create out of legos or household items. Spend some time pretending you're on different planets with different gravity, you could seriously spend a whole week on just fun space activities.
 - But that's not limited to space- these ideas would work for animals, geography, body systems, historical events/time periods, etc. Beyond that, do some fun physics experiments like making a bridge out of straws, egg drop protectors, paper airplanes, etc.
- [PuppetMaster](#): an app where you can animate anything from a drawing to a stuffed animal.
- Puzzle races: put several puzzles (20+ piece puzzles) in a paper bag and shake it up. Pour pieces out and give each person the puzzle box they are to put together. Go! (Cooperation tends to be a result as pieces are traded.)
- Audible!
- Water play
- Make ice cream
- Make and play with Play dough

From:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1o6kEgCKLn3cylm2hehhhSTIk7yRTd0C3zx49JS4wwCI/prview?fbclid=IwAR2CJdnD5dC-6habeMr-EOhlCOYMLBvgIW7WLAi7YbTfMCKr06TTIhC-5g>