



# FUN AHEAD: CREATING YOUR FAMILY'S SUMMER BUCKET LIST

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# SUMMER PLANNING IS A FAMILY AFFAIR

Understanding Your Child's Wants and Needs

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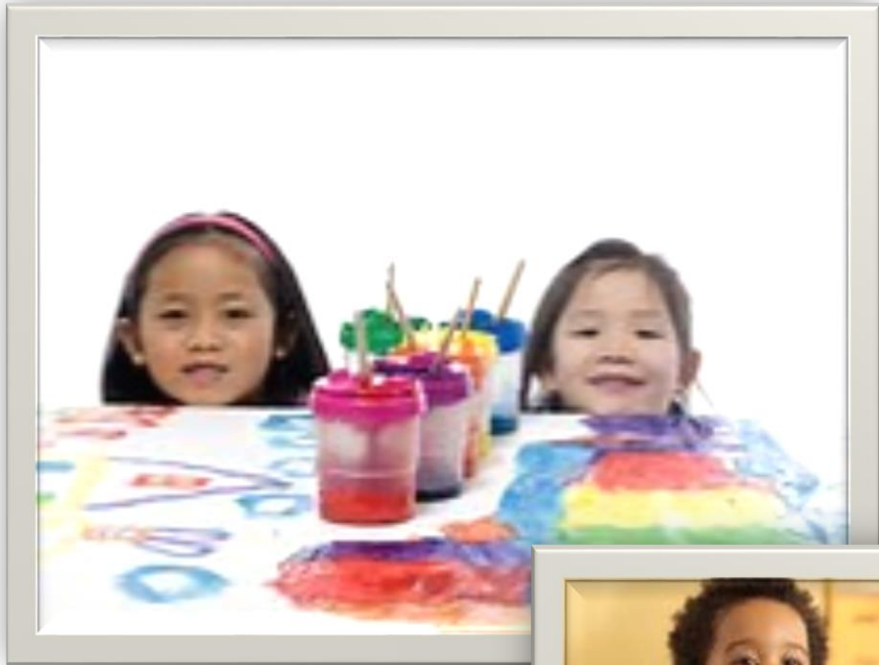
Toddlers & Preschoolers



Elementary School Age



Adolescents, Teens and  
Tweens



# Summer Planning With and For Toddlers and Preschoolers

# Addressing the Needs of Toddlers and Preschoolers

- Understand their method of communication with family and friends
- Provide them with a safe environment
- Provide them with opportunities to explore, build, pretend and manipulate
- Play and explore within their time frame

Read to your child

Play a listening Game

Offer limited choices

Stick to a regular routine

Pack snacks and drinks

Bring simple games and toys





# Summer Planning With and For Elementary School Age Children

# Addressing the Needs of Elementary School Age Children

- Ready for wider world of learning
- Test sense of confidence in the world
- Learn socially acceptable and appropriate behavior
- Begin to make commitments to social relationships outside of the family

Realistic expectations

Maintain dignity of your child

Provide opportunities to succeed

Education is their primary focus

Ego-Centric  
What's in it for me?

Likes to learn new skills



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# Summer Planning With and For Adolescents, Teens, and Tweens



# Addressing the Needs of Adolescents, Teens, and Tweens

- Value your teen's Independence
- Communicate guidelines and expectations
- May spend more time alone and demand privacy
- Compare their own ideas and beliefs to others, and challenge those that are different

Practice their thinking skills

Maintain dignity of your child

Importance of Self image

Concern for others and society

Risk takers

Be a resource and role model

# Conducting Your Summer Fun Planning Meeting



# Planning to Plan: What to Bring to Your Family Summer Fun Planning Meeting

- Calendar with everyone's schedule
- Budget
- Maps, guidebooks, local event guides, wish lists
- Paper and Markers
- List of ground rules AKA Positive Communication tips



# Ground Rules for a Successful Summer Fun Planning Meeting

- Set a time for the meeting so everyone in the family can join the planning
- Explain that each family member can voice their opinions or suggestions for activities without being interrupted—conch shell approach
- Be flexible
- No negativity allowed
- End it sweet



# Tips for Successful Planning and Playing

- Build in some structure
- Don't forget meal time and snacks
- Assign daily and weekly chores for everyone
- Start some new family traditions
- Build in pockets of quiet time for all







*Ideas  
for  
Amazing  
Summer  
Fun*



# Family Summer Fun Bucket List

- Pajama Party
- Blow bubbles
- BBQ
- Bowling
- Bird watching
- Hiking
- Plant a garden
- Help out at a community garden
- Scavenger Hunt
- Make brownies or cookies
- Taco Tuesday
- International Cooking
- Berry Picking
- Picnic in the park
- Give back to the community
- Create a healthy snack
- Play with shaving cream
- Sidewalk chalk drawing
- Dinner outside
- Inside picnic



# Family Summer Fun Bucket List

- Campfire picnic
- Finger Paint
- Popcorn and video at home
- Ghost Walk
- Free museum day
- Free community events and concerts
- Make lemonade
- Fly a kite
- Star gaze
- Go fishing
- Watch the lightning bugs
- Play in the rain
- Camp in the backyard
- Eat watermelon
- Roller skating
- Look for cloud animals
- Visit Farmer's Market
- Library summer reading programs
- Have lunch with Mom or Dad at work
- Visit a historical sight

# Family Summer Fun Bucket List

- Roast marshmallows
- Make kick-the-can ice cream
- Have a pillow fight
- Make homemade jam
- Make and bury a time capsule
- Play a new board game
- Mail a letter to a special person
- Explore a new culture
- Create a theme night dinner
- Visit a beach



# Bucket List Just for Toddlers and Pre-schoolers

- Play with bubbles
- Finger paint
- Feed the ducks and birds
- Smell the flowers and leaves
- Run through the sprinklers
- Read a story outside
- Create a fort
- Watch the bugs and worms
- Make a noodle necklace





# Bucket List Just for Teens



- Invent a new kind of pizza
- Grow a pizza garden
- Make a music video
- Build a sand castle
- Overnight movie marathon
- Frisbee golf
- Help out at a local charity
- Go swimming
- Sleep in backyard under the stars

# Just for Teens Continued

- Play water balloon games
- Make ice cream sandwiches
- Create a website
- Get up early and watch the sunrise
- Watch the sunset
- Have a summer clothes fashion show
- Have a high tea using ice tea
- Learn to grill outdoors
- Visit a college
- Play miniature golf
- Picnic at a local park
- See a local sporting event
- Paint your toe nails
- Read



# What's On Your Family's Summer Bucket List?

