



## Helpful Resources For Parents

### **Summer Activities to Do at Home**

Every moment is a time to learn and the summer months provide the perfect opportunity. Whether you need some creative ideas to keep the kids entertained all summer long or just need something for a rainy day, these sites will give you ideas for activities that are fun and promote learning.

#### **Born Learning**

Through a partnership between the United Way of America and United Way Success By 6, the Born Learning campaign creates quality-learning opportunities for young children. The site offers both information and tools for parents and the greater community.

<http://www.bornlearning.org/>

#### **National Association for the Education of Young Children**

A list of fun and educational activities for parents or care providers that will keep summer boredom at bay.

<http://www.naeyc.org/ece/1998/11.asp>

#### **Creative Kids**

This site is full of creative ideas for art projects that don't cost a lot and utilize many items already found around the home.

<http://www.creativekidsathome.com/summerkidsactivities.html>

#### **Kidsource**

This site includes activities for children of all ages, but is also a great resource for parents of young children. Included is a section for making math fun for kids under five as well as monthly calendars of activities for your little ones.

<http://www.kidsource.com/education/summer.activities.art.html>

#### **Michigan Department of Education**

This site focuses on home activities for preschoolers to 2<sup>nd</sup> graders and emphasizes parents as their children's first teachers. The site is an excellent resource for enhancing children's literacy skills.

<http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140--69358--,00.html>

### **Preschool Home Activities for Parents and Young Children**

This site includes educational activities for parents of young children with an emphasis on counting, language, and early reading skills.

<http://www.preschoolrainbow.org/preschoolers.htm>

### **Education World – Summer Reading Lists and Activities**

This site is dedicated to information for educators, but also houses a section for home activities that parents can easily carry out with their young children.

[http://www.educationworld.com/early\\_childhood/](http://www.educationworld.com/early_childhood/)

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### **Tips For Selecting Child Care**

Choosing quality care for children can be a hard task. These sites offer helpful hints and important questions to ask when selecting a center for your child.

#### **2-1-1**

Texas' information and referral guide to health and human services across the state.

<http://www.211.org/>

#### **ChildCareAware**

ChildCareAware is a resource that offers tips for selecting summer child care.

<http://www.childcareaware.org/en/tools/pubs/pdf/107e.pdf>

#### **Early Connections**

Early Connections is a project that provides free information and tips for parents, including a section with helpful tips for choosing high-quality child care.

<http://www.earlyconnect.org/>

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### **Summer Child Care Solutions**

Finding reliable summer care can be a difficult task for many parents. Typically many parents struggle to cobble together a variety of activities to cover the summer months. Below are some ideas beyond traditional child care centers that offer summer care opportunities.

Local Independent School District Sponsored Programs

Local Parks and Recreation Department

YMCA

Summer Camps

Church Programs

City Sponsored Activities

Family, Friend or Neighbor Care

Co-operative Care\*

Area University Sponsored Programs

\* Co-operative care can range from informal to formal child care arrangements between parents or communities.