

# Summer Boredom Busters

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# Outdoor Summer Boredom Busters

Perfect for warm days, backyard adventures, and letting kids burn energy in the sunshine.

- [Hiking](#)
- Park hopping- try a new park each week
- Texture rubbings- on trees, rocks, etc.
- Nature collage
- [Nature journal](#)- draw birds, trees, flowers
- Slip-n-slide
- Climb Trees
- Make some [bottle rockets](#).
- Splash pads
- Swimming at neighbor pools, or local city pools- try new ones
- Ride bikes/scooters
- Go fishing
- [Collect rocks & paint them](#)
- Star gazing- [learn constellations](#)
- Play in sprinklers or have a water fight
- Camp in the back yard
- Make a mini obstacle course in your back yard
- Have a car wash, pet wash, bike wash
- Fly kites- make homemade ones
- Pick wildflowers and [press between books](#) - make into bookmarks with contact paper- or make [flower art](#)!
- Have the kids make [treasure hunts](#) for each other
- [Bug collecting](#) & identifying
- Water balloon fights
- Homemade bowling with water bottles
- Learn [Geocaching](#)
- Make [bird feeders](#) or bird houses
- Picnics
- [Bubbles](#)
- Build towers with rocks
- Go on a night walk with flashlights & glow sticks
- Feed ducks at the pond
- Roller skating
- Have a water gun fight
- [Plant a garden](#)
- Frisbee
- [Mini Olympics](#)
- [Nature](#), Photo or Alphabet Scavenger Hunt
- Bury toys in sand box & “excavate” Or try [ice excavations](#)
- Mud pies
- Host a neighborhood parade
- Melt crayons on hot rocks
- Play flash light tag
- Look at [cloud shapes](#)
- Learn bird calls
- Have bottle races in the river or [paddle boat races](#) in the bath tub!
- [Make milk carton boats](#)
- Have a lemonade stand
- Paint the driveway or fence with water- or [homemade sidewalk chalk paint](#)
- Have a trash cleaning day outside or at park
- Play parachute with a sheet
- Try [Ice painting](#)
- Go on a bike ride somewhere new

## Classic Kids' Games

See my list of [Classic Outdoor Games for Kids](#).

- Red Light, Green Light
- Mother May I?
- Charades ([use my printable cards!](#))
- Simon Says
- Leap Frog
- Hopscotch & other [sidewalk chalk games](#)
- Hula Hoops
- Jump Rope games
- Freeze Tag
- Capture the Flag
- Sardines (reverse hide and seek)
- Kick the Can
- Four Square
- Hide and Seek
- Tic-Tac-Toe (learn how to play [Ultimate Tic-Tac-Toe!](#))
- Jacks
- Kick ball

## Out & About Adventures

- Visit a petting zoo or farm
- Explore a children's museum or science center
- Go to a planetarium or observatory
- Attend a local library event or storytime
- Check out city festivals and parades
- Look for \$1 kids' movies or outdoor concerts
- Go bowling (check for free summer programs!)
- Try mini-golf or a batting cage
- Visit historical museums or pioneer villages
- Splash around at a water park
- Explore a state park or go hiking
- Tour a local factory or bakery
- Take art or craft classes at a local store
- Visit a zoo or aquarium
- [Volunteer](#) at a local shelter or food bank
- Go berry picking at a u-pick farm
- Attend a summer camp or [host your own mini-camp](#)
- Visit your grandparents & learn something from them!
- Go on a photo scavenger hunt!

## Indoor Summer Boredom Busters

- Subscribe to some kid-friendly magazines
- [Do some Origami](#)
- Paper Dolls
- Make [Penny Spinners](#)
- Block towers
- Play Dress up
- [Paper Airplanes](#)
- Host a tea party- even if its just with your stuffed animals
- Build Forts
- [Cootie catchers](#)
- Write letters to relatives
- [Puppet shows](#) (or [shadow puppets](#))
- Make sticker books
- Make scrapbooks
- Make [slime](#)
- Journals
- [Magazine collages](#)
- Do some fruit, veggie or leaf prints
- Check out craft books from library & do some of them
- Make taffy or [rock candy](#)
- Play I-spy (or make a book with [printable I-Spy pages](#))
- Trade houses with friends for a day
- Start a book club
- Make some [straw rockets](#).
- Make a piñata
- Make a tasty [peanut butter ball snack](#).
- Make sock puppets
- Make your own [music videos](#)
- Make up skits
- Manicures/pedicures
- Make homemade board games on poster board or [with a box](#)
- Homemade popsicles or [ice cream](#)
- Make some flavored popcorn
- Bake treats & share with friends
- Have a [homemade pizza](#) party
- Host a toy swap with neighbors
- Blow up balloons & draw faces with sharpies
- Have an indoor picnic on floor
- Try making these cool [Twirligigs](#)
- Play with glow sticks in bathtub in the dark
- Make necklaces
- Have a pajama day
- Finger painting (or a [mess-free version](#))
- [Water color painting](#)
- Make [edible necklaces](#)
- “Let” kids wash all the windows
- Make a homemade movie- and host a screening party
- Create a time capsule
- Make Ice cream in a bag or [bread in a bag](#)
- Learn to sew or [knit](#), or learn another new hobby
- Have Lego building contests with themes
- [Crayon painting](#)
- Tin foil creations- sculpt with a roll of foil
- Build with [marshmallows & toothpicks](#)
- Make marshmallow guns out of PVC pipes
- [Homemade puzzles](#)- photos on popsicle sticks, or old cereal boxes
- [Write your own books](#)
- [Write poems](#)
- Paint/decorate white canvas tennis shoes
- Make jam or salsa

- Do secret [service](#)
- Let the kids [plan & make the meals](#)
- Have [lunch all in a muffin tin](#) or ice cube tray
- Living room racetrack with masking tape & cars
- Have a silly photo day- take photos of each other in silly poses
- [Thumbprint pictures](#)
- Paper bag puppets
- Cardboard box houses
- Freeze Dance- play music & freeze if turned off
- Have a doll spa
- Make [paper helicopters](#)
- Build card houses
- Get a giant jigsaw puzzles to work on all summer
- Hide 10 buttons or pennies- try to find them all
- Tie-dye t-shirts
- [Repurpose old crayons- melt and pour into a mold](#)
- Shaving cream painting- or fizzing [shaving cream snowmen!](#)
- Pudding painting
- [Rainbow Rice Sensory Box](#)
- Make a collage on sticky side of contact paper
- Make [homemade soaps or bath crayons](#)
- [Go fishing in the bathtub](#)
- Make an art box for kids- full of crafty things they can use whenever
- [Build shapes](#) with marshmallows & toothpicks.
- Get a city map & mark out places you go regularly
- Make feeling box with Kleenex box. Put things inside & feel to guess what they are
- Set up a mini town with toy cars, houses, animals, Legos, etc.

- Bowl of bubbles- warm water in a bowl with dish soap & some straws- let them blow or try [Square bubbles!](#)
- Participate in [reading reward programs](#)- Barnes & Noble, Chuck E. Cheese, Scholastic, Sylvan
- [Homemade musical instruments](#)
- [Make Cloud Dough](#)
- Recycled trash art- save bottles, t.p. rolls, cans, etc. There are so many crafts to make out of old trash!
- [Make crystals](#)