

Summer Time Fun

Here are a couple of ideas you might want to try during the dog days of summer.

Get ready for the Oatmeal Raisin Relay!!

What you need: Old clothes or swimsuit, two large pans of cooked oatmeal and raisins

Players: Small to large groups

How to Play: Cook up two large pans of oatmeal and cool. In each pan stir in an equal number of raisins. Divide into two teams. Line up the pans of oatmeal at the end of the course. Teams are to run down the course one at a time, retrieve one raisin, run back and deposit a raisin in a container. Then the next teammate does the same. The first team to retrieve all the raisins is the winner. Play outdoors on a warm day so at the end the teams can have an oatmeal fight. Oatmeal is supposed to be good for the skin!!

Or you may want to try a more sedate activity.

Can You Top This?

Teamwork is an important skill to learn. In this game, children practice taking turns and working with others. They also build language skills.

What you'll need: Imagination

What to do:

- Make up a story, with parents and children taking turns, one sentence at a time.
- Decide on a topic. You might begin the first sentence with "Once upon a time a pirate lived in..."
- Continue taking turns making up and telling parts of the story until you decide to end it- maybe after 8 or 10 sentences.
- Take turns beginning and finishing a story. Ask other family members and friends to join in.

By making up stories, children can improve their language skills. They can also start to understand how ideas flow from one to another, and that everyone's ideas are important.

This can be played inside or out.

Garden Bubble Gum Blow

Required: Packs of bubble gum and new garden gloves

Players: Small to large groups

In large groups set up two to three teams. Have your teams line up and sit down if possible. On "go," the first person in each team puts on the garden gloves. They will then open the package of gum, pull out a piece, unwrap it, chew it, blow a bubble, and then pass the gloves and gum to the next player. The first team to complete the task wins. The winners can take home the garden gloves and all the used chewing gum they can handle