

## Seasons

- ▶ Watch a sunrise, sunset or a lightning storm together.
- ▶ Invite some of your child's friends over.
- ▶ Watch fireworks.
- ▶ Blow bubbles.
- ▶ Make pencil rubbings or tree bark, keys or coins.
- ▶ Have a yard sale.
- ▶ Feed the birds. Go bird watching.
- ▶ Make animal footprints using scrap materials. Play tracker.
- ▶ Look for real animal tracks.
- ▶ Have a neighbourhood picnic.
- ▶ Have an outdoor or indoor scavenger hunt.
- ▶ Talk about where snow and ice come from. Cut out paper snowflakes.
- ▶ Build a snow family or house.
- ▶ Go sledding.
- ▶ Tell ghost stories by candle light.
- ▶ Gather clothes and toys for the needy.



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# Parents as Partners IN EDUCATION

## Sharing Fun Activities

**A Parent's Guide**



**WORKSHOP**

**8**

# Sharing Fun Activities

## Motivational activities

- ▶ Do something nice for someone else.
- ▶ Write a letter to a special person.
- ▶ Hide notes around the house telling your child how special he is. Give clues to help him find the notes.
- ▶ Tell stories about when your child was younger.
- ▶ Make a family history scrapbook with photos and stories.

## Humour

- ▶ Everyone lies on the floor with their head resting on another person's stomach. Each person takes it in turn to say "Ha" without laughing.

## Learning activities

- ▶ Look in the paper for free events.
- ▶ Visit a museum—go when it's free.
- ▶ Have your child keep track of everything she eats today. Talk about healthy eating and the changes she could make.

- ▶ Talk about events in the news.
- ▶ If you are planning a big purchase, ask your child to research the best price.
- ▶ Make a map of your neighbourhood.
- ▶ Learn to fingerspell using American Sign Language.
- ▶ Grow carrot tops. Cut 2cm off the top of a carrot. Put it on the window sill in a container with a little water.

## Go to the public library

- ▶ Let your child pick a book to read to you as a surprise.
- ▶ Learn about international holiday traditions and how they are similar or different from yours.
- ▶ Plan an imaginary trip to another country.
- ▶ Research a topic, for example local birds.
- ▶ Use an atlas to find countries.

## Craft activities

- ▶ Help your child make cards.
- ▶ Bake some nutritious snacks.
- ▶ Make something with used wrapping paper.
- ▶ Make kites or paper airplanes.
- ▶ Make a book of favourite jokes.
- ▶ Make a puppet show.
- ▶ Write captions for pictures or photos.
- ▶ Make a city with boxes.

## Games

- ▶ Have a "No TV" day. Play a board game, cards or "I Spy" instead.
- ▶ Describe an object. Don't name it.
- ▶ Do a jigsaw puzzle.
- ▶ Listen to music or sing together.
- ▶ Say some tongue twisters.

## Birthdays

- ▶ Celebrate birthdays by making the birthday boy or girl in charge of family activities for the day. (It's cheaper than a party.)

## Physical activity

- ▶ Go swimming together.
- ▶ Play a game of baseball, softball, frisbee or basketball in the park.
- ▶ Play Crazy Olympics (hop, walk backwards with a balloon between your knees, run a sack race, carry a ping pong ball on a spoon).
- ▶ Play balloon volleyball.
- ▶ Play flashlight tag.
- ▶ Clean out the garage or a closet.
- ▶ Walk in a forest.
- ▶ Have a water fight.
- ▶ Rake the leaves together.