

Educational and Fun Things to Do With Your Children

Now that children are on their summer vacation from school, the question that concerns many parents is what to do to keep them entertained? If they are not attending summer camp or are only going on certain days, it leaves lots of time for them to become restless and bored. Of course, it's important for children to continue their studies, so that they are ready to start the new school year. However, what do you do with their down time? Many parents find this a little stressful and are searching for ways to keep their kids busy.

Disneyland and Universal Studios are great places to take your children but costly. There are many other activities for children that can also be fun and inexpensive. We are all very fortunate to live in Los Angeles. We enjoy a wonderful year- round climate, as well as being in the entertainment capital of the world. Some people feel that Los Angeles is lacking in culture but in fact, there are numerous museums, gardens and historical sites that are free and open to the public. Have a meeting with your children. You can discuss the activities they would like to do and see on their summer break. Give suggestions such as: a picnic at the beach; an early morning or early evening hike, bring a camera and take photos of the scenery; visit the library; look for free concerts in the park.

The following are some suggestions; Valley Cultural Center has "Movies on the Green" from July 12 through August 23, they begin at dusk. Griffith Park Observatory, The Paley Center for Media, The Nethercutt Museum, and the Fowler Museum at UCLA are all free admission. Getty Center, Getty Villa in Malibu, California Science Center, and the California African American Museum are all free but charge for parking. The National History Museum, George C. Page Museum at the La Brea Tar pits and Kidspace Museum are all free on the first Tuesday of each month. The Autry National Center and LACMA are free every second Tuesday.

The Arboretum of Los Angeles County – admission free every third Tuesday. Craft and Folk Art Museum – admission free every first Wednesday. Skirball Cultural Center, MOCA, Hammer Museum and Japanese American National Museum – admission free every Thursday. Huntington Library and Gardens – Admission free first Thursday of every month. Museum of Latin American Art, Long Beach Museum of Art – admission free every Friday. Norton Simon Museum, Pasadena Museum of California Art – admission free every first Friday of the month. Pasadena Asia Museum – admission free every fourth Friday of each month. Los Angeles Fire Department Museum – admission free on Saturdays. Conejo Valley Botanical Garden – admission free on Sundays.

There are many different forms of learning. Visiting interesting places and getting hands on experience creates a visual memory. Taking educational trips with your children and having discussions in the car on the way home can give your children memories that can last a lifetime.

At Woodcrest School our students take several educational field trips throughout the school year such as; visiting the Space Shuttle Endeavor at the California Science Center, seeing the whales and studying sea creatures in the tide pools at Point Dome, watching a performance of Aladdin at the Pasadena Playhouse, learning how to make pizza at the California Pizza Kitchen, going to the Los Angeles Zoo and many more.