

During Parent Night we brainstormed ideas about things to do instead of “homework”. Our emphasis was on three areas. Following are ideas we came up with:

Playtime:

1. Inverse Science website
2. Simple/easy science experiments
3. Fetch with the dog
4. Teach the family dog new tricks
5. Play catch
6. Play volleyball with a balloon
7. Watch sports games together
8. Wii games
9. Skiing
10. Card/board games

Downtime:

1. Listen to music; try a new genre such as classical, jazz, etc.
2. Dance to music in the kitchen/living room together
3. Read
4. Do art projects/draw/paint
5. Dress-up in funny clothes and take a group picture
6. Make up plays and perform for family
7. Naptime
8. Watch a movie
9. Go for a walk, hike, bike ride
10. Play with Legos together
11. Play a board game together
12. Build with recycled materials
13. Karaoke
14. Watch movies with subtitles
15. Group yoga

Family time:

1. Cook together and talk about measurement, liquid/solids, temperature, changing phases
2. Grocery shop, estimate and budgeting
3. Find one thing you’ve never eaten and try it as a family
4. Attend sporting events
5. Find simple recipes that the kids can make for the family with little help
6. Visit the local library
7. Read a book together that everyone likes...with older kids having their own copies to read along
8. Family game night

9. Hiking
10. Dig fence posts and determine amount of concrete needed
11. Fold clothes with corners and discuss geometric shapes
12. Get “lost” together and problem solve finding home

Websites for Parents and Students and Skills Covered

<a href="http://www.coolmath4kids.com">www.coolmath4kids.com</a>	(addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, fractions)
<a href="http://www.nasa.gov/kidsclub">www.nasa.gov/kidsclub</a>	(math, science, technology)
<a href="http://www.discoverykids.com">www.discoverykids.com</a>	(science games, videos, articles, activities)
<a href="http://www.funbrain.com">www.funbrain.com</a>	(math, reading, grammar, science, spelling, history)
<a href="http://www.khanacademy.org">www.khanacademy.org</a>	(math & science)
<a href="http://www.moneyville.ie">www.moneyville.ie</a>	(understand how money is earned, wants and needs)
<a href="http://www.natgeokids.com">www.natgeokids.com</a>	(animals, science games, videos, articles)
<a href="http://www.starfall.com">www.starfall.com</a>	(alphabet, phonics, vocabulary, reading)
<a href="http://www.sumdog.com">www.sumdog.com</a>	(numbers, measurement, fractions, money, arithmetic)
<a href="http://www.getepic.com">www.getepic.com</a>	(reading)
<a href="http://www.youcubed.org">www.youcubed.org</a>	(various)
<a href="http://www.abcya.com">www.abcya.com</a>	(math reading, social studies, strategy, keyboard)
<a href="http://www.lcivics.org">www.lcivics.org</a>	Civics games that 4-8 grade will really like
<a href="http://www.mobymax.com">www.mobymax.com</a>	Math games

(Some of these websites offer free and paid portions to their site.)

Following social media sites on Instagram and/or twitter:

NASA, Discovery HD ad Discoverychannel, National Geographic (Natgeowild, natgeoanimal, natgeocreative, natgeotravel, paulnicklen – national geographic photographer) Science, Inversescience, nasakennedy