

Kid's KOrner

Ideas For Summertime Fun Indoors And Outdoors

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EPHRATA (Lancaster Co.) —

Kids can always find plenty to do outside during the summertime, but what do you do when it rains?

Here are ideas to have as much fun inside as outside. Clip this page and show it to an adult who can help you do some of these projects.

The kids pictured on this page are cousins who recently visited relatives in the area for a week of summertime fun. Zachary Martin, son of Karl and Patti Martin, lives in Southern Pines, North Carolina. Stephanie Martin, daughter of Dean and Eunice Martin, lives in Birmingham, Alabama. Peter Martin, son of Daryl and Karen Martin, lives in Berne, Indiana.

Try these ideas and you will find playing inside can be as much fun as swimming and roasting hot dogs outside.

You don't need to buy play dough at the store. Have your child help you make your own play dough, using one of these recipes.

Homemade Play Dough

- 1 cup white flour
- ¼ cup salt
- 2 tbsp. cream of tartar
- 1 cup water
- 2 tsp. food coloring
- 1 tsp. vegetable oil

Mix the flour, salt, and cream of tartar in a medium-size saucepan. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly (about 3-5 minutes). Mixture will become stiff. Keep stirring until the mixture cleans the bowl like pie dough. Remove from heat, beat, cool. Knead like bread on a floured surface. Store in a plastic bag or air tight container.

Edible Play Dough

(let your child make her own snack creatures)

- ½ cup peanut butter
- ½ cup honey
- 1 cup dry non-fat milk solids
- 1¼ cup graham cracker crumbs
- Raisins, pitted prunes, grated carrot or carrot curls, grated apple, etc. for decorations.

Combine all ingredients in a bowl. Mix well.

Caution: Do not use honey in uncooked foods for infants under the age of one year. Honey may contain botulism toxins.

Tulip Planter

Cut individual egg cups out of a molded egg carton. Scallop the sides and paint with poster paint in gay tulip colors.

Fill a paper or plastic container (cottage cheese carton, etc.) with sand, gravel or soil and cover sides with foil. Make stems by gluing pipe cleaners to bottom of tulips, press stems into the soil material in a pleasing arrangement. Vary the length of the stems. Add leaves cut from craft paper, stiffen by gluing pipe cleaners down the center of the leaves.

Play Dough Prints

Give your child a rolling pin (real or play) to flatten the dough. Provide a variety of different objects to make clay imprints. Try buttons, seeds, uncooked macaroni, paper clips, etc.

Comparing Sizes

Have your child roll three play dough "sticks" in different lengths. Ask your child which "stick" is longest? Shortest? Middle sized? Have her roll four "sticks." Ask her to start with the smallest "stick" and line them up so each stick is bigger than the one before it. Gradually add more sticks to this game.

Numbers

Write the numerals 1-2-3-4-5 across a sheet of paper. Tell your child the numerals you are writing. Have him name them with you.

Have your child make small balls of play dough. Place the correct number of balls under each numeral — one ball under the numeral "1", two balls under the numeral "2", etc. Count the balls with your child and name the numeral.

Remove the balls from under the numerals. See if your child can place the correct number of balls under each numeral.

Warm and Cold

Have your child shape the play dough into two balls. Put one ball in the refrigerator and the other outside in the sun for one hour. (If it isn't a sunny day, have your child wrap one ball in aluminum foil. Place in a warm oven (250°F) until the play dough is warm.)

Give your child the warm and cold balls of play dough. Let her feel them. How are they different? Similar? What happens as she works with the cold dough? Warm dough?

Play Dough Shapes

Encourage your child to roll, pound, squeeze, and pat the dough into different shapes. Let him use cookie cutters to cut out different shapes. Count the shapes he makes. Group them together. For example, put all the long ones in one group, short ones in another, and round ones in another.

BAREFOOT MARBLE GAME

Materials:

- 2 pie tins or flat boxes
- Marbles

Directions:

Put the marbles in one container. Let family members take turns seeing how many marbles each one can take from one container and put in the other by using their bare toes.



Zachary Martin demonstrates that the Barefoot Marble Game can be played standing up or sitting down.



Stephanie Martin watches as her cousin, Zachary Martin, picks up marbles with his toes in the Barefoot Marble Game.



Hot dogs is one of the favorite foods for kids during the summertime. Here, Peter Martin takes a bite.



Swimming pool fun is a favorite way to cool off on a hot summer day.