

Creative Activities for the Whole Family to Enjoy!

(WARNING: *Learning* May Occur During the Execution of These Activities)

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As summer officially comes to an end and a new school year is under way, it can sometimes be challenging to get the whole family in one place at the same time. When your family *does* have some downtime together, we encourage you to turn even the shortest time into fun and memorable experiences with some of the following creative activities and ideas.

It's "Play" Time

As a family, create your own play or movie that all members of the family can take part in! Have everyone get involved with the parts they find most interesting: Writing a script (creative writing), acting, directing...even set design or costumes. With a production crew like this, you'll want to invite friends, family members and neighbors to come over and watch your family's creative storytelling come to life. Don't forget the popcorn!

What's Cooking?!

Have a bake-off! Cooking competition shows are fun to watch, but *participating* in a cooking competition is even better! Divide into teams and choose a theme (cookies, pastas, etc.). Children of any age can practice their math skills by measuring ingredients and their reading comprehension skills by following recipe directions. Invite friends to serve as judges. The winning recipe could be based on taste, appearance and uniqueness, but the best part of this creative activity is that no matter who wins the competition, there will be plenty to enjoy together afterward!

Google and Giggles

Have a themed trivia night. Appoint one member of the family to research using Google, textbooks, etc., a topic of interest (health, science, history, math, pop culture, etc.). This family member will be in charge of preparing trivia questions for the rest of the family to answer. To include all family members, questions should range from easy to challenging and include variety, such as problem solving, simple answers and multiple choice.

"Self Portraits"...(Sort of)

Sit down as a family and discuss your goals for the next twelve months (school, financial, health, etc.). Your family can then take the first step toward making the goals a reality by creating individual vision boards. Find pictures, words and quotes from magazines or newspapers that inspire or represent the goals, and creatively display them on a poster board or other surface for each family member. Display your family's completed vision boards in a prominent location where they can be viewed frequently to remind you of your goals!

Our Personal Favorite: "And then..."

This is a creative twist to storytelling. Chose a family member to begin a story, whether it is a classic tale or their own imaginary story. After the beginner shares the first few lines of the story, the next person will continue the story. Continue until everyone has a turn, with the last person telling the end of the story. Get ready for laughs and surprises about just how creative your family is. To add another element of challenge, give the storytellers one or more things that must be included in the story, such as a dog, an alien or the Eiffel Tower.

The Knox County Schools Family and Community Engagement Department encourages your family to get creative with these and other fun and educational activities. Please contact the Knox County Schools Family and Community Engagement Department at 594-9525 and Family Resource Center at 594-1192 if we can be of any service to you and your family. For more information, visit knoxschools.org/fce and knoxschools.org/frc.

Featured Family Event of the Month

The 15th annual **HOLA Festival** will take place **September 27 and 28**. Come celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month through family-friendly activities that involve art, dance and delicious food. The festival doubles as a **donation drive for Second Harvest Food Bank**, so be sure to bring a canned food or dry good!