



# Summer Fun Activities

## July & August

### Outdoor Fun

Sprinkler fun day

Ice block or ice Cubes in the water table (fun in the sand table too!)

Paint sidewalks, buildings, and fences with water

Lunch or snack picnic in the shade

Provide a towel/beach chair, sunglasses, umbrella, and a basket of books

Dish washing stations, truck & bike washes, dress up or baby clothes washing & line drying

Sand castle building contest (create many categories so that everyone receives recognition rather than having just one winner).

Set up a campsite for dramatic play

Provide Picnic and Barbecue props for dramatic play

Plan, plant, and tend a butterfly garden

Fill a wading pool with water and use it to sail boats, fish, or hunt for seashells (be sure to provide CAREFUL supervision during this activity)

Invite students to trace each others shadows using sidewalk chalk and fill in individual features and details

Chain link fence or fishnet weaving (set up a large fishnet between two trees or posts, set out long, colorful pieces of material or ribbon, and weave away)

Show students how to make rubbings using paper & crayons. Invite them to find a variety of surfaces, pavement, tree bark, wood grains, etc.

Sink or float guessing games- fill dish basins with water and provide a variety of items with which to experiment

**Watermelon exploration-** Serve watermelon for snack, discuss color of the flesh, rind, and seeds, make plans for the seeds (planting, washing and using in a collage, etc). Invite students to create paper mache watermelons. Sing Down By The Bay and encourage students to fill in the blank with their own silly rhyme. Make watermelon pops by pureeing seeded pieces in a blender, pouring into Dixie cups, adding a popsicle stick, and freezing.

**Happy Birthday USA Party** (encourage students to wear red, white, and blue, bake and decorate a flag cake or cookies, paint with these colors, create a giant flag by encouraging students to step in red paint and walk heel-to-toe to create stripes, paint a section blue, and once it dries place white hand or finger prints in this area.

**Create various instruments and have a parade** (beach parade in bathing suits, patriotic parade in red white and blue, etc.

**Glue and glitter fireworks-** use drinking straws to blow glue around a dark blue or black piece of paper and sprinkle with glitter

## Outdoor Messy Play

Mix up a batch of **Oobleck** and allow students to experiment

2 cups of corn starch

3 drops of food coloring

enough water to make a thick mixture (about the texture of pancake

batter) approximately equal amounts of water and corn starch, mix water in **slowly**.

Mix all ingredients together. Provide pans, spatulas, bowls, funnels, etc

Mix up a batch of **bubbles** and provide a variety of bubble making tools (berry baskets, fly swatters, bubble wands, etc.)

1/2 cup of dishwashing liquid (Dawn or Joy)

2 cups of water

2 teaspoons of sugar

Add a drop of food coloring for colorful bubbles

**Bubble Prints:** place colored bubble mixture in a small, wide bowl and invite student to blow bubbles in the mixture with a straw. Lay a piece of white paper over the top of the bubbles to make a print.

**Rock painting:** Invite students to collect, wash, dry and paint rocks (once the paint has completely dried, students may want to use a Sharpie marker to add facial features)

## Summer Fun Recipes

### **Fruity Tootie Smoothie:**

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup yogurt

2 cups frozen fruit

1 T. sugar

Using a blender, mix all ingredients until smooth and creamy.

### **Watermelon Cookies:**

Add red food coloring to sugar cookie dough. Roll out dough and use a cookie cutter or plastic lid to cut into circles. Cut each circle in half and place on cookie sheet. Press 5-7 miniature chocolate chips into each cookie to resemble seeds. Bake as directed. After cooling, dip edges into green frosting. Enjoy!

### **Ice Cream in a Ziplock Bag:**

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup milk,  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup half and half, 1 T. sugar,  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon vanilla extract, 2 sandwich sized

Ziplock freezer bags, 1 gallon sized Ziplock freezer bag, 2 cups ice, 1 T. coarse salt

Place one small bag inside the other and add the following ingredients: milk, half and half, sugar, and vanilla extract. Seal both bags securely (squeeze out extra air). Add ice and salt to larger bag, place smaller bag inside larger bag and seal firmly. Shake, Shake, Shake and turn the bag for 5-10 minutes. Remove smaller bag and enjoy!

### **Peanut Butter Spread:**

1  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup peanut butter,  $\frac{2}{3}$  cup oatmeal,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup honey,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup mini chocolate chips,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup raisins (optional)

Combine all ingredients and serve with apple wedges or celery sticks.

### **Sun Cooked S'mores:**

Place one graham cracker on a piece of foil, sprinkle with chocolate chips and miniature marshmallows, cover with another graham cracker and cover with foil. Place package in the hot sun for 15-30 minutes until all ingredients are hot and gooey.

### **Frozen Banana Pops:**

Ripe bananas, chocolate chips, popsicle sticks, chopped nuts (**be sure the are no allergy issues in your class!!!**) or sprinkles-- Peel bananas; cut in half crosswise. Insert a wooden stick into flat end of each banana half. Lay bananas on a shallow pan or baking sheet; freeze for about 3 hours, until very firm. Melt chocolate chips over hot water. With a spatula, quickly spread melted chocolate over each banana, coating well. The chocolate will become firm almost immediately. Roll in nuts or sprinkles if desired, Wrap each banana in foil; store in freezer.

## **Summer Fun Art Activities**

### **Sunlight Faded Pictures**

Cut shapes from paper, and use a glue stick to affix them on colored construction paper (a glue stick will allow. Tape the paper to a sunny window, facing out, and leave for at least a week (longer for higher contrast), then peel off cutouts. You can also lay three-dimensional objects (try rickrack, toothpicks, or buttons) flat on a piece of construction paper in a sunny place where they will not be disturbed.

**Colored Sand Creations:** Divide the sand into small plastic bags, according to how many colors you want in the picture. Add food coloring to the sand in a bag, one drop at a time until the color is what you want. Pour the sand into a small pans or bowls to dry. Once the sand has dried, students may layer it in see through, plastic containers or use it to create sand art pictures on pieces of cardboard or tag board.

**Forever Sand Castles:** 3 cups of play sand, 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  cups cornstarch, 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  cups water, Mix the ingredients together in an old pot. Cook the mixture over low heat, stirring constantly. When it gets thick, take it off the stove and let cool. Once it is cool, use the spoon to turn it out on old cookie sheet. Invite students to create any shape they like, let it dry, and keep the creation forever! A quick spray of Pam or other lubricating spray helps the sand pop right out of the sandcastle molds.

**Terrific Tie Dye:** Use spray bottles with food coloring and water to tie-dye large sheets, towels, shirts, etc.

### **Sidewalk chalk dipped in water**

**Outdoor Painting** (place paper on easels, tables, the ground, or use clothespins to attach to fences)

**Appliance Box Painting** (ask an appliance store to save large boxes, set them up outdoors and provide a variety of colors, paint brushes, rollers, etc)



## Summer Fun Titles

Happy 4th of July, Jenny Sweeney~ Leslie Kimmelman

F Is For Flag... ~ Wendy Cheyette

Corduroy's Fourth of July ~ Don Freeman

Apple Pie Fourth of July ~ Janet S. Wong

Red, White, and Blue ~ John Herman

The Story of America's Birthday ~ Patricia A. Pingry

L Is for Liberty ~ Wendy Cheyette Lewison

The American Flag ~ Lloyd G. Douglas

Summer (Four Seasons Series) ~ Nuria Roca

It's Summer! ~ Linda Glaser

One Hot Summer Day ~ Nina Crews

The Night Before Summer Vacation ~ Natasha Wing

Hats off for the Fourth of July ~ Harriet Ziefert

Happy Birthday America ~ Mary Pope Osborne

Beach Day ~ Karen Roosa

The Flag We Love ~ Pam Munoz Ryan

One Cool Watermelon ~ Hannah Tofts

Ready for Summer ~ Marthe Jocelyn

One Watermelon Seed ~ Celia Barker Lottridge

Watermelon ABC's ~ Mary Beth Hiers

One Watermelon Seed ~ Celia Barker Lottridge

Maisy Makes Lemonade ~ Lucy Cousins

From Cow to Ice Cream ~ Bertram T. Knight

I Like Ice Cream (Good Food) ~ Robin Pickering

Ice Cream: The Full Scoop ~ Gail Gibbons

## Summer Fun Vocabulary

Sparkle

Grill

Independence

Picnic

Freedom

Sunscreen

Hydrate

Parade

Moist

Fireworks

Stripes

Celebration

Lifeguard

Flag

Evaporate

Sizzle

Pulp

Crackle

Rind

Hammock

Vacation

Lazy

Barbeque

Teacher note: Please remember to limit children's exposure to extreme heat during the summer months. Playing outdoors first thing in the morning or later in the afternoon is helpful on very hot days. Remind children to hydrate often (research suggests every 10 minutes). Provide easy access to cool water. Ask parents to supply sunscreen for their children. Plan a variety of water play experiences & HAVE FUN!