

GAME IDEAS FOR STAYING IN WITH THE FAMILY!



FUN ACTIVITIES FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY WHEN BEING OUT IS NOT AN OPTION.

Entertainment/Social

Love musicals? Try a free 1-week trial of [Broadway HD](#) Streaming Service. View several classic Broadway and West End stage productions without ever leaving your home. You can also find several musicals and stage productions on various streaming services like [Amazon Prime Video](#) and [Vudu](#).

Disney+[®] and Netflix[®] both offer extensions for your Chrome[®] browser on any PC that allow you to have a virtual movie “party” with your friends so you can still watch a movie together. Simply install the Netflix Party or Disney+ Party extension (available from the [Chrome Web Store](#)), select a movie, and share the invite link with your friends. It also allows you to chat with them, send messages, and gives one person control to pause the movie for everyone so you’re all on the same scene. Everyone must have an active account for the respective streaming service, but this is a great way to keep in touch and have some fun with friends, while still practicing responsible social distancing.

Zoom[®]/Microsoft Teams[®]/Ring Central[®]/ GoToMeeting[®]/ Skype[®] – You may have already used one or more of these services to conduct virtual meetings while working from home, but they’re also another way to stay in touch with friends. Let kids that are out of school see each other. Enjoy a virtual happy hour with your pals. Share some laughs and lift each other’s spirits.

Education

With so many kids unable to attend in-person schooling right now, many education websites are offering free subscriptions to their platforms. They include [Alchemy](#), [Book Creator](#), [BrainPop](#), [BreakoutEdu](#), [Cisco WebEX](#), [Discovery Education](#), and so many more! Click [here](#) for a complete list so you can see which one is right for your kids and your family.

Take a virtual field trip with your kids. Can’t get out to the museum or the zoo? Bring them to you! Many museums, zoos, and aquariums are offering webcams to watch the critters and virtual tours so you can appreciate different works of art and learn any number of fascinating facts. [Create a virtual field trip lesson plan](#) or a [zoo questionnaire](#) to engage your kids and make sure they’re getting the most out of their experience. Participating venues include

the [Louvre](#) in Paris, the [National Gallery of Art](#) in Washington D.C., the [Metropolitan Museum of Art](#) in New York, [Van Gough Museum](#) in Amsterdam, [Uffizi Gallery](#) in Florence, the [San Diego Zoo](#), the [Smithsonian’s National Zoo](#) in Washington, D.C., [Reid Park Zoo Lion Cam](#) in Tuscon, [Ouwehand Park Polar Bear Cubs Cam](#) in Rhenen, Netherlands, [Monterey Bay Aquarium](#), [National Aquarium](#) in Baltimore, [Yellowstone National Park](#), tour [Ellis Island](#) or [Colonial Williamsburg](#). See [Anne Frank’s house](#). Visit the [Great Wall of China](#). The options are practically endless!

For the older kids, or even adults that just want to learn more, the Ivy League Schools are offering around 450 free online classes. That’s right – you can attend classes at Harvard, Brown, Cornell, Princeton, Dartmouth, Yale, Columbia, or the University of Pennsylvania. You can find an updated list of courses [here](#) and a guide on how to sign up [here](#). Classes include subjects like Financial Accounting, Fundamentals of Neuroscience, Ancient Philosophy, Principals of Biochemistry, Project Management, Economics, Calculus, Robotics, and so much more!

Start a journal or diary. Whether your kids write it out or types it up, keeping a journal helps fine motor skills for younger children, boosts their creativity, keeps them accountable for their daily activities and learning, and can be a healthy way to process what’s going on in the world around them.

Great Schools has provided a fantastic list of worksheets that are free to access and print. You can filter by grade level and subject. <https://www.great-schools.org/gk/worksheets/>

Disney[®] has partnered with Khan Academy[®] to bring you Imagineering In a Box. ‘Imagineering in a Box’ is a free online program that brings together the diverse talents of Disney Imagineers around the world for a one-of-a-kind learning experience and is part of Disney’s commitment to helping today’s youth create the future they imagine. The series offers 32 videos in which Imagineers share how they use a wide range of skills – from story development and conceptual design, to math, physics and engineering – to create immersive experiences. The online curriculum aims to ignite curiosity, inspire creativity, and encourage innovation in the minds of students and teachers

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alike, while creating fun and engaging opportunities to explore new concepts. Modules range from a tutorial on engineering software, to an interactive exercise where learners are encouraged to gather items around them and create something new. The program's hands-on components will allow students to relate new concepts to real-world examples to bring treasured Disney stories to life. Each activity is designed to be scalable, allowing individuals to learn on their own or in a classroom setting. Click [here](#) to get started!

[MEL Science](#) is a subscription delivery services that brings new kid-friendly science experiments home each month. They're all safe and designed for in-home use. Inspire wonder with a Galaxy in a Bottle or Martian Rust. Pique their curiosity with the Carbon Snake or Tin Hedgehog. Ignite their imagination Chromatography and painting with light. Download their companion app to take a deeper dive.

Life Skills

Clean and Declutter. Now that spring has officially sprung, it's time to do some deep cleaning. Make sure to get floorboards, wipe down cabinet doors, clean the grout between tiles, clean window screens, etc. Consider donating any clothes, blankets, or gently worn shoes to a local homeless shelter. Many places have drop-offs to just drop and go.

Learn how to cook and/or bake. Teach the kids how to cook an egg, bake bread from scratch, make fresh butter out of whipping cream. These are all useful skills to have. The more we can do in our homes, the less we have to go out. There are countless videos available to help you get it just right. It's fun, and some can be treated as their own science-experiment with real-life practical application. Check out how to make a sourdough bread starter and keep it alive [here](#).

Plant a garden. If you have the space and supplies, it's time to re-plant your garden. Clear out any weeds or dead plants. Show the kids how to re-grow simple things like green onions just by simply placing the roots back into water. Lettuces and spinach are ready to harvest in a few weeks. You can stick a potato into soil to grow more potatoes. Herb gardens can be grown in small pots in your windowsill and don't require much space. It's a great way to stay occupied and grow your own healthy food. You can have seed packets, soil, everything you need shipped directly to your door.

Arts, Crafts, Games, Family Time

Create a Lego[®] Challenge. Give your child(ren) a set of 20 -30 Legos and challenge them to build a structure or vehicle of their own imagination.

Hold a scavenger hunt. Write out clues to locate objects and more clues throughout the house and yard. Make sure to have a prize at the end for the winner. Build your scavenger hunt around a theme. Harry Potter fans can search for horcruxes, use music lyrics to form clues for a Popstar hunt, do an Easter Egg hunt like never before.

Write hand-written letters to and make greeting cards for loved ones. It's a lost art and will brighten someone's day.

Make homemade play dough. All you need is flour, salt, water, and a drop or two of food coloring. Other recipes include cornstarch or cream of tartar. You can find several recipes for this classic craft online.

Make origami animals out of construction paper or wrapping paper. You can find easy ideas and full instructions for kids [here](#).

DIY marbled paper with shaving cream and food coloring. Fill a shallow dish or pie pan with shaving cream or foam. Use a dropper to drop watercolor paint or food color onto the foam. Swirl with a chopstick or other stirring stick. Press a piece of cardstock onto the foam. Use a piece of cardboard or a scraper to shave off the foam. Set off to the side to dry. You can use them to cut out shapes and make beautiful greeting cards.

Play your favorite board games – Monopoly, Scrabble, Scattergories, Life, you name it. There are so many games out there that are fun and educational. You can find 16 card games that will teach your kids math and reasoning [here](#).

Have a movie night. Make some popcorn, break out your favorite candy, turn the lights off, put the electronics away and watch a family movie together. Have a discussion afterward. Was it funny or scary? What did you like? If you were to change anything, what would that be? Get kids thinking along the line of story-telling. Identify key plot points. Did it have a resolution? Who was the protagonist and who was the antagonist?

Look at old family albums. This is a great way to help kids connect with their past so they can build strong family bonds in the future. Tell them about you, their grandparents, share stories about your siblings. Share your favorite memories growing up. Talk about vacations, or your favorite pet. What was your favorite music to listen to? Play it for them if you can.

Going stir crazy? Go for a walk, ride your bike, or put on roller skates/inline skates if you have them. Go for a drive. Avoid any areas with a lot of people, but getting out for fresh air and a little exercise can help relieve some of the stress of the current situation and clear your mind.

Work on a puzzle. Large puzzles can provide just the right amount of challenge to give your mind a break, but could take several days to complete so you can keep coming back to it. Clear a table. Make sure you have enough room and light, and get to work putting together your favorite masterpiece. Want even more of a challenge? Try a 3-D puzzle!