



101 fun ways to play with your child

1. use water or ice cubes to "paint" outside
2. make chalk drawings on the sidewalk or driveway
3. use a stick to draw in the dirt
4. kick a ball around
5. play catch
6. play hopscotch
7. make puppets with "leftover" socks
8. play freeze tag
9. pretend: "What if...you were a balloon? a deer? a raindrop?"
10. blow bubbles
11. ride trikes and bikes
12. swing together
13. play in the local park
14. pick dandelions, braid them, wear them
15. pack a picnic and take it somewhere – check out the ants when they visit!
16. make your own milkshake or smoothie
17. look at baby pictures
18. lie down and watch the clouds
19. play in sand
20. tag, you're it!
21. cut or tear junk mail, make a collage
22. play marbles (use pebbles)
23. collect pebbles, notice their colors
24. play "family", your child chooses roles
25. dance to music
26. sing along with the radio
27. wash dishes together
28. jump rope
29. do jumping jacks
30. play "Simon Says" or "Susie Says"
31. try to catch bugs, admire them, release
32. trace each other's shadow in the dirt
33. plant seeds, nurture them, watch them grow
34. jump in puddles – *SPLASH*
35. turn off the TV and read together
36. look at books together
37. look for reflections in puddles
38. go on a nature hunt – find a smooth pebble, something green, a leaf, etc.
39. make a sheet tent over a clothesline
40. make a sheet tent over chairs or couch
41. look for patterns and textures
42. get a FREE library card – USE it!
43. play category games – name all that you can think of: fruit, clothing, animals, etc.
44. take a walk
45. make popsicles
46. run around the outside of your house
47. play with fridge magnets
48. play in mud – get DIRTY!
49. play hide and seek
50. color, draw or scribble with crayons on paper
51. crawl around on your lawn – be a horse!
52. play with flour on the table
53. hang out with friends or family
54. play "I spy with my little eye..."
55. visit a pet store (you don't have to buy!)

56. mini golf – it's free for under 3 at Fore-U
57. buy a baby ice cream cone
58. write a story your child tells
59. have your child illustrate it
60. make up your own songs!
61. tell each other silly jokes
62. splash in a bucket of water outside
63. see how far you can spit watermelon seeds
64. dance around the house to the radio
65. pick berries – eat a lot in the patch!
66. cook and bake together – let them measure, pour, stir, break eggs, decorate the cookies, spread the sauce, etc
67. pick your Halloween pumpkins
68. go sledding
69. make a snowman
70. make snow angels
71. go to the beach
72. make sand angels
73. look for seashells
74. pull each other around in a wagon
75. catch snowflakes on your tongue
76. chase butterflies (but don't catch them)
77. find the answer to a question your child asks – look it up
78. read TO your child before bedtime every night
79. find earthworms, put them in a garden

80. gather beautiful leaves, press them under something heavy
81. make a leaf pile and jump in it!
82. swing from a low branch
83. visit your local swimming hole
84. make a treasure hunt in your backyard
85. attend a free community concert
86. make up songs for everyday activities – sing while changing diapers, washing hands, getting dressed, putting on lotion, taking a bath, etc.
87. get creative with household items – let your imaginations run wild!
88. throw pebbles into a river or lake or even a puddle – notice the splash, watch the ripples
89. build forts out of couch cushions
90. check out wildflowers – if you don't know what they are, identify them with a book
91. notice and identify birds
92. look for fish, frogs, salamanders and snails
93. play Chutes and Ladders, Candyland or UNO
94. make playdough
95. play Leapfrog!
96. do each other's hair
97. play Charades – make up your own
98. make lemonade, set up a lemonade stand
99. wrestle – keep it fun!
100. pick a bouquet of wildflowers
101. be silly! laugh and laugh and laugh!



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