

## Fun activities for Kids that Will Buy You Some Extra Time



0-5



5-10



11+



Free-  
\$50/wk



\$50-  
\$100/wk



\$100+/  
wk

- **Preschool camps:** There are half and full day camps for kids as young as 3 years old. This can be a great opportunity for pre-K kids to meet new people and try new skills. If this is a new experience for them, try to sign them up with a friend so they are with a familiar face.



- **Set up your own preschool camp:** If you have both younger kids and older kids, you can run your own 'preschool camp' at home with your older kids watching the younger ones. Set up a safe space in your home, close to where you'll be working. Create a schedule with easy activities and frequent snack breaks. If you only have one younger child, invite one or two of their friends over to join in the fun. Counterintuitively, this will actually make it easier to entertain them.



- **Vacation Bible School:** VBS is a sweet deal. Do a quick Google search for VBSs in your community and you'll likely turn up many options. They are usually half-day action-packed programs run by churches, who charge nominal fees.



- **Day camps:** If you do your planning early enough, there are an enormous number of day camps available for kids. Focusing on a wide variety of activities ranging from coding to sports to musical theatre, there is a day camp out there to hold any kid's interest. They are one of the more expensive options on this list, so you may not want to line one up for every week, but sprinkling in a few throughout the summer will be great for both you and your kid(s).



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- **Volunteering:** For older kids, summer is a perfect time to start (or continue) earning some much-needed volunteer experience. Help your kid(s) make a list of possible opportunities based on their interests and start making inquiries as early as possible. The best volunteer roles fill up quickly. Here are some ideas: Hospitals, nursing homes, community centres, aquariums, YMCA, festivals, farmers markets, library, museums, pet rescue centres/SPCA, food banks, and churches (VBS). Sites such as ... and ... post volunteer opportunities as well.
- **Leadership camp:** Leadership camps can help grow confidence and improve self image, while helping older kids learn the valuable skills required to lead. Again, there is a wide variety of these camps, but they do fill up quickly, so try to sign up as early as possible.
- **Stage a play:** If your kids run on the dramatic side, why not encourage them to stage a play with some friends? Offer up your family room, garage, or backyard as a rehearsal space and have them run rehearsals 2-3 times per week. They can write the play themselves or you can get a script from ... Encourage them to choose one person among them to direct and get everybody involved with making costumes, props, and sets. Have them put the show on for their families at the end of summer.
- **Put them to work:** There's nothing like a little hard work to build one's character. Find jobs that your kids are capable of and hire them to do the work. Remember those items you crossed off your list a few minutes ago? Maybe there was something on there they can help with. Older kids can, among other things: mow the lawn, wash the car, work in the garden, declutter their rooms or shared spaces and prep items for a garage sale, wash windows, prep a room for painting, clean cupboards, and make simple meals. Reward them fairly for the efforts and you'll not only have busy kids but a shorter to-do list as well.



## Fun activities for Kids that Will Buy You Some Extra Time

These symbols indicate the most appropriate age level for each activity:



0-5



5-10



11+

These symbols indicate the price range for each activity:





Free-  
\$50/wk



\$50-  
\$100/wk



\$100+/  
wk

- **Family:** If this is an option for you, use it! As much as you can. If there are grandparents, aunts, or uncles nearby who want a chance to spend more time with your kids, don't deny them the opportunity. Make plans in advance and see if you can set up a regular time for them to hang out with the grandkids. 
- **Train a mother's helper:** If you have friends with young teenagers, this is the perfect chance to help them gain some new skills and make a few bucks. Arrange a schedule for them to come over and watch your kids while you are home working. They have the peace of mind of knowing you're nearby, and you have some much needed focus time. 
- **Trade kids with a friend:** If you have a friend who also needs time for writing or working this summer, why not set up an exchange? You can take her kids one or two days per week while she works and she can do the same for you. Bonus: your kids get to hang out with their friends. 