



Mom-to-Mom Handbook of
Fun Activities for a Rainy Day



*Great ideas by Moms at
MomConnect.com and the MomConnectBlog.com*

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Thank you to all the wonderful moms who shared their fun and unique “Rainy Day Activities”! Sometimes there’s no better resource for our kids than fellow moms who’ve been in the trenches. Enjoy and we hope you put these wonderful ideas to good use this winter!

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POPULAR! Suggestions we saw more than once, but included only once:

- Make tents with pillows and sheets (most popular suggestion!)
- Make Playdough
- Baking cookies!

Obviously, these Rainy Day activities are a hit – so don’t overlook them!

NOTE for CONTRIBUTORS: Please note that we took the liberties of correcting spelling and grammar mistakes 😊; Also - we didn't include suggestions that were too broad (ie: not enough detail) or ones we received more than 1 of. If you didn't find yours included, we're sorry. 😊 Please do suggest a topic for our next eBook!

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Arts & Crafts



Make Paper Hats (30-60minutes)

My daughter's favorite rainy day activity is making paper hats. This takes up a good bit of time and we have fun flipping through magazines and finding pictures to paste on them. Newspapers, paper plates, paper bags — they all can be used to make paper hats. The simplest one is using newspaper. Here's a whole list of different patterns.

http://www.hatsmade.com/paper_hat_patterns.html

- *Contributed by Marianne*

Make a Birdhouse (30-60minutes)

Bird houses are fun to make out of milk cartons and foam sheets, glue stick, paints, cut out flowers, use just about anything for décor. You'll need wire to hang them, let the imagination take flight. You can use twigs, leaves, popsicle sticks, beads, glitter and paints. Be sure to make a doorway at the bottom of the carton before decorating. Let the fun begin! Collecting the supplies you need is fun to!

- *Contributed by Margie Crossman*

Draw "Rainy Day" Pictures (15-45minutes)

Have everyone draw their very best rainy day pictures and use different colored paper to glue on "frames." Tape the pictures to the walls to create your very own art gallery, and then have each artist explain their work.

- *Contributed by Yummy Sushi Pajamas*

Keep Crafting Supplies on hand!

{Great for all ages}

I also make it a point to hit the % aisle at Michaels Crafts at least once a month to keep a good amount of crafting supplies and kits on hand. They have great kits for kids to do and they are fairly simple.

- *Contributed by bernadette c*

Kitchen Activities



Make Ornaments (45min – 1.5 hours)

One of my favorite things to do is make Ornaments. You can make them for any holiday or event as long as you have the cookie cutters to match!

- 4 Cups of Flour
- 1 Cup of Salt
- 1 1/2 Cups of Hot Water
- Holiday Cookie Cutters
- Decorations, Glitter, Paint, Beads, Etc.

Knead the dough & roll out like you would if you were making sugar cookies & then cut out the shapes as desired. Pop them in the microwave and then cook on high for 2 minutes. Then decorate & paint!

They make great decorations for any holiday as well as great gifts!

Plus they're EASY!! :-)

- Contributed by Meghan Harvey

Baking/Decorating (30-60minutes)

Experiment in the kitchen. Bake cookies together, make homemade playdough, or decorate cupcakes.

- Contributed by Yummy Sushi Pajamas

Playdough

Nothing says fun like warm homemade playdough... its hours of fun!

- Contributed by Greta

Basic Playdough Recipe (Nonedible)

- 1 cup flour
- 2 Tbsp cream of tartar
- ½ cup salt
- 1 to 2 Tbsp cooking oil
- 1 cup water
- food coloring

Mix flour, cream of tartar, and salt in a pan. Mix desired coloring with water, add with oil to dry mixture. Cook over medium heat until thick. Mix in coloring later if preferred.

Toys & Fun Games



Legos (15-45minutes)

{Good for small spaces}

I have three boys so on rainy days there is nothing better to keep boys busy than legos! We have contests to see who can create the best Star Wars ship or house or vehicle. Then set them up where we can all vote “privately” for the winner. It’s a great way to spend time together, encourage kindness and teach good sportsmanship if they lose. I’m amazed at how my boys vote honestly, not just for their own and then pat each other on the back for a job well done!

- *Contributed by Tasha*

Make Forts and Tents (30-60minutes)

1) BLANKETS and SHEETS! Provide blankets and/or sheets for kids to build “tents.” Actually, the imagination will dictate what the structures end up being ~ tents, cabins, castles, forts. The kids get to use the couches and chairs as support for the coverings and voile! They have a new playground.

2) Those same blankets and sheets can set a stage for a play. The kids set the stage, practice the parts and then perform the production when Dad gets home.

By the way, if it is the spring rainy season when you may still need the blankets some nights, this is a great transition before they are packed away for the winter. If it is the fall rainy season, this is a good reason to get the blankets out for airing out the packed away smell.

- *Contributed by Debbie Pendell*

Indoor Camping (30-60minutes)

Rainy days at our house involve all the blankets that can be found. The kids are given free rein to rearrange furniture and build tents. They use chairs, tables and couches. Then we pretend we are camping. We have a picnic, and make s’mores in the microwave. We also pull out the flash lights and challenge each other to make animals with our hands using the flashlights to shine on the wall. The kids love it when as a family we all pull out the sleeping bags and sleep in the tents they made.

- *Contributed by Lisa*

How much is in the jar? (15-30minutes)

{slightly older kids}

We do 'guesstimation' jars. we find jars and fill them up with whatever each child wants and guess how much is in each jar. it gives them great math practice as well as a chance to be creative. estimating goes a long way with learning skills in life.

- *Contributed by lisa mccarthy*

Scavenger Hunt!

{slightly older kids}

There are so many rainy day activities that are fun to do. Setting up fun baking projects, fun art projects, making up skits and dressing up in costumes, playing board games – but my favorite activity for rainy days is to have a SCAVENGER HUNT around the house. You can either make a funny list of things to find, or you can plant clues around the house (since time is quite precious, id go with the first). If you really want to spice it up, you can then ask the kids to do “paper bag dramatics” with the items – basically they have to make up a story using the items as props. It's fun, its creative, and it's very very entertaining.

- *Contributed by judithsthoughts*

Have a contest

One exciting thing you can do (especially with kids) is have contest. There is a number of ways you can do this. Kids love it!

You can have a contest about things they should know or will learn soon. This is great because when your kid is at school or on the playground, it naturally helps their interaction skills, entices a healthy curiosity of the world around them as well as improves leadership skills. They don't know its schooling because you make it a fun activity.

You put together questions and create a game with rewards etc. i.e. asking questions like, “Who is the first president of the United States?” or “If there are 100 pennies in one dollar, how many pennies are in five dollars?” You create the game according to their age group.

Before my daughter was old enough to understand these questions, I tailored the questions to something she was interested in. For instance her friends and she were arguing what type of fish Nemo's mother was eaten by. She learned through the game that it was a barracuda fish not a shark. She never forgot it. 😊

- *Contributed by Ella*

Songs & Entertainment



Songs / Entertainment

{Younger Kid-Friendly(2-4)}

On rainy days we get out our favorite books and read them. We then pretend to be our favorite animal and follow each other around the room acting like the animal. For example my twins both like ducks so we say walk like a duck, walk like a duck, quack, quack, quack, quack. And we waddle around the room while we sing. Even though the twins are two and my oldest is six they all love to play that game.

We also sing songs like “i’m bringing home a baby bumble bee, won’t my mommy be so proud of me, i’m bringing home a baby bumble bee”, then you push your child’s belly button and say “ouch that be stung me!!!” I think this is best for any parent but definitely the more involved ones. It gives your child a sense of security and teaches them, that just because the weather may be bad outside it does not have to ruin their day.

- Contributed by alteregomia

Movie Time

I have two older children and one younger. Of course the youngest is never unhappy and loves to lay in the floor and play all day whether we are outside or in, but the oldest two really get down when it rains.

I have a ton of VHS’s that I had growing up. They never get watched until a rainy day and the kids really love them! We have a “kid’s living room” set up in our basement complete with TV and VCR. We pull out the movies, pop popcorn kernels and top with all kinds of crazy toppings like sugar and cinnamon, or seasoning salt, depends on the mood!) The kids love spending time together and watching things they’ve never seen before.



- Contributed by Jacqueline Leonard

Movie Day!

Have a movie day, with each member of the family choosing their favorite movie to watch together.

- Contributed by Yummy Sushi Pajamas

Karaoke

Momma Tracy and Anna Marie love playing “karaoke” on rainy days. We plug in a microphone (or just use the one on the computer) so that Anna can hear her own voice coming over the speakers, and tune in to the Classic Soul station on Sirius Satellite Radio. It’s okay if we don’t know the words, we just make up our own (and Anna just “ah’s” along anyway...she’s only 10 months old!). She loves singing with Momma, and it’s like magic when she’s hears her own voice on the speakers. She really “turns on” and gets excited. It would also work great with more kids...they could all take turns, or sing in a group around the microphone. It’s also educational...Anna is learning about pitch, rhythm, and turn-taking all while having a blast with Mommy.

- Contributed by Tracy Lowman

Play Restaurant (and sneak a ‘theme’ movie in!)

One rainy day activity that we like is to play restaurant. My son and I started doing this when he was 4 years old. He gets to plan the menu and make menus and placemats for the family. He also helps prepare the table and dinner. We sometimes incorporate a movie into the day and have a dinner theme. For example, we watched Lady & the Tramp and then made spaghetti and breadsticks for dinner.

- Contributed by Knitwit

Dress up with a Theme

We have TONS of costumes between all the kids so sometimes they play dress up. On occasion we will have a theme day...dress up, art & creativity, reading, movies, etc. so it gives us the whole day to come up with different and fun things to do.

- Contributed by bernadette c



Teach Culture through Music and Play

Another thing we do is play her POP CD’s and she learns the original Artist or the name of the song. There are many ways you can get your child interested in our Culture, Art and History. Another way we play is she has to tell me which instruments are playing. She loves it and gets excited each time she hears another instrument. “I HEAR! I HEAR A GUITAR!” She screams in excitement as she rocks out to one of her favorite songs. It’s a blast! Only followed by, “OMG OMG! I CAN HEAR THE DRUMS, AND, AND THE PIANO”.

I firmly believe it's important to keep this next generation interested in our culture, art and history without bombarding them with "afterschool activities" ultimately preventing them from being a kid. She continually impresses her peers and teacher with her knowledge. The whole time she's having fun and doesn't know she's learning. You may surprise yourself with how much fun you have with your children playing together on rainy days 😊

- Contributed by Ella

Outdoors (?)



Easy Science!

With school aged kids, set jars outside to measure the rainfall. That way, you can turn a rainy day into a scientific learning experience.

- Contributed by Yummy Sushi Pajamas

Painting Activity in Light Rain

Sometimes if it isn't raining too hard, we go outside and do a craft. Take a paper plate, have the kids squirt some paint on the plate and then place it in the rain until the colors swirl together. I know it sounds silly, but my kids love doing this!

- Contributed by knitwit (@ MomConnect)

ENJOY the Rain!

I have 4 kids (& 1 on the way) and there are so many things to do on rainy days...the best and most favorable one is to just go out and play in it!! I have TONS of pics of the kids running around out in it (of course if it isn't too cold and no thunder/lightening) and of us driving around in it.

- Contributed by bernadette c

Learn about Mother Nature

I tend to be a bit unconventional, but we take rainy days as an opportunity to find new adventures. Such as...snail hunting (yes, in the rain). What better way to teach them about mother nature? Or **puddle jumping**. I know, the thought of wet, soggy children can be overwhelming, but think of the memories you are making.

Rainy days can also mean a trip to the library or supermarket. You would be surprised what you can learn just by asking the Butcher for a quick tour. Odd? Probably, but it sure beats sitting in the house with board children.

Also, take the time to find local museums (kid friendly -of course) and places of the such. And reserve trips to these new found places for such occasions!

- Contributed by Betty Sue (@ MomConnect)

~ We hope you enjoyed this Rainy Day activity eBook and that you are able to use these great ideas during the cold, winter months!~

Lovina Worick and Meghan Harvey @ MomConnect

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