PLANNING FOR SUMMER

It’s time to plan for the days of summer! Studies show that kids who are involved in summer activities experience learning gains compared to those who are not. Opportunities for enrichment can extend from organized day camps to lessons at the local pool. Deciding how much and what kind of activity your child needs to continue growth and avoid “boredom” requires some planning.

There are many considerations when thinking about camps and programs your child might attend. Here are a few things to consider when looking for that “just-right” fit:

- Is the camp content interesting?
- How much structure would make your student happiest?
- How long does the camp run from start to finish?
- Where is the camp? How will my child get to and from camp?
- How much does it cost to attend the camp? Are there hidden fees such as providing a snack, bagged lunch, supplies, and/or other materials to participate? Is financial assistance or a scholarship available?
- What are the requirements for my child to attend the camp? Are there minimum or maximum age limits to consider?
Experience a different kind of summer at the El Paso Museum of Archaeology!
The Museum is offering four weeks of Summer Camps during the month of June for kids ages 7 to 12. Learn about the world of archaeology and discover new cultures! Each Camp runs from Tuesday to Friday, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

FabLab El Paso
https://fablabelpaso.org/
A design + fabrication laboratory for the ingenious inventor, innovator, and imaginer inside everyone. With a kid friendly environment, the Fab Kids program provides experiences in developing analytical thinking, creative problem-solving, and team-building. Drop in for family fun or sign up for a workshop.

Summer Art Camp
Come for a day or visit all week. Kids ages 5 – 12 can experience the fun of hands-on art activities. Space is limited. Be sure to reserve your seat!

Build confidence with hands-on learning
Snapology of El Paso offers fun programs for a wide variety of ages and interests. With an emphasis on play, children achieve academic enrichment and social development objectives.

Bringing Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) to life by providing engaging learning experiences for the whole community.
Insights offers host various Pop Up Museum and workshops throughout the community. Follow them on Facebook for future dates and activities. They also offer DinoTrack public tours on the first Sunday of every month. Sign up online!
El Paso Museum of Art
https://epma.art/

Unbound by borders, discover the world of art. Admission is free. Always.

EPMA is home to an inspiring collection of art from our region and beyond our border. Always changing, explore a special exhibition or the permanent collections. Guided tours are available by appointment.

EPMA Art School offers classes and camps for children and teens, ranging in experience level from beginner to master. Classes are led by talented expert Teaching Artists in fully-equipped studios.

Art School scholarships are available for any class or camp. You can download the scholarship application online.

Magoffin Home State Historic Site
http://www.visitmagoffinhome.com

Magoffin Home State Historic Site hosts Kids Camps on selected Wednesdays through Fridays during the summer months. Reservations recommended; space is limited. All proceeds support the preservation of the Magoffin Home. Dress is suitable clothing for hands-on activities or getting dirty.

El Paso Public Libraries
http://www.elpasolibrary.org/

Your public library is a great place to beat the summer heat. Daily activities are available on their event calendars, including story time, computer classes, and LEGO at the Library. Or you can pull a book from the shelf, find a comfortable chair, and spend the day lost in another time and place enjoying the quiet and air conditioning.

The summer reading program will be up and running in June. Kids can meet the reading challenge while maintaining the progress they worked so hard for during the school year. The opportunities at the library are endless. Come and check it out!

El Paso Fire Department Summer Youth Camp
http://www.elpasotexas.gov/fire-department

El Paso Fire Department holds a Summer Youth Camp for ages 13-17 at the department’s Training Academy, 6800 Delta. The camp is limited to 15 students. Applications are available online.

Humane Society of El Paso
https://www.hselpaso.org/

Kids-n-Critters
The Humane Society of El Paso will hold a 5-day summer camp for kids. Participants will learn about domestic and exotic animals, pet safety, how to be responsible pet owners, ways to advocate for animals, and more.

Creative Kids
https://creativekidsart.org/

Creative Kids is a nationally recognized non-profit organization that is dedicated to providing a high-quality youth development program utilizing the visual arts to empower youth. A variety of summer art classes are offered at their downtown location. Ask about scholarship opportunities.

El Paso Parks & Recreation
http://www.elpasotexas.gov/parks-and-recreation

The City of El Paso Parks and Recreation Department hosts various activities and summer camp throughout the summer. Two-week camps provide recreational activities such as sports, arts and crafts, field trips, dance classes and table games. Each recreation center offers its own activities. Scholarships are available to youth under 17 years of age. Applications may be downloaded from the website and submitted to your nearby recreation center.
Children’s College offers courses for children between the ages of 5-17 years of age to help improve their academic skills and explore a personal interest. The program provides children an introduction to the course that they desire.

Texas Internship Challenge
https://www.borderplexjobs.com/hireelpasoyouth
The Texas Internship Challenge encourages students to participate in thousands of internships around the state to gain the marketable skills employers are looking for. Internships help you explore career opportunities, network with employers, and earn a salary or school credit.

Hire El Paso Youth
https://www.borderplexjobs.com/hireelpasoyouth
Workforce Solutions Borderplex is launching three youth summer employment initiatives for 2019: Hire El Paso Youth Work Program, Summer Earn & Learn, and the Texas Internship Challenge. In total, WSB has committed to subsidizing 100 Hire El Paso Youth summer jobs and 85 Summer Earn & Learn summer jobs for youth with disabilities at 100 percent (zero cost to employers).

El Paso Zoo Summer Camp
http://elpasozoosociety.org/zoo-camp/
It’s time for Zoo Camp!!!. Join us as we celebrate the season with our animal friends. Each day of Zoo Camp is filled with adventures from games to arts and crafts to live animal demonstrations, and behind the scenes visits. Make this a summer to remember, you’ll have a ROARing good time!

Barnes & Noble Summer Reading
https://specialists.barnesandnoble.com/summerreading?summer-reading-lists-for-kids
Kids entering grades 1-6 can earn a free book by reading books and completing a journal about the books they’ve read. Books read during the summer do not need to be purchased from Barnes & Noble, but forms must be completed to earn free book; limit one per participating child. Free reading club journals may be picked up at Barnes & Noble or downloaded from the website.

P3 Kidz on Campus
https://pace.utep.edu/wconnect/ShowSchedule.awp?&Mode=GROUP&Group=P3KIDZ&Title=P3+Kidz+on+Campus&SubGroup=P3K
P3 Kidz On Campus Summer Programs offer 9 weeks, of grade-specific summer camps for kids entering kindergarten through 12th grade. Each week will offer educational, fun, creative, active and cultural experiences. P3 Kidz On Campus camps are limited in size, and spaces are assigned on a first-come, first-serve basics. Grade-level requirements are given in terms of the grade the student will be entering in fall. Camps are subject to cancellation due to insufficient enrollments.
10 IDEAS FOR SUMMER FUN FOR KIDS

Fun, Challenging (and Cheap) Activities Gifted Kids Will Love

By Carol Bainbridge, About.com Guide
http://giftedkids.about.com/od/nurturinggiftsandtalents/qt/cheap_fun.htm

When we are on a tight budget, it can be hard to find interesting and challenging activities for our gifted children. However, with a little thought and sometimes just a little planning, we can find plenty of summer fun activities. Here are just a few suggestions.

1. **Plan a Picnic**
   You don’t have to travel far to have a picnic. In fact, you don’t have to travel any farther than your own backyard. The fun isn’t only in the picnic alone, but in the planning of it. It is a perfect way to create some cheap summer fun.

2. **Plant a Garden**
   Gardens offer kids a perfect opportunity for learning about plant life. If you start early enough in the season, you can start the garden from seeds. That is the ideal way to start a garden since the kids can watch the garden grow from the very beginning sprouts. However, if you start too late in the season to plant seeds, you can buy a few seedlings from just about anywhere, including many grocery stores. The kids can still watch the plants grow. Have them keep a chart of the growth every day or two. They can even draw pictures of the plants as they grow. And be sure that your child waters the plants and gets rid of the weeds.

3. **Visit the Library for Summer Fun**
   Libraries are wonderful sources of free fun for gifted kids. For one thing, libraries often have free programs for children. But it’s not just the programs that make libraries fun for gifted kids. It’s the books the libraries hold that gifted kids will also find fun and exciting.

4. **Plan Some Family Fun Nights**
   Families don’t need to go on vacations or spend lots of money to enjoy some time together. All they need to do is plan some fun activities to share. Among the possibilities are watching movies or playing games together. Family nights can provide summer fun anytime, but especially on those rainy days when the kids can’t play outdoors.

5. **Camp in the Backyard**
   You don’t need to travel any farther than your own backyard to plan a camping trip. Part of the fun is in the planning, so take your time to find the right spot to pitch a tent and decide on activities the whole family can enjoy.

6. **Create a Backyard Waterpark**
   A waterpark in the backyard? Absolutely! If you already have a playset, all you have to do is get a hose (or two) and prop them up to spray water on it. If you don’t, this might be the time to get one. You may have to spend money on one, but it will still be cheaper than what you’d pay for a family vacation. If you don’t want to go with a playset, get a small backyard pool. Again, all you have to do is set up some hoses to spray either over the pool or around it. You’re limited only by your imagination!

7. **Plan a Scavenger Hunt**
   You can encourage your children to explore nature with a nature scavenger hunt which could include items as simple as different shaped stones and leaves. Or you can hide objects of your own around the yard and give your children clues that will help them find them! Do you really want to make the activity challenging? Draw a map of where you have hidden the clues and let them analyze where the clues are located.

8. **Make Music**
   You can create music with just about anything that makes a sound. You can buy cheap kazoos or make your own by covering a comb with wax paper (a clean comb!) Pots can serve as drums and lids can be cymbals. Empty jugs can be used, too, to make “music.” It’s easy to kids to get carried away with just making noise, so be sure to make this activity a musical one. Help your kids learn about music, while having fun.

9. **Have a Yard Sale**
   This activity can have several goals. You can get your house cleaned of clutter, give your kids something to do, and make a little money! You can also take the opportunity to teach your children a little about economics!

10. **Make a Map of the Neighborhood**
    This activity can provide a little exercise, too, since children have to walk around the neighborhood to make notes of what they see and determine what belongs where on a map. You should set boundaries so your children don’t go farther than you want them to go. For areas farther from your house than you would like your children to go and for children who are too young to walk around the neighborhood on their own, you can go with them and get a little exercise yourself!
PLACES TO VISIT

Licon Dairy
Offers the best tasting "Azadero" cheese. Made fresh daily and sold at the store to many local customers and even out of town customers. Hundreds of people visit the premises to also enjoy the petting zoo and fishing pond.

Monday - Sunday 7:00am - 5:30pm
11951 Glorieta Rd., San Elizario
Phone: (915) 851-2705

Keystone Heritage Park
Keystone Heritage Park and the El Paso Desert Botanical Gardens is an archeological site, an archaic wetlands and a botanical garden. Keystone Wetlands is home to many species of birds and is a stop on a migratory route for even more. Over 206 species of birds have been spotted there, including 22 species considered rare by the Audubon Society.

Tuesday - Friday 9:00am - 3:00pm
Saturdays and Sundays 9:00am - 3:00pm
4220 Doniphan, El Paso
Phone: (915)584-0563

El Paso Holocaust Museum
The El Paso Holocaust Museum and Study Center, located in Downtown El Paso, is a memorial to the millions of people who were brutally murdered by Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Regime from 1933 to 1945. Visitors to the Museum will learn about the Holocaust through its permanent exhibit, which features a number of multi-media galleries that chronicle the events of the Holocaust. The museum also hosts a youth summer program during July. Call for more information.

Monday Closed
Tuesday - Friday 9am - 5pm
Saturday – Sunday 1 - 5pm
715 N. Oregon, El Paso
Phone: (915) 351-0048
Free Admission

ONLINE RESOURCES

El Paso Scene
http://www.epscene.com/
Monthly listing of activities in El Paso and surrounding areas. Look for the Summer Fun for Kids edition coming soon!

Exquisite Minds: Creative and Gifted Children
https://www.exquisite-minds.com
Free support and gifted resources for parents who want to challenge creative and gifted children to find new and constructive ways to look at the world.

Education.com
https://www.education.com/
Pre-K - 5th Grade resources support children in all the different ways they learn, so parents always have what they need to boost each kid’s unique potential. Jump in and explore more than 30,000 games, lessons and activities

Science Buddies
https://www.sciencebuddies.org/
The award-winning, non-profit Science Buddies empowers K-12 students, parents, and teachers to quickly and easily find free project ideas and help in all areas of science from physics to food science and music to microbiology.

Mensa for Kids
http://www.mensaforkids.org/
Mensa embraces younger members through this fun website, offering up monthly themes to get kids reading and learning at an advanced level.

Open Culture
http://www.openculture.com/
Open Culture compiles free cultural and educational media resources for public use. Some resources include over 950 free online courses, 550 free audio books, 600 free eBooks, free language learning resources, and more.