Centered CHILD

May 2003

52 Easy Ways To Have Fun With Your Child This Summer

- Brush some slightly diluted white glue on a sheet of dark-colored paper. Blow dandelion seeds at the paper and enjoy the patterns they make.
- 2. Check out back issues of children's magazines the next time you visit the library. Many of them are filled with activity ideas and projects.
- A jump rope tied to a tree or post makes a good gas pump for tricycle riders.
- What can your child use a flower for? A hat? A pretend dish? A dress for a doll? A boat?
- 5. On a rainy day, join your children in "drawing" on a rug or carpet, using pieces of colorful yarn or string.
- f. Instead of buying dried apple rings, make them. Core and slice a few apples. Have your child arrange the rings on a baking sheet. Then dry them at the lowest possible temperature in your oven (even the pilot light on a gas oven is warm enough). Drying takes about six to nine hours. Enjoy!
- 7. Play Wading Pool Basketball by floating a plastic bowl in the water. Your child can try to toss a lightweight ball into it.
- Spend an hour cleaning out a clothes closet. Make a dress-up box for your child out of items you no longer wear.

- Get up extra early and have a breakfast picnic outside.
- Paint with watercolors on paper towels.
- Catch some lightening bugs and admire them together. Then wave good-bye when you let them go.
- 12. Plant quick-growing seeds such as radishes and bush beans, or sturdy flowers like zinnias or marigolds.
- Make Backyard Mud Paint by mixing water, dirt, and a squirt of liquid soap. Stir until smooth.
- 14. Make your own bubble solution by mixing together 1/2 cup of Joy dishwashing liquid, 1 cup of water, and 1 teaspoon of sugar.
- 15. Use your imagination to create bubble-makers. Try paper cups with the bottom cut out, funnels, straws, or pipe-cleaners twisted into loops.
- 16. Does your child like to gather stones, shells, twigs and other nature items when you take a walk? When you sit down to rest, ask him or her to think of different ways to sort the items. It's fun, and a great math activity.
- 17. Summer is a nice time for lying on your back with your child in the early evening and waiting for the moon and the stars to appear.

- 18. Don't throw away any old, worn-out pillow cases. Your child can use them for a potato sack race. Show him or her how to step in, pull up the edges up high, and jump.
- Use water and a small brush to "paint" rocks, shells, twigs, and other items collected from nature. Watch the colors as they change from dry to wet and back again.
- After a rain shower, have your child draw on the sidewalk with chalk.

 The colors will seem brighter on wet pavement.
- 21. Sprinkle sandbox sand with water and give your child a collection of cookie cutters to use in it.
- 22. Save socks that have no mates. They have lots of uses—sock puppets; filling and emptying in the sand box; and balls (roll one up inside the other).
- 23. Hang an aluminum pan from a low branch or clothesline as a target for ball throwing.
- 24. Point out the sky at different times of the day. Talk about the colors you see.
- 25. What can you think of for your child to string? Buttons, spools, shells from the beach? Sections of soda straws? Wrap a piece of tape around the end of a piece of yarn to make it stiff.

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- From some water and liquid dish detergent into an empty, indeen orange juice case or yogurt cups. And a dron or food colorung and a drinking straw. Truce in outdoors. Show your opide how to blow (no drinks.) through the surey. Scool he or she will have piles and pites of bubbles.
- Lave your staild make postraids for former or future reachers by drawing or writing messages on large todex earths. Furn these over to stamp and address. Mail them together.
- Find out it there's a namels on children's museum near you and pian a visit
- He sure to admize a few sourises or suppose with your civils this sugmen.
 - Q Turn off the TV for 24 hours.
- All Buy some terriors and oranges and make trush orange-terropade.
- Ture a dandelion apart, it is actually made up of a hundred or more line lines.
- Summer lette for 84 days. Don't let one go by without delivering flusimportant recessor to your oblid:

