

A top-down photograph of various summer items arranged on a light blue wooden plank surface. In the upper left, there is a blue and white striped beach bag. Next to it are a pair of blue sunglasses, a pair of yellow sunglasses, a pink seashell, and a pair of orange flip-flops. To the right of the sunglasses is a single orange starfish. Further right is a pair of green flip-flops. The items are arranged in a casual, overlapping manner.

# A Summer of Fun Together

**101+ FREE**

(OR NEARLY FREE!)

**THINGS TO DO TOGETHER  
IN THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS**



This pack is a resource to be dipped in and out of and hopefully will provide some ideas of free or almost free activities during the Summer Holiday.

The activities are set up for children to have fun and with many, for parents to join in the fun too! A large number of the activities are tailored more to KS1 and lower KS2 children but I am sure that many Upper KS2 children will thoroughly enjoy getting involved (especially if they can possibly take a lead in the activity). None are meant to feel like a formal school lesson but are meant to build upon some of the things that have been covered or will be covered in class.

Praying you have a wonderful and blessed Summer holiday

Rev. Stephen Walker-Williams

(Pastor- Gold Hill Baptist Church and Hope Community Church)

## Bricks, Blocks and Patterns

1. **Make Bricks** - If you don't have any building blocks at home, you can make one. See 'Things to Make', how to make a dice and make it the same way. These bricks could be used for building models.
2. **Sort bricks** - according to shape or size. Talk about number of faces or corners
3. **Find the shape** - choose a brick or block and find/say something that is the same shape. e.g. a cylinder is like a mug
4. **Make the Pattern** - Make repeating patterns of different shapes or colours
5. **Feely Shape** - Put some bricks or blocks in a bag. Children feel the shapes and see if they can find another brick the same.
6. **Match the Pattern** - Cut squares and colour them in different colours. Place your squares in a line and ask the child to copy them with theirs. Start with 3 and build up to six. Now try to show the child the sequence and for them to look for 5 seconds and remember them before covering them over, for them to make from memory. Again start with a sequence of three and build up.
7. **Weaving** – Take an A4 piece of paper and fold it in half. Cut slits along the length of the paper, spaced at 2cm apart, to make a loom. Cut thin strips of paper to weave in/out of the slits.
8. **Pattern Dominoes** – Make Dominoes, see 'Things to Make'. Match the coloured ends together on the floor, like dominoes and gradually build a pattern across the floor with them. Alternatively, shuffle the cards and face down, give 10 to one player and 10 to another. Take it in turns to place your dominoes. The first one to place all their dominoes is the winner.
9. **Kim's Game**. Place objects on the tray. The child is able to look at the objects for 10 seconds and then they are covered over with a tea towel. An object is removed whilst they look away. The tea towel is removed and the child has to identify which object is missing. Start with three items and build up to 10.



## Hands and Feet

10. **Shapes in the Air** - Use fingers to draw numbers and shapes in the air, on the floor or on each others' backs
11. **Make Music** - Make repeating sound patterns with claps, jumps, hops, nods and any other body music
12. **Play "Echo"** – clapping, stamping, patting. Children clap or stamp or pat one more or one less
13. **Finger and hand prints** - Brilliant for counting in 5's and 10's or times tables
14. **Number Clap** - Use number cards – turn 2 over and clap the total
15. **Feely Box** - Place objects in the box. Child is blind folded and has to feel the items with their hand to identify which objects they are.
16. **Clever Toes** - Place 10 cotton balls on the floor, next to a bucket. When the timer starts, try to pick up the cotton balls with the toes of one foot and place them into the bucket, one at a time, as quickly as you can.
17. **Paper Clip Bracelet** -Connect paper clips together to make models and bracelets.
18. **Threading** - Tie a knot on one end of the string. The child threads the string through the pasta. Pasta can be coloured with food colouring but children will also love to do this with plain pasta.
19. **Play-dough/Salt dough** -See Recipe section at the back. Make your own Salt dough/play-dough for model making. Make letters or numbers, beads for threading, patterns and shapes. See recipes at back. Use pasta, bottle tops (e.g. shampoo, coke bottle), cups as play dough cutters, if there are not any available. The play dough could be modelled into a miniature world for insects or bugs.



## In the Bath

20. **Capacity** - Use different size bottles to experiment with capacity. See how many small bottles it takes to fill a big bottle. Think about full and  $\frac{1}{2}$  full
21. **Floating and Sinking** - Talk about things that float and things that sink
22. **Boats** - Could you make a boat that floats from junk?
23. **Frothing**- Use a straw, or use your mouth to blow bubbles across the bath
24. **Fishing** – Cut out fish from a plastic bottle. Use colander to catch the fish.
25. **Take Aim** – take an empty washing up bottle and part fill with water. Squeeze the bottle to fire the water out. Aim at other objects floating in the bath.

## Things to Make

26. **Skittles** - Fill old water/coke bottles with sand/soil to make skittles
27. **Puppets** - Make a puppet show using a big old box for a stage and lolly sticks and card to make puppets. Old socks (clean 😊) can also make excellent puppets.
28. **Aquarium** – Use a big box to make an aquarium by dangling fish from pieces of cotton
29. **Role Play Set** – Child decorates cardboard box as a ship, house, rocket, castle, whatever their imagination leads them to. Then enjoy imaginative play!
30. **Papier-mâché** – Mix a mâché paste – 1 cup flour to two cups water and mix until smooth and sticky. Tear up strips of paper. Blow up a balloon (or find another object to model). Place strips of papier-mâché into the glue and then lay onto the balloon. Gradually cover the surface, leaving a small hole at the bottom. Several coats. Allow it to dry. And repeat. Once dry, pop the balloon and voila, a model to paint or just to admire and play with!
31. **Make a dice** - Cut the top off two milk cartons or soup cartons, leaving three quarters of the carton intact. Fit the first inside the second, to make a robust cube. Then cover with newspaper/paper and write numbers on it. Opposite sides should add up to 7 e.g. six on one side and one on the opposite side, or three on one side and four on the other side.
32. **Make a Spinner:** Cut a hexagon (6 sides) from a piece of card. Stick a pencil through the middle. Write numbers 1-6 on each side. You can use this instead of a dice.
33. **Musical Shakers** – Place rice, sand, mud and stones, or similar, into the plastic bottle and then screw the lid back on. Child shakes the bottle to the music. Try different items in different shakers, to make different sounds.
34. **Post Box** – Cut three rows of slots in the top of the show box, alternating from horizontal to vertical. Set a timer and see how long it takes the child to post the buttons, lids etc. into the box. The child can try to beat their score each time.
35. **Jigsaw** – Use the picture on the cereal box or draw a picture on a piece of card. Cut it up into max 12 pieces (4 x 3). Ask the child to put the jigsaw back together again.
36. **Sock Puppets** – Stuff an old, unwanted sock, with newspaper. Draw a face with pens, or cut and stick/sew on eyes, wool for hair, nose and mouth, cut from a newspaper.
37. **Food Sculptures** – Stick the toothpicks into raisins and make models of animals. Use other foods as well e.g. grapes, apples, tangerines, dried apricots.

38. **Crayon Rubbings** – Find a flat item around the garden or house and place it under the paper. Then rub the flat side of the crayon back and forth across the paper (over the part where the item is), until a magic drawing of the item underneath appears! Use bark, stones, patio, coins, bricks etc.
39. **Pattern Dominoes** – Cut up rectangular pieces of card (all the same shape). Draw a line to divide it in half. Colour one end with one colour (or fabric glued on), and the other with a different colour. Repeat with all the card pieces. Approximately 20 in total.
40. **Cardboard Guitar** – Take an old tissues box and place different widths of elastic band around the box so that they go across the opening. Place a lollipop/ice-cream stick at one end, under the elastic bands. The different widths of elastic bands will make a different sound when strummed/plucked.
41. **Paper Trail** – Design a paper trail of numbers/alphabet and once all are found order them
42. **Scrap Dictionary** –Collect labels from packaging. Make a scrap book dictionary
43. **Eye Spy** – Make an ‘Eye Spy’ book of things that you have seen in the holiday
44. **Letter Hunt** – Use old magazines or newspapers – circle all the letters/words that they know



**PLEASE NOTE** - *When using old plastic bottles for play/craft, only use the following numbers (inside a triangle on the bottom of the bottle).*

- **#2, HDPE**, a usually opaque plastic used for milk jugs, detergent bottles, juice bottles, toiletries and the like.
- **#4, LDPE**, used for things like plastic bags, food storage, bread bags, some food wraps, squeezable bottles.
- **#5, polypropylene**, used for a wide variety of applications such as yogurt cups, medicine bottles, ketchup and syrup bottles, and straws.

## Games to Play

45. **Catch and Match** – One half of each sock pair are hanging on the washing line (string tied to two chairs). Leader throws out sock balls (from the remaining half of the pair), rotating round each child in turn. When the music stops, you have to find the matching socks, for your half, on the washing line. The first person to find all their socks, is the winner.
46. **Parachute Games** – Use large double duvet flat sheet as a parachute. All sit on the floor holding the parachute with hands. Fingers on top. All lift arms on the count of 3 and then move the ball, socks, balloon around the parachute, working together to keep them on the sheet. This could be played outside with a water-balloon on top to add to the excitement.
47. **Blow Football** – Use the string, masking tape or chalk to mark out a rectangular shape, with a goal in each end. Place one cotton ball in the centre of the pitch and use your straws to blow the cotton ball into the other person's goal.
48. **Straw Noughts and Crosses** – Make a noughts and crosses grid (see template). Make small pieces of paper with either noughts or crosses on it. Take it in turns to use your straws to lift (suck) and place (release suck) the pieces on the board. The aim is to have three noughts or three crosses in a line, on the board.
49. **Bubble Play** – Mix and pour some onto the flat plate. Place the large end of the funnel onto the bubbles mixture, and move it around so that it is well covered. Lift the funnel out and blow through the small end. Huge bubbles!
50. **Stick and Run** – Stand opposite your partner. Place the balloon between you (tummy to tummy and no hands) and try to run to the end of the garden/park and back without dropping the balloon.

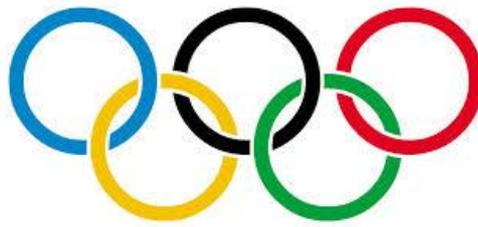


51. **Sock Maze** – Separate sock pairs and place them heel to toe in a line, place a second line of socks opposite these, to begin a path between them. Gradually add corners and change directions with the path until you have a maze. The child can then practice walking round the maze. Then blindfold the child and ask them to try to walk round the maze again, as you call out directions e.g. 'left, right, forwards' etc.
52. **Milk Carton Soccer** – Place milk cartons around the room and make a path for the child to kick the newspaper ball or sock ball around the course, avoiding the obstacles, to get to the other side of the room. Now move the obstacles and try again.
53. **Cone Catch** – Cut two identical circles out of paper. Cut across the circle until the middle. Fold the paper around and underneath the top layer until it forms a cone and fasten. Roll up some paper into balls. Play catch, throwing the ball back and forth between the cups.

54. **Lid Sliders** – Place lids (3 of each colour) onto the tray, on the table. Sit opposite each other and with the bottle lids facing smooth side down, use index and thumb to flick the bottle lids towards each other, so they collide. The person whose lid travels the furthest from their starting side, wins.
55. **Bottle Ball Flip** – Cut the bottom off the bottle, keeping the handle intact. Tie string around the handle and tie the other end around the cotton ball. The child holds the container by the handle and by jerking it, makes the cotton ball swing and go into the container.
56. **Whizzers** – Blow up the balloon, but do not knot it up. Say '3,2,1 go' and let go of the balloon. The child to catch it is the winner.
57. **Teddy Bears Picnic** – Go the park with plastic cups, plates and your favourite teddies. Lots of opportunities to write lists, make invitations, prepare food.



## Mini Olympics



58. **Balloon Fan Relay** – Make a fan from the newspaper by folding it, horizontally back and forth on itself. Place the balloon on the floor and using the fan only, move the balloon from one side of the room to the other. The first person to cross the line is the winner.
59. **Clothes Relay** – Place the oversized clothes (grown-up's clothes) on one side of the room. When you say 'go' the children have to run across the string line, place all the items of clothing on, from their pile and then race across the second string line. The winner crosses the line first.
60. **Newspaper Long Jump** – Place a sheet of newspaper on the floor, explain that this is the start. Now place the next sheet in front of the first sheet. The child has to jump over the sheet. Then add further sheets. How far can they jump? If this is too hard, then space between them and form a path around a table, or across the lounge or hall. The child has to jump between the newspaper 'stepping stones' to avoid being eaten by the crocodile adult! You could also write letters or numbers on the sheets and ask the child to start on 'c' and jump to 'a' and then 't', what did they spell etc.
61. **Newspaper Golf** – Roll a piece of newspaper into a bat. Roll up piece of newspaper into a ball. Place squares of newspaper on the floor (numbered or coloured patches on them). Child has to target the newspaper balls from the 'starting' square, to the coloured squares, in order (as decided). The player who uses the least number of hits/bats to get through the golf course, is the winner!
62. **How many Jumps** – Write different ways to move on other pieces of paper. Place them with the words facing downwards. Take it in turns to pick a card and roll the dice to find out e.g. how many hops, or how many jumps to do etc.

63. **Newspaper Volley** – Screw half sheets of newspaper up into a ball. Create a dividing line (string). Set a timer for 2 minutes. Throw as many balls into the other side of the ‘court’ as you can in 2 minutes (whilst the opposite team are trying to send them back!)
64. **String Obstacle Course** –Tie a knot around a piece of furniture e.g. chair leg. Wind the string around furniture, up, over, through, under, around. At the end, tie a knot. The children have to find the start of the knot and then to follow the string over, under, through the obstacles until the finish line.
65. **Cardboard Quoits** – Find an empty shampoo bottle that fits the opening in a shoe. Place the shampoo bottle on the cardboard and draw around it (faintly). Then draw a bold line approximately 2cm from this faint line (this will be the hole in the quoit). Finally draw a third, bold line (your outer line). Cut out the two bold lines. You should be left with a quoit. Stand behind a string line and take it in turns to throw your quoits over the shampoo bottle.
66. **Skittles** - using the skittles you made from ‘Things to Make’ play skittles i.e. place skittles in a triangle shape and throw rolled up socks towards the skittles to knock them over.
67. **Balloon Tennis** – Roll up a newspaper to make a bat. Blow up the balloon. Use the newspaper bats to keep the balloon from hitting the floor.
68. **Frisbee Yoghurt** - Place the yoghurt cartons upside down on the floor, in varying distances away. Squat on the floor and use the lids, like Frisbees, to hit/target the cartons.
69. **Sock Archery** –Draw different sized circles on a piece of paper and colour them different colours. Give the smaller circles a greater number value than the larger ones. Place the paper on the floor or against a wall. The child takes it in turns to kick or throw sock balls at the sheet. They count up their score and the person with the highest score at the end, wins.
70. **Hammer Throwing** – Place a couple of rolled up socks inside a long sock (football or knee high sock). Players hold the end of the sock and take it in turns to swing schmerz ball around their head and then let go, seeing how far it goes. Best carried out in an open space, e.g. a park
71. **Cardboard Limbo** – Take a Cereal box and cut the top of it off. Place it in front of the child. The child has to pick it up using their mouth/teeth only. Both feet must remain on the floor and hands are not allowed to touch it. Once they have done this, cut 1cm of cardboard away from the top. See if they can do it again. Repeat until the child can no longer pick it up...how low did they go? Can they beat it next time?
72. **Swap Jumps** – Place two lines of string on the floor, leaving a gap between them of 9 approx.. 30cm (one ruler length). Child starts with their feet together, inside the two lines (in) and then jumps so both their feet are on the string lines (out). Call out ‘out/in’ and the child has to jump to match the instruction.



## Learning Walks

Going on a learning walk is a good way to explore your local environment.

73. **Number Hunt** – Encourage children to look and notice numbers and shapes around the streets and in the park
74. **How Many?** –Count steps along a path or to the shop
75. **Signs all around** – Look for house numbers, street signs or prices in shops. Encourage children to have a go at reading the numbers
76. **More or Less** – Use the language of more or less. For example “Are there more people than dogs?”
77. **Estimates!** – Use number walks as an opportunity to make estimations or guesses of how many? And check by counting
78. **Signs** – Look for signs that tell you about directions. Arrows, street signs, roundabouts etc.
79. **Shape Walk** - Look for different shapes in the environment and name them
80. **Shopping!** – Include going to the shops in your walk and talk about totals and change for shopping
81. **What does it say?** – Read signs in the street or in shops
82. **Story Walk** – Make up stories using first, next, then and finally
83. **A Nature Walk** - around garden, park, village. Keep an eye out for creepy crawly bugs. Watch how they move and talk about what colour they are. You could even keep a chart of how many you saw on a particular path or street e.g. 1 ladybird, 2 worms etc.
84. **Tree Sculptures** - Use wet mud to create a face on the tree and then use natural objects to make the mouth, eyes, nose etc.



## Places to Visit



85. **Gold Hill Common and Play Area**- great open space. Perfect for cloud watching (lying on your back and making shapes out of the clouds in the sky)
86. **Chalfont St Giles Duck Pond and Playground** – playground, duck pond and stream (River Misbourne) Also in St. Giles there is a larger park
87. **River Chess on the Moor** near the open air pool (Chesham). Great for fishing with nets
88. **Aston Clinton Park** – children’s play area, river, coffee shop
89. **St Albans park** – free water splash, lake and river
90. **Cassiobury Park** (Watford WD18 7LG) fantastic nature walks and play area. NB THE POOLS HAVE JUST REOPENED AND THEY LOOK GREAT!
91. **Tring Museum** – free – stuffed animals of every species!
92. **Ruislip Lido** – free car park – artificial beach, train rides, playground, ducks to feed
93. **Rickmansworth Aquadrome** – 2 big lakes, play area café. Free admission and car park
94. **The Library** – open every day from 9.30 am. Story time on certain afternoons of the week.
95. **Wycombe Rye Park** – sunken trampolines, big fort to play on.
96. **Ashridge Estate** (HP4 1LX) - for nature trails and woodland walks.
97. **Canal at Berkhamstead** – watch boats move through the lock.
98. **Black Park or Langley Park** (near Iver)– good for cycling and good woodland playground and cafe. Parking costs.
99. **Wendover Woods** – nature walks and wooden play park and café. Parking costs.
100. **Westwood Park** (Little Chalfont HP6 6PW)- great play area with tennis courts too. Free parking.
101. **Chipperfield Garden Centre** – to look at the fish.
102. **Pets at Home** in Loudwater, High Wycombe or Hemel Hempstead. To look at the animals- especially the rabbits and fish.



## Recipes

### Play dough Recipe

- An apron and washing-up gloves
- Mixing bowl and spoon
- 3 cups of plain flour
- 2 tablespoons of cornflour
- 1 cup of salt
- 1 cup of cold water
- 2 teaspoons of vegetable oil
- 2 teaspoons of food colouring or paint

**1** Put on an apron and washing-up gloves. Pour the flour, salt and cornflour into a mixing bowl.

**2** Add the food colouring to the water, then add the coloured water and vegetable oil to the bowl. Mix it together.

**3** You should now have some fantastic modelling dough!

Why not make other colours by adding different food colouring to the water?

Your modelling dough should be kept in an airtight bag, then it can be used for up to a week. Remember modelling dough is great for playing with but not suitable for eating.

### Salt Dough Recipe

- ½ cup of salt
- ½ cup of water
- 1 cup of flour

Mix flour and salt. Add water slowly and knead together. Make shapes or models and then pop in microwave for 3 minutes to harden.

### Papier-mâché

- 1 cup flour to two cups water and mix until smooth and sticky

### Bubble Mixture

Bubble Mix:

- ½ cup washing up liquid
- 2 cups water
- 2 tsp sugar



Wishing you a very happy Summer Holiday.

Produced by

Hope Community Church and Gold Hill Baptist Church

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**Gold Hill**

Seeking to be an authentic  
Christ-like community

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