

Possibilities

Interests + activities = fun!

Spotlight on Chess

Chess players know the moves ...

From beginners to tournament champions, children who love the game of chess spend hours learning chess rules and moves, planning strategies, and finding opponents to test their skill. Some young chess players learn by trial and error during games; others learn from experienced teachers; still others learn from parents or friends. Some children even learn to play chess by memorizing opening, mid-game, and endgame moves. Often school teams or recreation center clubs are a good place to start enjoying the game. Stop by and you'll hear calls of "Queen takes her color," "Knights belong in the center," and "Bishops dominate knights," as pairs of children lean in over game boards, happily making moves.



A collection of chess-themed postage stamps shows that the game has spread all around the world since it's invention in India more than 1500 years ago. To see more chess stamps, visit www.tri.org.au/chess/



... and when to make them!

If you have a chess player in your home, she or he might also enjoy a game of checkers, "Chinese checkers," backgammon, or dominoes, but most likely you'll hear invitation after invitation to play another game of chess: "Just one more game, Mom!" or "Please Dad, let's play again!" In addition to games at home, a chess club in your community or your child's school provides a great opportunity for young chess players to find a group of opponents with the same love of the game. If there isn't a chess club in your community, an informal club can be organized right at home with friends and other community or family members.

Books, instructional videos, movies, software, and outdoor chess sets are great tools for encouraging your child's interest in chess. More information and ideas are on the back of this page.



More bright ideas: WHERE TO GO and WHAT TO DO for FUN!

Chess clubs and tournaments:



Books about chess:

Chess for Children
by Ted Nottingham
The Kids' Book of Chess
by Harvey Kidder
*Chess for Juniors: A Complete
Guide for the Beginner*
by Robert Snyder
Starting Chess
by Harriet Castor

Videos & movies about chess:

Chess Kids
Play Chess Vol. I
Searching for Bobby Fischer

Software :

Chessmaster 9000
Maurice Ashley Teaches Chess

Websites:

www.queensac.com
www.uschess.org
www.chesslab.com
[www.princeton.edu/
jedwards/cif/
intro.html](http://www.princeton.edu/jedwards/cif/intro.html)

Chess and math: The algebra connection

Each square on the chess board has its own name,
making the chess board an algebraic grid.

a8	b8	c8	d8	e8	f8	g8	h8
a7	b7	c7	d7	e7	f7	g7	h7
a6	b6	c6	d6	e6	f6	g6	h6
a5	b5	c5	d5	e5	f5	g5	h5
a4	b4	c4	d4	e4	f4	g4	h4
a3	b3	c3	d3	e3	f3	g3	h3
a2	b2	c2	d2	e2	f2	g2	h2
a1	b1	c1	d1	e1	f1	g1	h1

Use these symbols
for writing chess moves:

R	rook
B	bishop
N	knight
—	moves to
x	captures
+	check
O-O	castles kingside
O-O-O	castles queenside

Possibilities

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Spotlight on
Climbing



Up, down, in, and around: I simply love to *CLIMB!*

As soon as children begin to walk (and sometimes even earlier!) they start to climb. They climb inside boxes, on top of tables, and up and down stairs. They can't seem to resist anything that resembles a ladder. Almost any object or structure can become a wonderful jungle gym, a dark tunnel, or a mountain peak for an imaginative child who loves to climb.

Whether it's simply climbing in, out, and finally on top of a discarded cardboard carton or tackling the steepest section of a hiking trail, young climbers will find our community is full of opportunities to enjoy getting up, up, and away!

Have yourself a high-steppin' good time!

Make an obstacle course in your living room using large pillows, furniture cushions, and plenty of big boxes that either have to be crawled through or climbed over. Add stairways built with sturdy blocks. Use your imagination to create a climber's dream.

Take your child for a walk in the yard, in the woods, or anywhere where he or she will have lots of opportunities to climb up and over things like fallen tree trunks and big rocks.

Visiting a building with many stairs can be a great adventure for a young climber. If he or she is just learning the skill, this may mean some close supervision and hand holding. Places like stadiums, libraries, and malls often have staircases that are good bets for beginning climbers.



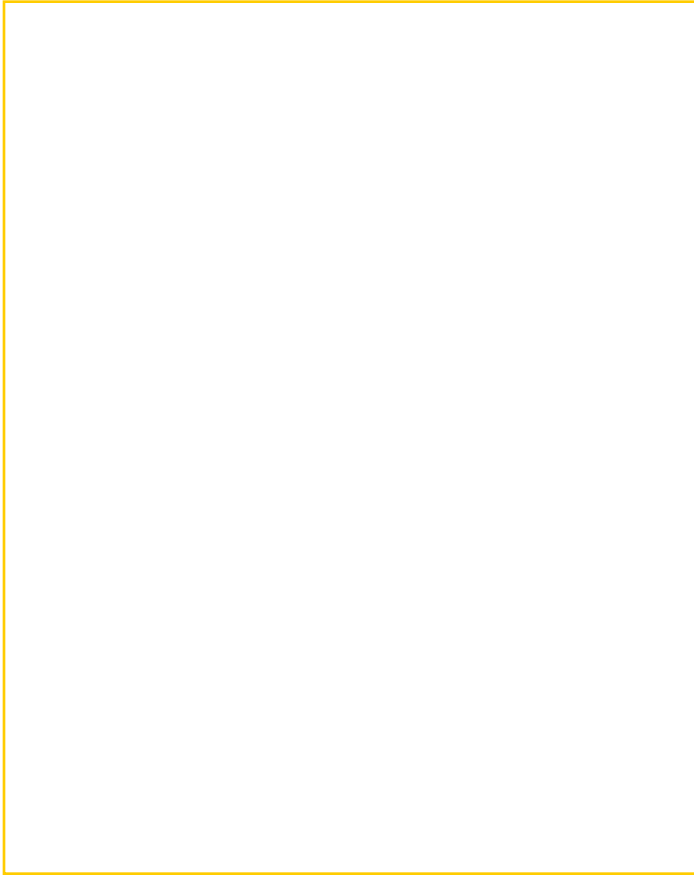
Big people add to climbing fun!

Little folks love to play on the floor with Dad or Mom. Babies especially enjoy climbing over a care giver, then being held aloft and swooped through the air. A good game of "I'm gonna getcha" is sure to earn giggles as children climb and scramble to make their great escape.



More bright ideas:
WHERE TO GO and WHAT TO DO for FUN!

FUN for more advanced climbers:



**Child-sized climbing challenges
at area parks and playgrounds:**





Young collectors may be building a life-long hobby

Certain primitive human communities are called "hunter-gatherer societies," as a way to describe their members' primary methods of survival. Sometimes parents are convinced that their own children must be direct descendents of such hearty tribes. You see, their households' young hunter-gatherers are fascinated by **COLLECTING**.

From an early age, collection-loving children are stooping to examine acorns and pebbles, feathers and shells. Their pockets and sock drawers begin to overflow with gathered treasures— bottle tops and greeting cards, bark samples and buttons, bits of string and colorful stamps.

A collection-prone child's involvement in any activity that interests him or her often includes an

element of collecting. A young sandlot star may become a baseball card collector. A budding ballerina might save toe shoe ribbons or autographed recital and dance concert programs. A member of a camping family might collect window decals as mementos from every park the family visits. The possibilities are endless!

Often just a little parental encouragement and some pointers about organization are all that's needed to help a child transform a jumble of cherished junk into a collection that's a true pleasure to view, to build, and to share with friends.

In many cases, such interest-motivated childhood collecting can evolve, with time, into enjoyable life-long hobbies.



"This will be perfect for my collection!"





More bright ideas: WHERE TO GO and WHAT TO DO for FUN!

If you're interested in *this*, would you enjoy collecting *that*?

Few people want to encourage acquisitiveness or "packrat-ism," but, if a child is a true collecting type, here are some ideas for fun collections that could grow out of your child's natural interests.

Animals or one particular animal: pictures cut from magazines; drawings; models; animal toys; figurines; plaster molds of footprints; abandoned nests, hives, and cocoons; feathers; rubber stamps depicting a favorite animal . . .

Clothes, costume: unusual hair ornaments (ribbons, barrettes, combs, etc.); scarves; costume dolls; sewing

patterns; hats; belt buckles, buttons, bracelet charms . . .

Cooking: recipes; cookie cutters; unusual egg timers . . .

Digging: Indian arrowheads; Civil War or Revolutionary War ammunition such as mini balls; rocks; fossils . . .

Music: concert ticket stubs or programs; recordings, autographed photos or posters of favorite performers; models or miniature versions of musical instruments; sheet music; instruments made from found objects, whistles . . .

Sports: trading cards; autographed balls; posters; programs; ticket stubs; team souvenirs . . .

Travel: postcards; postage stamps; window decals; suitcase decals; airline luggage tags; imprinted placemats, napkins, or matchbook covers; souvenir key chains . . .

Trees: seeds, bark samples, leaf impressions or rubbings . . .

Water: river pebbles; sea shells; driftwood . . .

Woodworking: cross sections of different woods; handmade nails . . .

Scrapbooks can be a fun way to tame a collection

In recent years, scrapbook making has emerged as a very popular hobby. Crafts supplies retailers and stationery stores now produce lines of specialty papers, computer software, clever paper punches, scissors for cutting fancy edges, and many other accessories that make designing and creating colorful memory books a pleasant pastime.

By helping a child organize an appropriate collection into scrapbook form, parents can increase the likelihood that their child will enjoy the hobby for years to come. It's not necessary to make the book a "big production." It might be as simple as a stack of construction paper bound with yarn, or a store-bought, Manila paper-filled photo album. The important thing is that the child has fun arranging his or her collection on its pages and, perhaps, sharing it with others.

Among the collections that are good candidates for display in scrapbooks are stamps, paper currency, theater thickets, copies of favorite



poems, photos, postcards, letters from pen pals, greeting cards, business cards, and more.

Other approaches to organization

There are many other fun ways to organize and display collections.

A framed, glass-faced shadowbox is a nice way to display small, rather lightweight items in a tidy, dust-free

Can you believe people actually collect these!?!?

A quick survey of websites for collectors reveals that *some people will collect almost ANYTHING!*

Here are just a few of the possibilities:

- Paper sugar packets
- Gas pumps and parts
- Cherry Coke cans
- Fishing lures

way. Good choices might be matchboxes, key chains, medals, and sea shells. Inexpensive, wall-mounted shelves can house a nice display of favorite rocks or toys. An old, glass-fronted china closet can be reclaimed as a home for a child's collection of dolls, stuffed animals, or natural materials.



Dazzled by Dolls

At its best, doll play is a time when young imaginations take wings. The doll might be a cuddly soft baby, a fairy-tale puppet, a character from the latest Disney feature, a muscle-bound "action figure," a dancing marionette, a yarn-maned hobby horse, or an heirloom rag doll. Whatever form his or her doll takes, the child invests it with a personality rich in emotion, activity, language, and story.

For many girls and boys, doll play is a way to experiment with and, perhaps, to make sense of the world

Doll story time:

Children who love dolls are often charmed by stories of dolls who "come to life." Ask your librarian or book store owner to recommend good choices, or sample a few of the following favorites:

The Velveteen Rabbit

Hitty: Her First Hundred Years

Raggedy Ann and Andy and other

books by Johnny Gruelle

Old Bear stories by Jane Hissey

Books based on the *Toy Story* movies.

A. A. Milne's *Winnie the Pooh* stories.

Pinocchio

The Steadfast Tin Soldier

The Nutcracker and the Queen of the Mice



around them.

Ask the child, though, why he or she plays with a favorite doll, and the answer is simple: "Because it's FUN!"

So celebrate the pure enjoyment of dolls. Take part in some of the doll-related activities described on the next page.





More bright ideas: WHERE TO GO and WHAT TO DO for FUN!

Fun with dolls

Paper dolls have long offered a popular and inexpensive form of doll play. Many variety, toy, and book stores carry paper dolls. You can find sets with the traditional, cut-out, tab-fit paper wardrobes; scissor-free versions with punch-out clothes; or new, preschooler-friendly dolls with clinging vinyl or magnetized fabric outfits.

◆
Doll making can be a fun craft activity for children. Colorful figures made of tied or braided yarn, wooden clothespins dressed in sewing-box scraps, or simple animal shapes cut from furry cloth, then stitched and stuffed, are just a few of the possibilities. Librarians and book store owners can recommend good "how-to" books to get you started.

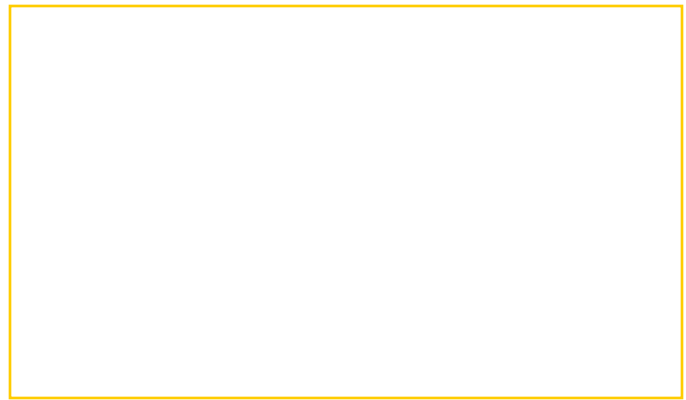
◆
Outstanding puppetry productions occasionally make their way to our area theatres and school auditoriums. Watch local newspapers for announcements. Boys and girls also have fun making puppets and mounting productions of their own. (An unbeatable rainy-day activity!) Sock puppets, finger puppets, shadow puppets, and stick puppets are among the easiest. And for a theatre? Try hanging a beach towel or folded sheet over a tension-mount



curtain rod or a length of clothesline placed at about waist level in a doorway. The open area above the towel becomes your stage, and the young puppeteers are out of sight behind it.

◆
Many libraries and branch libraries have collections of dolls and stuffed animals used for storytelling hours. Often they're stored in the children's sections, available for quiet, in-library play. It's a fun way for children to play with some favorite storybook friends such as *Madeline*, *Arthur*, *Curious George*, *Babar*, and *Peter Rabbit*.

Resources:



Delighted by "Dress Up"

For some boys and girls, grownups' drawers and closets are like magnets. They can't resist what they see as treasure houses of fascinating garments, just right for fueling hours of dress-up fun.

In their eyes, costumes are far more than a once-a-year, Halloween-season pleasure. "Dressing up" is part of their everyday imaginative play!

In an effort to preserve a bit of order in their own wardrobes, parents often decide to assemble a collection of clothing odds and ends to turn over to their children for dress-up play. The "dress-up box" becomes a resource for all kinds of make-believe, as

children try on roles and act out stories.

Dress up is one of those wonderful pastimes that can be enjoyed without spending a cent. Friends and family are generally very happy to clear away some of their own clothing clutter in support of the cause. Ask for fun items like women's gloves, fringed shawls, costume jewelry, fancy shoes, filmy scarves, and hats, hats, hats!

You'll want to find a handy storage place for all your finery. An appliance carton, open on one side and outfitted with a sturdy dowel and a few clothes hangers can make a useful, child-sized armoire. Decorating it with water-based paints or magazine cutouts can be a fun project.

Once your dress-up gear is collected, have a great time with some of the activities listed on the next page.

A discarded petticoat becomes an angel's robe.



The right hat completes this fellow's transformation into an Old West cowpoke.



Painted features add dress-up drama.





More bright ideas: WHERE TO GO and WHAT TO DO for FUN!

Imagination + costume basics = hours of dress-up enjoyment

If your child is forever improvising props and clothing for make-believe play with a medical theme, The Health Adventure in Pack Place, downtown Asheville, has just the exhibit for you. Your budding physician or therapist will be charmed by the hospital play area, complete with a variety of miniature green "scrubs," doctors' white coats, and plastic and Velcro limb splints of all sorts.

◆
Consider offering your child a variety of "dress-up squares," as an alternative to actual articles of clothing. From among your sewing friends, seek donations of one- to two-yard squares of leftover fabrics such as light cottons, open weaves, or any thin, silky, flowing cloth. Or buy a few inexpensive bolt-end remnants at a fabric shop. Add several long, narrow fabric strips for belts and you have the ingredients for lots of dress-up fun. Children love improvising with such pieces. By wrapping and tying in different ways, they fashion the swatches into super-hero capes, royal robes, butterfly wings, swirling skirts, exotic turbans, bridal veils, and much more.

◆
If you're planning a birthday party for a child who loves to dress up, think about

inviting guests to come in costume. Boys and girls will be in the spirit for great fun when they arrive at a party giver's door dressed as pirates, cowhands, firefighters, zoo animals, or any number of other characters. Alternatively, the host might include simple costume elements (eye patches, headscarves and sashes for pirates; neckerchiefs and deputy badges for the Old West, etc.) and/or mask-making as a party activity or favor. A group of small girls might have a pleasantly giggly afternoon attired in wobbly high heels, dangling necklaces, and other finery at a ladies' tea party.



Visit a fire station for a great place to dress up!



Resources:

Children are fascinated to discover that adults may enjoy hobbies involving dress up. They can include history buffs who re-create camps, drills, and battles of the U.S. Revolutionary and Civil Wars; costumed tour guides at historical sites and museums; participants in period festivals

such as Renaissance fairs; and fans of the Middle Ages who dress as armed knights and engage in sword fights and jousting matches.

Contact the following organizations for information about their dress-up specialty:





Here's how things STACK up: One on top of the other for fun!

Maybe it's the challenge of achieving balance. Perhaps it's the excitement of watching a teetering, precarious tower of something and wondering: "Will this work, or won't it?" Maybe it's the thrill of being in charge of knocking it all down.

Whatever the reason, children seem to find tremendous pleasure in the act of stacking things—all sorts of things—one on top of the other, until...

As far as most children are concerned, it doesn't much matter what the "thing" is that they're stacking. It's only important that they have a decent chance for some success before the inevitable noisy tumble happens (or is made to happen!).

Some fun "stackables" you might have around the house are empty baby-wipe boxes, coins from a penny jar, old game pieces such as checkers or poker chips, and washed-and-dried yogurt cups or margarine tubs with lids. So pile, heap, build, make towers, and stack to your heart's content. It's just plain fun.

Enjoy these activities . . .

Let your young "stacker" take charge of simple and enjoyable stacking jobs around the house: stacking folded towels on a shelf, stacking cans of pet food in the cupboard, stacking kindling wood and logs near the fireplace or stove, stacking spoons and forks in a silverware tray, and stacking magazines or books on a table.

(For more ideas, turn the page.)



More bright ideas:

WHERE TO GO and WHAT TO DO for FUN!

Children have fun with games and toys that involve stacking. One of the earliest to be mastered is stacking rings—plastic or wooden “doughnuts” that are stacked on a dowel or spindle in order of size.

Blocks of all sorts are tried-and-true favorites in all their varieties: wooden, cardboard, foam, architectural, Lego, Duplo,

Lincoln Logs, and more. Often specialty toy stores have display samples of different play building block sets so that children can sample them and discover which they prefer.

If you’re looking for stacking on a large scale, you might invest in a set of building bricks made of folded, corrugated cardboard. These are available through toy

stores and toy catalogs. Or you can make your own big blocks: As waxed cardboard juice and milk cartons (1/2-gallon size) are emptied, wash and dry them, stuff with crumpled newspaper to make them sturdy, then seal the ends with packing tape and cover your “bricks” with decorative adhesive vinyl (like Contact paper).

Many enjoyable games include elements of stacking. Your child might have fun learning “Pick-Up Sticks” or any card game that involves handling a stack of playing cards (“Go fish” or “Old Maid,” for example).



The outdoors is a great place for children to enjoy stacking. They can try making towers of flat stones or other found materials.



Possibilities

Interests + activities = fun!

Spotlight on Sliding



What's fun? Slip-SLIDING away!

If you know a child who can't resist the impulse to hop aboard every free-standing stair banister encountered and fly downward with unencumbered delight, you've got a "slider" on your hands!

Think playground slides, snowy hillsides, grassy slopes, glossy hardwood floors, ice rinks, amusement parks, children's festivals, water parks, and your own backyard when you want to feed that need to slide!

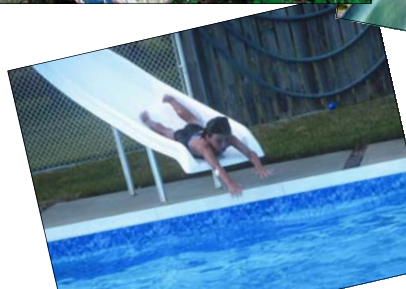


Sliding action!

Children can spend many happy summertime hours on a homemade water slide. A length of heavy-gauge vinyl or plastic sheeting anchored to an embankment and a slow stream of water from your garden hose are all that's needed for slippery fun.

Light-weight and inexpensive molded plastic sleds in circle and rectangle shapes are now sold at many discount houses and toy stores. These make easy-to-handle first sleds for young children, while older ones love the sleds' portability and the excellent sliding they provide. When a snowfall catches you without a sled, draft a cafeteria tray, cookie sheet, or pizza pan as a serviceable replacement. Whoosh!

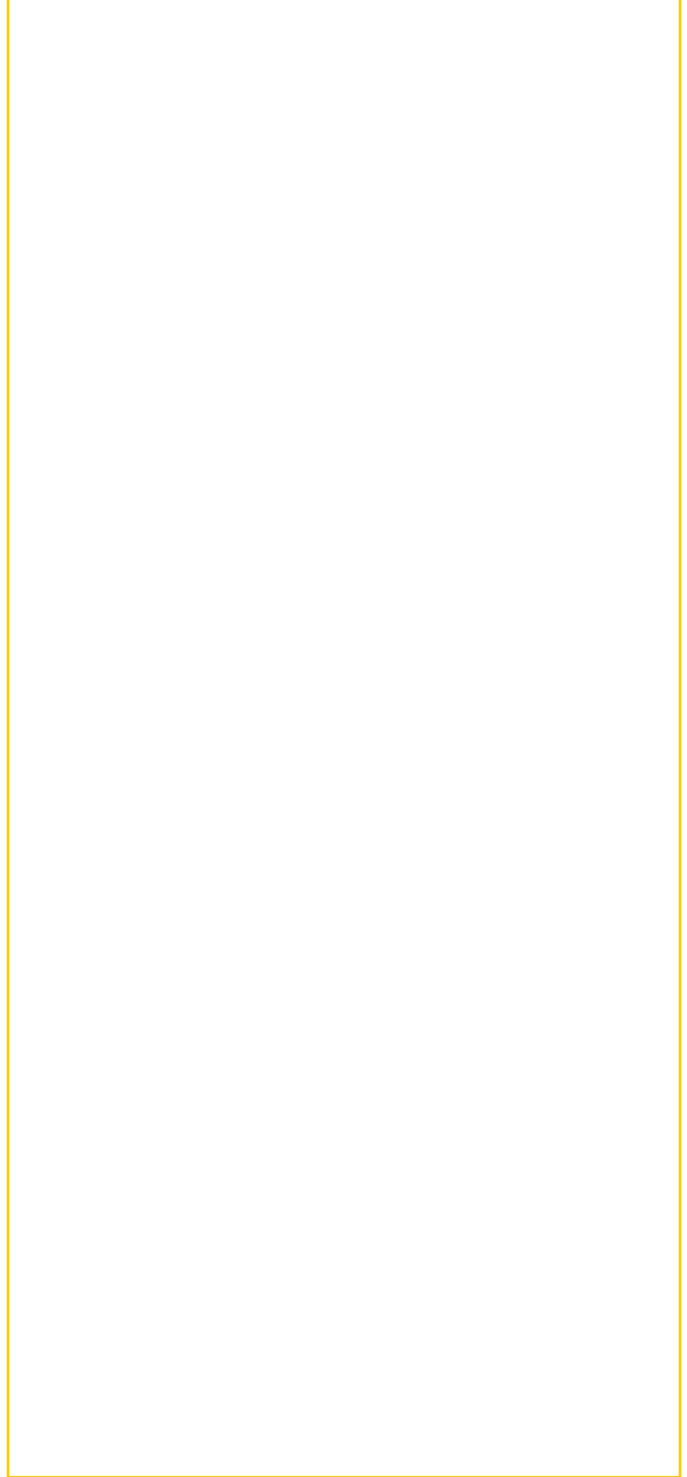
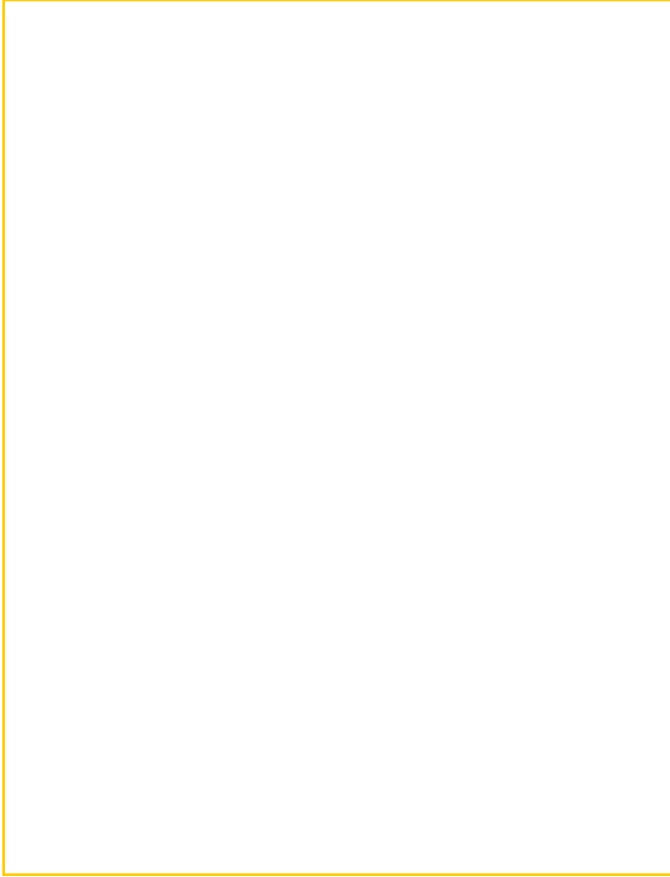
Sliders enjoy toys and games that involve sliding in some way—shuffleboard (courts found at some parks and community centers), carrom, and hockey (street, ice, or mechanical toy) are a few of these.





More bright ideas:
WHERE TO GO and WHAT TO DO for FUN!

Check out these sites for hours of sliding delight!

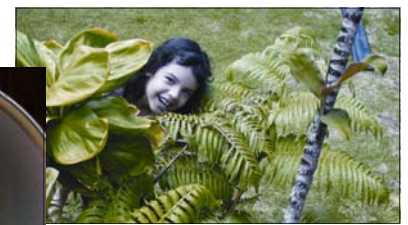


Play involving hiding is powerful, mysterious . . . and FUN!

Many children are fascinated by play that includes an element of hiding. For some babies, the visual pay-off in each repetition of "Peek-a-boo" is endlessly funny and delightful. Two or more older children love the challenge and suspense found in a good game of "Hide and

Seek." Children of all ages enjoy creating small shelters, clubhouses, playhouses, and a vast assortment of "secret hiding places."

This *Spotlight* offers suggestions for incorporating the surprise, mystery, and excitement of hiding into a child's playtime fun.



These play activities appeal to lovers of hiding and discovery:

Many children crave a special hiding/play place of their own.

Some of the most wonderful private spots can be made out of discarded appliance cartons (such as the heavy-duty boxes refrigerators are shipped in). Ask a friendly appliance retailer to save a box for you.

An adult can use a sharp knife or box-cutting blade to cut an assortment of windows and door openings in the sides of the carton. For fun, leave the window cutouts attached or

"hinged" on one side to form "shutters" that your child can open and close at will. Another option is to hang simple cloth curtains from a string attached just above each window opening. Try cutting the front door in half for a Dutch-door effect. Tiny peepholes for spying on outsiders are also fun additions to the playhouse.

The proud owner of such a cardboard hideout might enjoy customizing his or her special place with bright poster paints before installing it in a corner

of a bedroom or family room. Get ready for hours of imaginative fun!

Simple shelters or hiding places can be made in many other ways: Drape a colorful sheet or tablecloth over a card table or between a pair of sawhorses for an instant and easy-to-store-away hiding place. An empty lower cupboard or pass-through closet can make a fun secret retreat, as well.

Turn the page for more activity ideas.



More bright ideas: WHERE TO GO and WHAT TO DO for FUN!



More activities

Older children are often fascinated by magic tricks (many of which involve hiding). They might enjoy mastering several tricks and performing them for "the amazement of family and friends!" Magician's goods shops, novelty shops, and toy stores are good places to find ready-made equipment for working such "magic." Or check with a nearby library for how-to books on simple magic tricks. "Now you see it; now you don't!"

Babies love finger plays with chanted rhymes or songs. Not surprisingly, hiding plays a major role in many finger plays: "Where Is Thumbkin?" "Here Is The Church; Here Is The Steeple," "Two Little Birdies Sitting On A Hill," and more. Your library or children's bookstore should have collections of such simple early games to refresh your memories of your own favorites!

Teach your child that old standby of sleight-of-hand hustlers—the "Shell Game."

All you need are three matching walnut half shells, small cups, medicine-bottle lids, or other "covers," and one coin, die, pompon, or other small object that fits easily beneath the covers.

Here's how to play: Line up the three covers on a table top. Place the object beneath one of them. Then slide the covers about quickly on the table top for several seconds, changing their positions numerous times until ending with all of them arranged in a row again. Did you watch closely? Try to guess which cover is hiding the object. Were you right?



Locations: Magic stores

Possibilities

Interests + activities = fun!

Spotlight on Swinging



In the swing of things

There's something wonderful about the smoothly rhythmic, back-and-forth motion of swinging. Sometimes comforting and soothing, other times dizzily stimulating, swinging invites us to relish the simple joy of movement while letting our thoughts and imaginations soar freely.

Whether it's at the sedate pace of a creaky porch swing or the breathtaking swoop of a rope swing over water, "swing time" has long been a pleasurable pastime for children (and adults!) of all ages.

Young "swingers" are fortunate that there are so many convenient ways to "get in the swing" here in our area. Take a look . . .

Swing into action!

Swings improvised with an old rubber tire and a length of heavy rope attached to the stout bough of a shade tree are some of the nicest childhood play places ever devised.

A rope hammock hung between two trees or porch columns makes a fun swinging or napping spot.

Swinging footbridges are a special treat for your young "swinger" to discover on a family hike or playground visit. Such bridges are part of the play structures found in many neighborhood parks.

Lots of sports include swinging in one way or another. Some of the most popular ones are t-ball, softball, baseball, golf, mini golf, croquet, and bowling.





More bright ideas:
WHERE TO GO and WHAT TO DO for FUN!

Savor these swinging spots!



Customize **Spotlights** with information about exciting and fun opportunities for children and families to enjoy interest-based learning in your community! It's EASY!

Before you begin:

You'll want to have the [free Adobe Acrobat Reader](http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html) (available to download at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>) on your computer to open *Spotlights*.

To be able to **save** your customized *Spotlights*, you'll need to purchase **CutePDF™ Form Filler**. It's available to purchase (\$29.95) online at <http://www.cutepdf.com/Products/CutePDF/Filler.asp>.

possibilities Spotlight on **Birds**
Interests + activities = FUN

Feathered friends are FUN and fascinating!

Does your little one stop and listen with obvious pleasure to birdsong? Is she always the first one to spy a nest cradled in the branches of a bush or tree? Does he make sketches of birds and bring home picture books about birds from the library? Are parakeets and cockatiels on her list of "the world's greatest pets?"

If you answer "yes" to any of these questions, you may have a true "birder" in the family. Young bird lovers may be bird watchers, bird owners, or both! Opportunities for bird watching are abundant in most communities—they can be as near as a child's bedroom window and as appealing as the protected bird habitats in a well-planned nature preserve. Interest in feathered creatures may begin with the simple task of tending backyard feeders and birdbaths, then grow into sighting and identification expeditions complete with day packs, binoculars, and field guides.

We hope your bird-loving child will enjoy many of the activities and resources listed in this *Spotlight*. It's for the birds!

Take wing with these projects:

Set up a bird-feeding station. Choose a location you can see from a window. Be sure it's near perches and hiding places so visiting birds will feel safe. This way you're not only feeding birds, you're creating a handy bird watching spot, too!

Foods a bird-feeding station might contain are: sunflower seeds in a hanging feeder; a lump of suet (beef fat), plain or mixed with seeds, suspended in a wire mesh container or a plastic mesh onion bag; cracked corn in a feeder or sprinkled on the ground; and peanut butter stuffed into holes you've drilled or carved in a piece of wood hung from a tree branch. Other foods to attract and nourish birds are raw, unsalted peanuts and other chopped nuts; coconut;

grains such as millet, wheat, and oats; pieces of dried or fresh fruit; and sugar water (for hummingbirds).

Many children enjoy preparing special treats for wild birds who spend the winter months in our area. In mid-December, why not decorate a "Christmas tree" especially for the birds? Find a pretty evergreen in your yard or a nearby wooded area. Adorn its branches with appealing food "ornaments" for the birds: pine cones stuffed with peanut butter and rolled in mixed seeds; suet blocks suspended from colorful ribbons; garlands of popped corn; wreaths of cranberries; dried apple rings; and orange-half "baskets" filled with birdseed.

It's also a good idea to give birds a source of drinking water near this tree. A shallow bowl or tray

1. Community Mapping: Gather information from every possible source in your community about children's learning and recreation opportunities in the interest areas covered by the *Spotlights* in this set: building, chess, climbing, collecting, dolls, dress up, hiding, sliding, stacking, and swinging. Consult telephone and city directories, parks and recreation departments, chambers of commerce, tourist bureaus, and knowledgeable community members.
2. Open a *Spotlight* in CutePDF™ Form Filler and follow the instructions that appear in semi-transparent boxes beside the document.
3. First, copy the *Spotlight* to your computer and close the original version on the CD. You will add your local information to this copy.

4. On Page One, click your cursor in the small box (where you see a yellow dotted outline) in the upper right corner. Type in the name, address, telephone, and other contact information for your organization.
5. On Page Two, click in the first yellow-outlined text space and type in the names and locations of the relevant community resources you've collected. When this space is filled, click in any additional boxes and continue entering your information. Text does not "flow" from box to box.
6. CutePDF™ Form Filler allows you to save your custom version of the *Spotlight* with all the information you've added. Print your *Spotlight* (in full color or black-and-white) on two sides of 8.5" by 11" bright white paper, and distribute widely to families in your community. Then experience the magic of interest-based fun and learning!

More bright ideas:
WHERE TO GO and WHAT TO DO FOR FUN!

Resources for bird-loving children

Local bird-watching sites:

filled with water and placed on the ground or a tree during life good choice. Remember to replenish the bird food and water throughout the cold months.

In the spring, place handfuls of sphagnum moss, bits of cotton, and short lengths of soft yarn or string in the branches of a bush or tree. Birds will gather these treasures and weave them into their nests. Children like spotting these offerings in birdhouses and trees later in the season.

Begin a lifetime bird-sighting journal. This is a way for a child to keep a record of all the types of birds he or she sees. Have fun making and illustrating your own small booklet, or buy a blank book or an official sighting list for this purpose. It's fun to identify each bird you spot, record the date, time, and place of the sighting, and describe the bird's appearance or what it was doing when you saw it. An identification guide can be a helpful purchase.

You might have fun building bird houses and feeders to attract different types of birds to your yard or neighborhood. Check with local home improvement/ hardware stores to find out when children's wood-crafting workshops focusing on bird houses and feeders might be scheduled. Also, check the library for books with instructions for these projects. Find out how to clean out the houses at the end of the nesting season so that birds can use them safely year after year.

Take a bird walk with your family. See how many different kinds of birds you can find.

Make a bird shadow puppet. Cross your hands at the wrists with both palms facing toward you. Hook your thumbs together. Place your hands between a light source and a blank wall to produce a bird-shaped shadow on the wall. Your thumbs form the bird's head and your fingers are its wings. Move your fingers to make your shadowbird fly!

To make a shadow rooster, join your hands, palm to palm. Keeping your fingers straight, interlace them. Move your thumbs apart and together to open and close the rooster's beak. Your fingers are the cock's comb. Coo-it-doodle-doo!

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Books are Beautiful!

Children and books. It's a happy relationship that can begin at a very early age.

Babies chuckle and squeal while turning and tasting the colorful, hefty pages of their first "board books." Smiling toddlers snuggle close to Daddy and Momma for bedtime sessions with well-thumbed storybooks. Preschoolers form a circle of enthralled listeners at book store and library story hours. Fledgling readers tackle brightly illustrated books all by themselves with growing pleasure and pride. Older children can't wait to be swept away by the latest volume of Harry Potter's magical adventures or by a book on whatever other topic has captured their growing imaginations.

Our community offers an abundance of ways for children and families to



develop and enjoy their love of books and reading. Among them are:

- Libraries
- Bookmobiles
- Book stores
- Used book exchanges
- Library story hours
- Book store story hours
- School media centers
- Reading tutors and mentors
- Book fairs and book sale fundraisers
- Family literacy programs





More bright ideas: WHERE TO GO and WHAT TO DO for FUN!

Did you know . . .?

Our public libraries offer young book lovers many services besides book borrowing. Children and families enjoy checking out read-along book/cassette sets; video-tape and DVD movie versions of many favorite stories; framed art posters and prints; and, at some branches, home activity/play kits. Weekly story hours for pre-schoolers and annual summer reading programs are other fun opportunities found at many local libraries. Call your children's librarian for great ideas and a schedule of events.



Libraries

Blair Mountain Branch, 105 North Douglas St, Blair Mountain
E Ashemont Branch, 902 Tunney Rd
Edwinton Branch, Fire Station Road, Edwinton
Enloe-Carlton Branch, 1404 Sandy Rd
Eton Branch, Brickfield Rd, Eton
Fairlawn Branch, 1 Tarry Rd, Fairlawn
Freedom Branch, Hwy 25 S, Freedom
Green Gorge Branch, Green Gorge Road, Zebulon
Henleyville Main, 301 N Washington Street, Henleyville
N Asheville Branch, 37 E Larchmont Drive
Park Memorial, 67 Vance Street
S Ashemont Branch, 749 Fairlawn Road
S Laurel Branch, 260 Scenic Parkway
Swansdown Branch, 101 Charles Ave
Weaverdale Branch, 41 N Main Street, Weaverdale
W Ashemont Branch, 970 Hayes Road

Story hours

The Ashemont-Laurel Library System offers preschool story hours, story & craft times, summer reading programs, and many other book-related activities for children.

Call the branch library of your choice for their schedule, or call the system's events phone number, 200-1111, for a monthly schedule.

Bookmobiles

The Ashemont-Laurel Library System operates a bookmobile out of its Enloe-Carlton Branch. Call for a schedule of stops, 777-7777.

Telephone story

Friends of the Library sponsors a recorded story-reading service available by telephone to young children. A new story is featured each week. Call 200-3333.

Book stores

Accent Books, 854 Merriton Avenue
B Dalton, 3 Tunney Rd, Ashemont Mall & 800 Brevity Rd, Cecil Square
Barnes & Noble, 83-E Tunney Road
Books-A-Million, 136 S Tunney Road
Mrs. Malaprop, 55 Vance Street
Once Upon A Time, 7 Cathedral Circle
Talespinner, 108 W Maple Street, Blair Mountain
Waldenbooks, Cecil Square
Many toy stores, toy departments, and religious goods stores have

children's book sections, too!

Used books

My Bookshelf, 485 Henleyville Road
Downstream Books & News, 67 N Concord Avenue
Jacob's Book Exchange, 6328 Hwy 25, Freedom Plaza, Ardmore
Leo Digs Books, 217 Merriton Ave
Paperback Pals, 1240 Brevity Road
Patty's Book Swap, 1569 Payton Avenue
The Reading Corner, 31 Montcliff Ave
Seconds Book Nook, 103 Waldo Street, Blair Mountain

Book fairs, sales

For excellent book bargains, call your branch library to ask when the next "Friends of the Library" used book sale takes place. Many public and private schools sponsor annual fundraising book fairs for the sale of new children's books. Phone your local school for information.

Writing books

Children who have fun writing their own stories and books can take part in courses offered by The Writer's Workroom, 200-2222.