

-]-Blanket Forts. Keep a basket of no-longer-needed sheets, blankets, curtains, etc., and see what you can create, inside or outside. Truly an ageless art, we promise! -)-Go find a special tree to be "your tree". In a park, in your yard, on a street, anywhere you can. -7-Press a leaf from your tree, or do a leaf-rubbing or elaborate leaf-rubbing art. Find out whatever you can about the tree type by taking it to your local extension office, or library to reference tree books, or in your own nature guide. Visit your tree again next week or next month; notice the changes throughout the seasons. Maybe even sketch them in a nature notebook. -5-Play a board game or card game. Invent a board game or card game. Play your invented board game with your family -8-Plant something. A pot of flowers, a patio vegetable garden, an window box for kitchen herbs, a plot of land all your own in your yard or community garden. -9-Tend your crops, wherever you planted them. -10-Go on a wonder walk around your neighborhood or yard. What do you see that is WONDERful? Small or big, fleeting or permanent, share it with your family. -11-Be on the lookout for someone to care for. Can you bring some of the flowers you planted to a neighbor? Is there someone you know who is sick or having a tough time, who you could bless with a home-cooked meal or original piece of artwork created by you? -12-Go hunting for 4-leaf clovers in a clover patch.

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Go on a scavenger hunt at the park or in your neighborhood.

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Spread a blanket out in your yard, living room, bedroom, or wherever you have space. "Camp out" there for the day. Did you know kids and their families used to go do this all the time during hot summer days? They'd find a shady patch in the park, woods, seasjpre. or wherever they could, and camp out there for the whole day to cool off. They didn't have air conditioning, and so this was a creative way for them to get through the summer days. Bring books, sketch pads, watercolors, soccer balls or footballs—whatever your favorite activity is, bring it along and enjoy the day!

Two words: Dirt. Water. Combine them and do something glorious with the mud. Create a network of miniature river channels, waterfalls, dams, log flumes, moats, whatever you can. Use rocks, sticks and leaves to create bridges, miniature buildings or structures, and more. Pour water from a cup or watering can into your creation and watch it flow!

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Visit the library. Make a librarian's day by asking them to recommend some books. Tell them a few of your favorites, and see what they have to recommend.

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Build something! With your parents' guidance and permission, find a project that you can construct. A bird house, a bench, a mailbox—something that you can create. Finish it by decorating it or weatherproofing it, and install or gift it. Or, consider building something on a miniature scale, from materials found around the yard.

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Write something! A letter, a poem, a story, a manual to an invention idea you have, a business plan to a business idea you have... turn that blank piece of paper into a place full of ideas.

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Watch the stars when they come out. Look for shooting stars and meteors, and see what shapes you can imagine by connecting the dots of the stars. For extra fun, bring hot cocoa or tea.

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Determine to learn something new, decide what it will be, then do it. Learning was never meant to stop, and there's always something new to set your mind to. How to draw, paint, build, how to plan, create blueprints, conduct science experiments, knit, pitch a tent, fix an engine, change the oil, can applesauce... the possibilities are endless!

-21-

Teach something. You know something wonderful, and you can help someone else learn it. How to create those blueprints, how to plot a garden, how to paint a picture of a mountain—teach a sibling, a friend, a parent.