

10 Tips for Low-cost Indoor Family Fun

1 Read stories to each other.

2 Bake or cook together.

3 Have a family game night. Trade games with other families that have children the same ages as yours. Set up a play area, pop some popcorn, and learn new games.

4 Set up a puzzle to work on. Everyone can work on it as they pass by during the day. And, you can choose times when the family can work on it together.

5 Your local library has games, free Internet, movies, music CDs, and audio books (books on tape or CD). They have magazines, newspapers, and books, too. If you can't find what you're looking for, ask someone who works there. Often, items can be sent from some other library—sometimes for free.

6 You can get into many museums free on certain days of the week or month.

7 Teach children crafts you enjoy. Spend time doing them together.

8 Choose a topic the whole family would like to know about. Look it up together on the Internet.

9 Get together with friends once a month for a potluck. Make a pot of soup or stew and ask others to bring side dishes. If there are a lot of small children, all the parents could share the cost of a babysitter to be there too. That way, you can have some “adult time” after the meal.

10 Is there a college nearby? See if there are free concerts, lectures, or events.

