

52 ways to bond with your kids this year

1. Attend the sporting events of a local high school or college.
2. Choose cookbooks from the library and create a family feast.
3. Gather old clothes and accessories and play dress up. Have a fashion show to show off your creations.
4. Rehearse then perform a short skit or play together.
5. Volunteer together at a local soup kitchen.
6. Go to the dollar store for craft supplies and enjoy an afternoon of creating.
7. Get buckets and sponges and have a family car wash.
8. Read aloud their favorite books together. Use lots of funny voices.
9. Gather paper bags and markers and make your own puppets. Have a puppet show.
10. Pop popcorn and pour the juice. Then, have a cartoon marathon.
11. Plant a garden together. Even an indoor window sill herb garden will do.
12. Do face paintings on each other.
13. Trace yourselves with chalk onto the sidewalk.
14. Have a family board game night complete with pizza and ice cream.
15. Try family fun activities like mini golf or bowling.
16. Enter a contest together. It will help you develop teamwork.
17. Let them pick their favorite place for lunch and then go and chow down.
18. Pack a picnic and spend the afternoon outdoors.
19. Go on a nature walk and collect flowers and leaves. Come home and press them.
20. Visit local attractions such as the zoo, aquarium, or museum. Visit on the kids get in free days.
21. Show them baby pictures of themselves and share memories.
22. Do the same with old family videos and movies. They will love it!
23. Let your child interview you, then interview them.
24. Decorate their bedroom together. Paint a wall, add some fun pictures, or paint a wall mural.
25. Have a bubble blowing contest with chewing gum.
26. Visit the local library for story time, free presentations, or to rent inexpensive movies.
27. Attend one of the free craft sessions at Barnes & Noble.
28. Attend a free make it and take it event at your local Home Depot or Lowes.
29. Ask your local bakery if they offer tours. If not, just go for an afternoon snack.
30. Try baking bread from scratch.
31. Plan and pull off a bike parade together.
32. Listen to the music that interests them. Have a dance party.
33. Pamper each other. Paint nails, brush hair, apply light make up.
34. Invite a play date over. Engage with them so you can get to know their friends well.
35. Take a class together. It can be art, cooking, a foreign language, dance, etc.
36. Try exercising together. An after-dinner walk is a great place to start.
37. Attend a concert of their choice together.
38. Try writing a short story together. Have them illustrate it if they wish.
39. Play some video or computer games with them. Let them teach you how to play.
40. Make your own play dough.
41. Create a build your own salad bar for dinner. Let them help prep it.
42. Get some cardboard boxes. Let your imagination go wild and see what you can create with it.
43. Get a canvas and paint a family picture with it. Let each member make their own design or mark on the canvas.
44. Enjoy an afternoon of browsing and shopping at their favorite stores. Teach them about planning a shopping list and budgeting.
45. Grab a magnifying glass and go investigate nature.
46. Play a game of flashlight tag in the dark. Go outside if weather permits.
47. Take a twilight walk to look for night time wildlife such as bats and owls.
48. Attend a local art event such as a play, musical, or gallery opening.
49. Teach them a skill you have mastered such as sewing, writing, cooking, woodworking, etc.
50. Take them to visit with other family members. It will help them better understand where they come from.
51. Have breakfast for dinner one night. Get out the cereal, juice, eggs, and of course bacon! They will love the change in routine.
52. Share a journal together. Let them write you notes and you can write back.

