

Butts County Family Enrichment Center
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July 2016



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Playing is How Toddlers Learn

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/ages-stages/toddler/fitness/Pages/Playing-is-How-Toddlers-Learn.aspx>



Raising a Toddler Can be Child's Play

- Play is how your toddler explores and learns about the world. Support and encourage this play.
- Allow your child lots of time to play.
- Match your child's interests with play activities.
- Take care of yourself—playing with your toddler can take a lot of your energy.
- When you are having fun, your child is having fun too!
- Playing and pretending allow your child to learn and grow.

Play is how young children start to get ready for school.

- They learn how to feel comfortable being with other children, and how to be a good friend.
- Play gets children ready for learning—paying attention to adults, playing nicely with others, and feeling comfortable being away from their parents.
- Pretend play is one way children learn about difficult feelings like anger and fear.

TIP: Make the places in your home where you spend a lot of time safe places where your child can play and be supervised easily. Give your child lots of time to explore with things like water, sand, boxes, or any other safe item that your child finds interesting.

TIP: Provide simple and safe items, like plastic cups and plates, pots and pans, books, blocks, play tools, and crayons. This way, your child can copy your actions and work. Items should be stored in a safe place or in a container where children can easily see and get to them.



TIP: Describe what's going on to your child:

- "I see you drew a brown circle."
- "What a long jump you made!"

TIP: Ask questions.

- "How did you make this yummy soup?"
- "What will happen next?"

TIP: Find items that match your child's interests. If your child likes to watch ants crawl along the sidewalk, read a book about insects!

TIP: Visit special places related to your child's interests. You can start with a visit to your local library. You will get ideas for future play.



When you let your child guide the activities, you get a window into the delightful world of a toddler—a world where everything is new and full of possibility.

Child's Play Can Be Hard Work for Parents

Playing with your child takes a lot of time and energy. When you are tired, your toddler will know it. Find time for yourself. Maybe your family can help out, or perhaps a friend will watch your child for a few hours. You will come back with more energy and joy. If you are having fun, chances are your child is having fun, and learning, too.

If you find yourself losing patience, it's a sign that you need some time for yourself! Let people know when you need support or help. If you feel bored or anxious a lot of the time, talk with your pediatrician.



It helps to find company for you and your child.

- Many libraries have story hours.
- Community centers and YMCAs often have play groups. (See page 5 for the *FEC summer playgroup schedule*).
- Find a popular playground where you can meet other parents with young children.

Source Connected Kids: Safe, Strong, Secure (Copyright © 2006 American Academy of Pediatrics)

The information contained on this Web site should not be used as a substitute for the medical care and advice of your pediatrician. There may be variations in treatment that your pediatrician may recommend based on individual facts and circumstances.



July



All FEC activities are free and open to families living in Butts County with children 5 and under.



Summer Playgroups

will be held every Thursday in July during the summer at the



Ernest Battle Professional Development Center.
218 Woodland Way, Jackson
(old Jackson Elementary School, across from the football field)



Please contact your parent educator for more information or email fec@bcssk12.org

Butts County Schools Beginning of School Activities

Friday, July 29th: KinderCamp is FREE and will be held for rising kindergarteners from 8am—1 pm at all 3 elementary schools. Breakfast and lunch will be served. To register, call your child's school.

Wednesday, August 3rd: Pre-K and Kindergarten Orientation. The Butts County School System will hold an orientation night for rising pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students from 6 to 7 p.m. at the students' elementary schools. Parents and children can tour the schools, see classrooms and talk with teachers.

Thursday, August 4th: Open House for all other grade levels and schools in Butts County.

Wednesday, August 10th: FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL



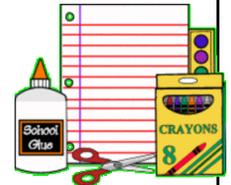
Butts County Community Calendar

A list of free or inexpensive family activities happening in and around Butts County



Monday, July 4th: The City of Jackson's Fourth of July fireworks celebration will be held at Daughtry Park on Ernest Biles Drive in Jackson. The event will include fireworks, live entertainment and a concession stand. Picnicking is encouraged but alcoholic beverages are prohibited in the park. The admission price is \$5 per car. Gates will open at 5 p.m.

Saturday, July 23rd: The Annual Butts County School Supply Giveaway for students in pre-k through 12th-grade will be held from 8 a.m. until noon July 23 at the Butts County recreation gym, 576 Ernest Biles Drive, Jackson. Participants must bring two proofs of residency and the child must be present with a parent to receive a book bag. Organizers will give away 500 book bags with school supplies. The event will include a community fair featuring booths representing different types of services offered throughout the county.



Jackson-Butts County Public Library Summer Reading Program

Programs each Tuesday at 10 am and 1 pm
Programs are FREE and open to the public!

July 5th: No Program Enjoy the Holiday

July 12th: "Barnyard Bully" w/ Bright Star Children's Theatre

July 19th: Uncle Jim (a Jimmy Buffet band member) presents an anti-bullying program.

July 26th: Storyteller and musician Valerie Peyton

August 2nd: "Get Set! Get Ready! Read! Magic Show" w/ Ken Scott

10 Ideas for Summer Fun with Kids

Fun, Challenging (and Cheap) Activities Gifted Kids Will Love

By Carol Bainbridge, About.com Guide

http://giftedkids.about.com/od/nurturinggiftsandtalents/qt/cheap_fun.htm

When we are on a tight budget, it can be hard to find interesting and challenging activities for our gifted children. However, with a little thought and sometimes just a little planning, we can find plenty of summer fun activities. Here are just a few suggestions.

Plan a Picnic

You don't have to travel far to have a picnic. In fact, you don't have to travel any farther than your own backyard. The fun isn't only in the picnic alone, but in the planning of it. It is a perfect way to create some cheap summer fun.

Plant a Garden

Gardens offer kids a perfect opportunity for learning about plant life. If you start early enough in the season, you can start the garden from seeds. That is the ideal way to start a garden since the kids can watch the garden grow from the very beginning sprouts. However you start too late in the season to plant seeds, you can buy a few seedlings from just about anywhere, including many grocery stores. The kids can still watch the plants grow. Have them keep a chart of the growth every day or two. They can even draw pictures of the plants as they grow. And be sure that your child waters the plants and gets rid of the weeds.

Plan Some Family Fun Nights

Families don't need to go on vacations or spend lots of money to enjoy some time together. All they need to do is plan some fun activities to share. Among the possibilities are watching movies or playing games together. Family nights can provide summer fun anytime, but especially on those rainy days when the kids can't play outdoors.



Put on a Play

This activity can be as simple or as complex as your children would like it to be. The simplest way to put on a play is to act out a familiar story (like *Little Red Riding Hood*), using whatever you can find around the house for costumes. The more complex methods of play production would start with the children making up their own story, writing a script, planning the costumes (that mom and others might help make), rehearsing, creating a flyer, and making tickets.

Camp in the Backyard

You don't need to travel any farther than your own backyard to plan a camping trip. Part of the fun is in the planning, so take your time to find the right spot to pitch a tent and decide on activities the whole family can enjoy.

Create a Backyard Waterpark

A waterpark in the backyard? Absolutely! If you already have a playset, all you have to do is get a hose (or two) and prop them up to spray water on it. If you don't want to go with a playset, get a small backyard pool. Again, all you have to do is set up some hoses to spray either over the pool or around it. You're limited only by your imagination!



Plan a Scavenger Hunt

You can encourage your children to explore nature with a nature scavenger hunt which could include items as simple as different shaped stones and leaves. Or you can hide objects of your own around the yard and give your children clues that will help them find them!

Make Music

You can create music with just about anything that makes a sound. You can buy cheap kazoos or make your own by covering a comb with wax paper (a clean comb!) Pots can serve as drums and lids can be cymbals. Empty jugs can be used, too, to make "music." It's easy to kids to get carried away with just making noise, so be sure to make this activity a musical one. Help your kids learn about music, while having fun.

Have a Yard Sale

This activity can have several goals. You can get your house cleaned of clutter, give your kids something to do, and make a little money! You can also take the opportunity to teach your children a little about economics!



Conduct Simple Experiments

Most of us don't have a handy list of easy experiments to draw from, but libraries have plenty of books with experiments for children. Plan a trip to the library (another great activity) and find a book or two with experiments.