



Summer of Saying Yes

30 Ways to Say Yes This Summer

- Mom, read “Last Child in the Woods” by Richard Louv and get inspired! <http://bit.ly/naturedeficit>
- Grow something from a seed.
- Have a trampoline or backyard campout.
- Make a reading list with each of your children and give an incentive for every book read.
- Have a S'MORES bar and invite friends! The classic is great, but have fun mixing it up: <http://bit.ly/perfectsmores>
- Give each child a budget to spend at the Arts and Crafts store, and then let them go crazy creating.
- Introduce a “Before Screen List” for summer. Here is an example: <https://awordthatmatters.com/screen-time-checklist/>
- Sign your children up for a VBS in your town. If they are too old to attend, let them serve.
- Visit a Farmer’s Market as a family.
- Spend the whole day in your PJ’s completely guilt free. Have pancakes for dinner!
- Order a caterpillar kit and watch them turn into butterflies: <http://amzn.to/2pGLwa0>
There are endless “lesson plans” online to make the most out of your experience.
- Read your children a Classic aloud, outside whenever possible. You may find this grade-level list helpful: <http://bit.ly/classickids-booklist>
- Visit a botanical garden or even a nursery just to smell the roses, and all the other flowers. Gather fallen petals. See how many you can name. Pick out your favorite. What is native? Then have your children draw pictures or journal what they saw, smelled, and felt.
- Have a movie night where you show your children “Mom and Dad’s Favorite Movies When We Were Your Age.” Try it again next week with Grandma’s and Grandpa’s!
- Go for a night swim with glow-sticks.



- Do a family summer Bible Study together. We will be participating in She Reads Truth /He Reads Truth/ Kids Read Truth's Romans study with this family bundle: <http://bit.ly/romansbundle>
- Visit a pottery painting or canvas painting studio
- Give each child their very own "Yes Day!" Yes to their friend coming over, yes to their favorite dinner, yes to going to that place you always say no to, yes to their favorite movie, yes to an extra bedtime story and going to bed an hour later . . . Whatever (in reason)! It's yes!
- Invite friends over for an Al Fresco Pizza Picnic. Organize several families that would like to participate, and weekly rotate yards. Order delivery or think about individual "make your own" pizza bars, dessert pizzas, fruit pizza . . . Get creative!
- Write physical letters to friends or family that may live far away. Teach younger children about the postal system, read books about The Pony Express, visit the post office, teach them their address.
- Build, make, or purchase a bird feeder and hang it from a tree in your yard. Try this easy recipe: <http://bit.ly/forthebirdfeeder>
- Teach your children a new household job every week of the summer. Try getting each one their own bucket with a roll of paper towels, a duster, and a few cleaning supplies to make it more fun!
- Build a blanket fort inside and spend the night in it.
- Get a big box of sidewalk chalk. For older children, print off a copy of a famous painting by Picasso or Van Gough and have them try to draw it.
- Volunteer once a week, or for one week at your local Meals on Wheels. Have your children draw pictures or write letters to those you are serving.
- Invest in Conversation Cards or Story Starters and use them during weekly "Popcorn on the Porch Nights." Try these: <http://bit.ly/-familytabletopics>
- Gather large boxes and duct tape, or scraps of wood, hammer, and nails (whatever is age appropriate) and encourage them to build, paint, and create!
- Choose a closet or a drawer a week to purge! Encourage your children to do the same.
- Designate one day a week as "Slushy or Snow Cone Day" and treat yourself! Meet friends if possible.
- Memorize Matthew 11:28-30 in The Message Version and soak it in this summer: "Are you tired? Worn out? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me- watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."

*Remember, your children don't need a perfect mom.
They want a happy mom!
Happy Summer of Saying Yes!*

