



Finding Fun During Covid-19 Outside!



Activities submitted by OLV caregiver Isabella 😊

Infants/Toddlers (up to age 2)

Getting cooped up inside and anxious for a getaway? Head on outside and enjoy the nice weather we've been getting lately! For children below 2, they are in a critical stage of development, especially in their motor and social skills. Here are a few fun activities for children under 2 to enjoy outside that will aid in these skills:

Outdoor Scavenger hunt:

You could create a list of objects and colors for kids to identify. For example, you could have them identify the color blue somewhere outside or you can have them lift rocks to identify bugs like ants and worms.



Painting Rocks:

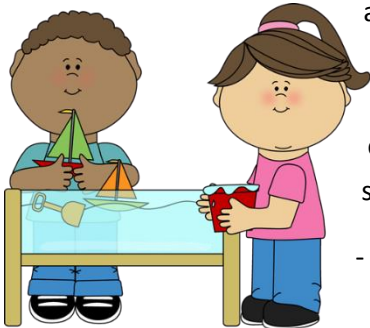
Have your child gather a few rocks around that they can paint with. Create a tub with water as an extra activity where they can wash off their rocks! This activity can be done using

kids paint and the whole family can participate! This is a great activity to broaden your child's creativity and problem thinking. It is also a great family activity to do together.



Tub of water with outside toys:

Have a large tub or bowl laying around? Fill it up with water and have your child play outside on a warm day with toys in the water! It is also a great way to stay cool during the warm summer days approaching. To add more, additional smaller bowls and cups can be used to pour water into each other. This activity is great for problem solving, motor skills and social skills if playing with siblings or parents!



Pre-School (3-5)

Outdoor scavenger hunt:

By using this example PDF Scavenger hunt made by REI, you can take a walk around town using social distancing rules or simply in your backyard to discover these hidden objects. Parents or siblings can aid the child in finding these items to use their social, problem solving, and creativity skills. To even make it a little more challenging, make a friendly little competition in who can find the most items if playing with siblings! Getting outdoors is a great way for children to get Vitamin C and some fresh air especially during these times when we can feel a little stir crazy! Another additional part to this game is adding in how many sounds children can hear during their nature walk. This could be birds chirping, cars driving, dogs barking etc. See how many they can name and list!

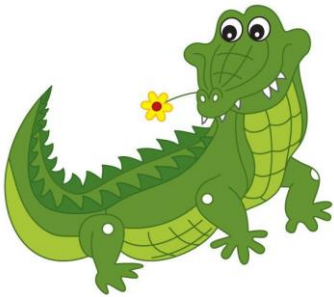


Mud pie

Do you have a pie pan or bowl laying around where a child can make their own pie? Have them create their own creation by using items outside to make their very own pie. They can shovel dirt for the filling and decorate their pie with rocks, grass, bugs, or any other outside items. This allows children to let their minds flow and become extremely creative!



Play "Avoid the Crocodiles"



With loose paper or newspaper, create steppingstones outside for children to pretend like they cannot touch the water (ground) and be eating by crocodiles! To add more fun, you can make a version of "musical chairs". Play some fun music and have children go around on the stones until you've stopped the music. You can eliminate stones as they go until one 1 person is left! This is a great game to boost children's reaction time, social development and motor skills.

Create your own Flag

Set out large paper or poster boards for children to decorate their own flag. This could include them coloring their favorite colors, drawing their family, writing their name, and just coloring whatever comes to their mind. After they are finished, it could be a great addition to hang up in their home and something for them to become proud of! This activity again, promotes creativity, penmanship, and simply just letting their minds wander. Parents and siblings can also create their own flag along with them!





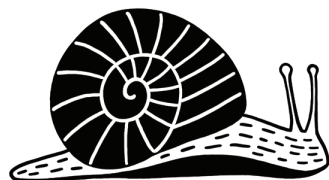
Outdoor Scavenger Hunt

Looking for ways to entice kids outside to take in some fresh air and burn off some surplus energy? An outdoor scavenger hunt is a timeless classic.

Depending on the age of your kids and how many are participating, you can make it a friendly competition, or perhaps just come up with some rewards for completing the hunt (some screen time, coins or dollar bills, etc.)

How it works:

- Print out a copy of the list for each participant. Use the items on the list or modify them as you see fit.
- If you have little kids, simply have them point out what they find and mark off the items on the list. Maybe restrict the hunt to the backyard to keep it simple.
- For older kids, you might give them access to a camera and have them take photos of their finds. You might give them more leeway to explore around the block or farther afield.
- For neighborhood hunts, consider adding bonus points for trash picked up. (If you do this, adults should supervise and make sure this is done safely and trash or recycling is disposed of properly.)
- Be sure kids don't trespass on private property.
- Observe one of the Leave No Trace principles: Leave what you find.



Items to find:

- Worm
- Flower or flower bud
- Round rock
- Sports ball
- Piece of wood
- Flower pot
- A crack in the concrete
- Water spigot
- Something red
- Something blue
- Leaf
- Pine cone
- Bug
- Moss
- Squirrel
- Dandelion
- Basketball hoop
- Kids' bike
- Street sign
- Recycling container
- Alley
- Squirrel
- Picket fence
- Dog
- Cat
- Jogger
- Bicyclist
- Ladder
- Porch swing
- Flag
- Mailbox
- Vegetable garden
- Fire Hydrant
- Bird on a wire
- _____

