

## TECH FREE ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS

Here is a list from a Principal's group for fun, meaningful, and generally tech-free learning opportunities (especially for elementary schoolers) that DOES NOT require technology and the internet.

- Interview a family member.
- Measure the area and perimeter of each room in your home.
- Graph the types of birds that frequent your yard or windows.
- Be completely silent for 60 minutes, then write about the experience.
- Write and mail a [real] letter to your teacher or principal or classroom penpal. Address the envelope yourself.
- Build a "fable fort" out of blankets and chairs. Camp in it all day while you create stories to tell your family over dinner.
- Learn morse code and use it to communicate with your siblings through walls and floors.
- Alphabetize the spices in your kitchen.
- Stay up late and stargaze.
- Call a grandparent or older relative. Ask them to teach you the words to a song from their childhood days.
- Using household materials, build a working rain gauge, barometer, and wind vane.
- Determine and chart the times that different liquids require to turn solid in the freezer.
- Design and build puppets that perform a show about multiplication.
- Construct a family tree.
- Learn ten new big words. Write them in marker on your bathroom mirror.
- Draw a map of your home.
- Sit silently for 15 minutes while you write down every sound you hear. When you are done, classify the sounds (high/low pitch, high/low volume, manmade v. naturally occurring, etc.).
- Create a Venn Diagram that compares and contrasts two people in your family, your neighborhood, or your church, mosque, or temple.
- Learn, practice, and perform a magic trick.
- Learn, practice, and tell three new jokes.
- Use household materials to make and play stringed, percussion, and wind instruments.
- Learn to shine a pair of shoes.

- Collect leaves from ten different (non-harmful) plants. Sort them by size, color, and texture.
- Put your favorite book, toy, and keepsake on a small table in sunlight. Draw or paint a full color still life.
- Find, pick, and dissect a flower.
- If you have stairs, walk up and count them. Walk down and count by twos. Walk up and count by threes. Continue through tens.
- Determine the volumes of ten containers, then display them in order on your porch.
- Write a poem on your sidewalk using chalk.
- Classify twenty everyday objects by shape, size, color, height, mass, and material.
- Measure the length of your bed using five different nonstandard units.
- Call a person who speaks a language you do not. Ask them to teach you five common words or phrases.
- Create and use a secret code.
- Using one type of paper (constant), build three different paper airplanes (independent variable) and test to see how far they fly (dependent variable).
- Set a clock three hours and seven minutes ahead. Whenever someone needs to know the time, help them figure it out by subtracting.
- Write down every adjective you say for one full day.
- Learn three new jokes. Tell them to an aunt or uncle.
- Design a map of every state ever visited by people in your family.
- Write or tell a story titled "What if humans had to leave the Earth and no one remembered to turn off the last robot?"
- Find ten rocks smaller than a dime.
- Using paper, tape, and string, design, build, and test a device that warns you when someone opens the kitchen cabinet.
- Imagine, create, and fly a full size flag that tells the world about you.

*Source: Kim Jones McClelland*