

# Busy Parents Essential A–Z Guide to the Summer Holidays

There is never any need for the kids to say that they are bored during the Summer Holidays as there is so much going on locally. Check out our A-Z of ideas below. We've included activities for all ages and many are FREE. We've also included some ideas for wet weather activities to try at home.



## **A is for Avoncroft Museum, Bromsgrove.**

Fantastic family friendly mainly outdoor museum. Dragon Slayer (6–8 Aug), Gnome Week (13–15 Aug), Pirate Adventure Days (20–22 Aug), Building Activity Days (27 – 29 Aug), Victorian Festival (25–26 Aug).

## **B is for Barber Institute**

Check out their Summer Children's Workshops and Family Art Sundays [www.barber.org.uk](http://www.barber.org.uk)

## **C is for Cotteridge Park**

Lots of activities for children and families happening throughout summer, many free. [www.cotteridgepark.org.uk](http://www.cotteridgepark.org.uk)

## **D is for Drama**

"In the Night Garden" in pop up theatre in Cannon Hill Park. 25 July – 8 Aug [www.nightgardenlive.com](http://www.nightgardenlive.com). Going to London for a day trip during the summer holidays? Kids go free to certain theatre shows during August with a paying adult. Check out [www.kidsweek.co.uk](http://www.kidsweek.co.uk)

## **E is for Eco Centre**

Northfield family cycle rides 2nd Sunday every month, April to Oct 2013 – 10.30am. Free.

## **F is for Forest School**

Sunday afternoons in Cotteridge Park with Dan and various dates during school holidays at Northfield Eco Centre. See websites for more details – [www.cotteridgepark.org.uk](http://www.cotteridgepark.org.uk) [www.northfieldecocentre.org](http://www.northfieldecocentre.org)

## **G is for Gardens**

Mad Hatters Tea Party (15 July) and Teddy Bears Picnic (28 Aug 12–3pm) at Birmingham Botanical Gardens. [www.birminghambotanicalgardens.org.uk](http://www.birminghambotanicalgardens.org.uk)

## **H is for Hanbury Hall**

National Trust property with fantastic adventure playground. Join the National Trust's "Things to do before you are 11 ¾!" [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hanbury-hall](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hanbury-hall)

## **I is for Inventions**

Children age 6 + love to invent things. Why not get them to draw a plan of their invention and then have a go at making it from left over cereal boxes & packets?

## **J is for Jester Skills (22 Aug)**

Just one of 4 different kinds of Children's Workshops taking place at Selly Manor. £3.50 for 1.5 hours. Booking essential. 0121 472 0199.

## **K is for Kings Norton Nature Reserve.**

Discover this wonderful natural space on our doorstep!



### **L is for Library**

Lots of local libraries have story telling sessions and other activities happening during the summer holidays and they are nearly always FREE.

### **M is for Magnificent Birds**

Visit the Falconry Centre, Hagley.  
[www.falconrycentre.co.uk](http://www.falconrycentre.co.uk)

### **N is for Nature Centre**

Animal fun on the Pershore Road! Combine this with a trip to Cannon Hill Park.  
[www.birmingham.gov.uk/naturecentre](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/naturecentre)

### **O is for Odyssey**

Why not devise a treasure hunt for your children in your garden or a local park? For older children try geocaching  
[www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com)

### **P is for Parks**

We have some amazing parks locally. Our favourites are Cotteridge Park, Cannon Hill Park, Kings Norton Park. Take a picnic and some games and stay all day!

### **Q is for Queen**

Another idea for a wet "at home" day. Why not write a letter to the Queen? Or play dressing up as kings and queens and let your child's imagination take them on an adventure. They could draw a picture of their perfect palace. Make a crown. Name the corgis. Decide what they would do if they were Queen for the day. The possibilities are endless!

### **R is for Relaxed**

For happy, chilled out babies why not try a Baby Sensory session taking place throughout the summer? **Contact Louise on**  
[bromsgrove@babysensory.co.uk](mailto:bromsgrove@babysensory.co.uk)

### **S is for Soccer**

Why not try the Tiny Soccerstars Summer School for some footie fun? For full details of the summer school dates and times see  
[www.tinysoccerstars.co.uk](http://www.tinysoccerstars.co.uk)

### **T is for Think Tank**

Brilliant Birmingham science museum for enquiring minds. Activities to keep children as young as 2 happy for hours! [www.thinktank.ac](http://www.thinktank.ac)

### **U is for Usborne Books**

They have some fantastic summer activity books, sticker books and craft idea books guaranteed to keep your little ones happy at home and on journeys. **Contact Sharon:**  
[sharon\\_fleming@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sharon_fleming@yahoo.co.uk)

### **V is for Valley (as in Severn Valley Railway!)**

Lovely steam railway through beautiful countryside. You can hop on and off and do dressing up at one of the stations en route. [www.svr.co.uk](http://www.svr.co.uk)

### **W is for West Midlands Safari Park**

Popular local attraction with fairground rides, aquarium, miniature train as well as Safari park trail. [www.wmsp.co.uk](http://www.wmsp.co.uk)

### **X is for Xylophone**

As a wet weather day activity to do at home, why not have a go at making your own musical instruments?

**Y is for YogaBugs Holiday Clubs.** On the theme of "Around the world". Adventures, stories, crafts, activities, games as well as yoga. Book online [www.yogabugs.com](http://www.yogabugs.com)

**Z is for Zoo.** Enjoy a wonderful day out at Twycross Zoo or Cotswold Wildlife Park.

