

The Sam List

A detailed list of activities, projects, and ideas to keep your kids entertained and busy while stuck at home

Summary:

Growing up, my mom did an amazing job coming up with ways to keep me and my brother busy. Throughout quarantine, I have been thinking how hard it must be for parents with little kids. **This list is here to help!** I have come up with a bunch of easy-to-execute ideas across four different categories. I give details, materials, instructions, and links for each idea. This list will hopefully make your life as a parent a little easier during these crazy times!

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Around the House Activities

Scavenger Hunts:

- Hide anything you have in large quantities around your house or backyard
- Let the kids hunt for what you hid and see who can get the most
- **One of my favorite activities as a kid

Material Suggestions:

- Bouquet filler beads
 - These you can find at Michaels and Joanns
 - [Option 1](#)
- Plastic Easter Eggs
- *I wouldn't recommend food



Age: Preschool and Up

EXTENSION:

- To make the activity last longer have your kids decorate small paper bags with stickers or markers prior to the scavenger hunt!

Obstacle Course:

- Have your kids build an obstacle course out of blocks or household items
- They can also pretend the floor is lava and try to move around the house without touching the floor



Age: Preschool and Up

Build a Fort:

- Building a fort is a great way to pass the time. All you need are some blankets and chairs!
- *Does take some time to clean up so be prepared.



Age: All ages (younger kids may need some assistance)

Stuffed Animal School:

- When I was little, I used to take all my stuffed animals and play school with them. I was the teacher and they were my students at circle time. This is a cute and clever way for little kids to pass the time.

Age: Younger Kids (2yr-5yr)



Play Hide n Go Seek!

Age: Preschool and Up



Crafts/DIYs

Melting Crayons Activity:

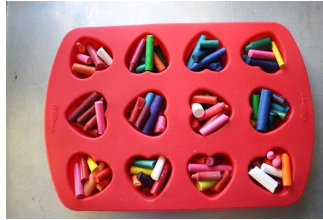
- Start by getting together a bunch of old, used crayons.
 - Peel off all the paper from the crayons.
 - **Trick - put the crayons in warm water. This helps the paper come off the crayons
 - There are multiple projects you can do from here
- 1) Hot glue the crayons to the top of a canvas in a line. Then take a hairdryer and slowly melt the crayons so some of the wax drips down the canvas.
 - 2) Break up the crayons. Place them in a mold sheet. Put this in the oven until they seem fully melted. Finally, place in the freezer and wait until it hardens.

Materials:

- Old crayons
- Bucket of warm water
- Canvas

- Mold

Image Examples:



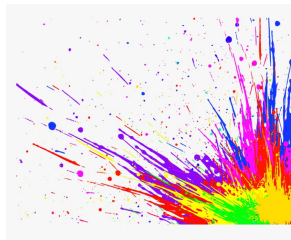
Age: 5 and up (parent supervision when using the oven, hairdryer, and hot glue gun)

Splatter Paint in a Box:

- This can get messy but it is really fun. Get a big cardboard box and place it outside.
- Then put your kids in the box with paint and some paintbrushes. Let them paint and splatter away.

Materials:

- Big cardboard box
- Paint
- Brushes
- Outdoor area



Age: Preschool and up

Chalk:

- Simple, fun and easy
- Give your kids chalk and let them decorate the sidewalk or your driveway.
- This is also a good way to spread joy and put a smile on your neighbors' faces!

Materials:

- Chalk
 - Amazon Recommendations
 - [Option 1](#)



Age: 2 and up

Make a Blanket:

- Buy 2 different types of fleece from Joann's Fabric or Amazon. Make sure to get more than you think you will need

- Child Blanket 2 yards
- Adult Blanket 6 yards
- Take your fleece and lay one fabric on top of the other. Go around the blanket and cut in towards the center 3-4 inches. Repeat this all around the blanket
- Finally, tie knots on each section you cut to connect the two pieces of fleece.

Picture Examples:



Materials:

- Fleece
- Scissors

Helpful Videos:

- [Video 1](#)
- [Video 2](#)

Age: 5 and up

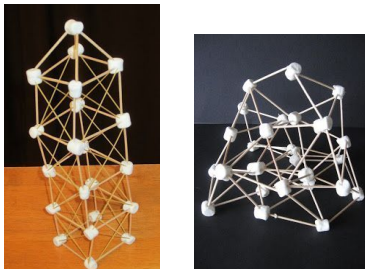
Marshmallows and Toothpick Art:

- Get a bag of marshmallows and a box of toothpicks.
- Your kids can build towers and creations by connecting the marshmallows with the toothpicks!

Materials:

- A bag of marshmallows (jumbo or mini)
- A box of toothpicks

Examples:



Age: 2 and up

Macaroni Necklace:

- Get a box of macaroni or any pasta that has a hole in it
 - This can also be done with beads
- Have fun making a necklace by stringing the pasta on the string

Materials:

- Pasta
- String
- Scissors



Age: 2 and up

Paint Rocks:

- Go into your backyard and find some smooth medium size rocks
- Wash them off and grab some paint.
- Paint the rocks and leave them out to dry!



Materials:

- Smooth rocks
- Paint

Age: Preschool and up

Paper Snowflakes:

- These can be fun all year round! Get some white paper and scissors
- Hang them up around your house to create a winter wonderland!



Materials:

- Paper
- Scissors

**Note - there are plenty of videos on youtube to show you how to make them

Age: Preschool and up

Easy Amazon Purchases

Homemade Ball Pit:

- This was definitely a favorite in my family. My mom took a kiddie pool and some plastic balls and made a homemade ball pit!

Materials:

- Kiddie Pool
 - Amazon Recommendations
 - [Option 1](#)
 - [Option 2](#)
- Plastic Balls
 - Amazon Recommendation
 - [Option 1](#)



Age: All ages

Indoor Snowballs:

- The saying is “no balls in the house”. These soft snowballs are a safe way to throw something in the house!

Amazon Recommendation:

- [Option 1](#)



Age: All Ages

Magna-tiles:

- Although they are on the pricey side they are hours of fun for all ages!

Amazon Recommendation:

- [Option 1](#)



Ages: All ages

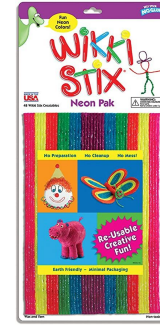
Wiki Sticks:

- These are super fun and portable! Great for around the house but also car rides, restaurants and long flights.

Amazon Recommendation:

- [Option 1](#)
- [Option 2 \(party pack\)](#)

Ages: 2 and up



Art Projects:

- These are some easy and fun art kits you can get from Amazon or any toy store!

Mosaic Art:

- [Toddler Option](#)
- [Princess Option](#)
- [Outdoor Scene Option](#)



Face Sticker Art:

- [Girl Faces \(Classic\)](#)
- [Crazy Character Faces](#)

Paint With Water Pads

- [Animals](#)
- [Princesses](#)
- [Trains](#)

Ages: Preschool and Up

Outdoor + Water Activities

Slip n Slide:

- A great way for kids to cool off when it is hot out without having to leave your house.
- ** Just don't leave it on your grass for extended periods of time because it will kill your grass

Materials:

- Hose



- A soft patch of grass
- Slip n Slide
 - Amazon Slides Recommendations
 - [Option 1](#) (I own this one and works great!)
 - [Option 2](#)

Age: All ages (younger kids may need supervision)

Run Around in Your Sprinklers:

- Simple and fun without having to buy anything



Age: All ages

Water Extensions:

- There are many sprinkler-like pop-ups and extensions that you can attach your hose to and let your kids run wild



Materials:

- Hose
- Grass
- Extensions
 - Amazon Recommendations
 - [Option 1](#)
 - [Option 2](#)

Age: All ages

Water Balloons:

- A fun way to cool off
- **Better to do this on concrete because it is easier to clean up the popped balloons

Materials:

- Hose or Sink (to fill balloons)
- Water Balloons
 - Amazon Recommendations
 - [Option 1](#) (need a hose for this one)
 - [Option 2](#)
 - Or you can use any balloon you might find around your house or at the store



Age: All ages

Water Table:

- This is a great way to keep little ones busy outside
- **Make sure to clean out each time before use

Materials:

- Hose
- Water table
 - You can find these on amazon but are on the more expensive side



Age: best for younger kids (1yr-7yr)

Paint With Water:

- Simply fill up a bucket or bowl with water and bring it outside along with clean paint brushes
- Your kids can paint water on the garage door, ground, or other outdoor surfaces without ruining anything!



Materials:

- Bucket or Bowl of Water
- Paintbrushes
- Outdoor surfaces (ex. garage door)

Age: Preschool and up

Water Your Plants:

- Give your kid a spray bottle and send them outside. Let them water whatever they want
- **I loved doing this as a kid and my mom gave me a spray bottle because it lasted longer than a watering can
- **Amazon Spray Bottles**
 - [Option 1](#)



Age: All Ages

Hula Hoop:

- A good way to keep kids entertained
- A neat skill to learn how to do

Materials:

- Space Outside
- Hula Hoop
 - Amazon Recommendation
 - [Option 1](#)

**Age:** Elementary and Up**Jump Rope:**

- A fun way to past the time and a good source of exercise
- Jump Rope Recommendations (amazon)
 - [Option 1](#)

**Age:** Elementary and Up

About the Creator

Hi. My name is Samantha Storey or Sam for short. I am in the Class of 2023 at Burlingame High School. I have always loved working with kids and babysitting. Unfortunately, right now I can't babysit due to Covid, so I came up with The Sam List. I wanted to find a way to help parents out even if I can't be there in person. Along with working with kids, I enjoy soccer, swimming, theater, hanging out with my friends, and spending time with my family. I hope you enjoy this list and find it helpful!



Once quarantine is over, I will be available for babysitting. Here is my contact information. You can also email me with any comments or questions on the list!

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