

50 Things To Do This Summer



50 Things To Do This Summer...

Welcome to this year's edition of our popular '50 Things To Do This Summer' guide from NetSupport!

The idea behind the initiative is that as parents, we can sometimes struggle to think of fun, educational or engaging activities that we can do for free or on a limited budget with our children.

We hope that you find our ideas helpful and we would love to hear from you if they've inspired you and your children to action.

1. Go for a walk

The health benefits of being mobile rather than sedentary are well documented, so getting up and going out for a walk can only be a beneficial thing to do!

Exploring the area around you is a great way to not just learn more about your local heritage, but to discover exactly how where you live became what it is today!

Look at buildings, check out any interesting plaques or commemorations, note the names of the local parks – all will be there or chosen for an interesting reason.





2. Go to the park

While you're out on your walk from idea #1, make sure you take the time to explore your local park.

Whether you jump on the swings, check out the bandstand or other key elements in your park, take a moment to look up at the sky and take a deep breath. Remember, getting outside is good for you!




3. Visit the seaside

It's been shared on many sites that you're never any further than 70 miles from the sea in the UK. If it's possible for you to do so, get yourself to your nearest sea front and explore!

If that's not possible, do you have a nearby lake or reservoir? The key to this activity is getting outside, taking in some fresh air and enjoying some gentle activity.

If you can't get out for whatever reason, why not consider visiting the seaside virtually using a site such as [airpano.com](https://www.airpano.com)? Simultaneously, you can play some calming [beach sound effects from YouTube](#).



4. Write your own poem

You don't have to be Keats or Shakespeare to write your own poetry. Taking some time to reflect, think, and write a poem can be a fantastic activity to focus the mind whilst practising your knowledge and extended vocabulary.

Whether or not this is publishable material, it doesn't matter. The important thing is that you put pen to paper, think about what you want to share, and get it written. This activity should focus you for an hour or two.



5. Have a BBQ

If you're British and reading this, you will know that the weather can make or break a successful barbecue - but they are still a great way to bring family and friends together.

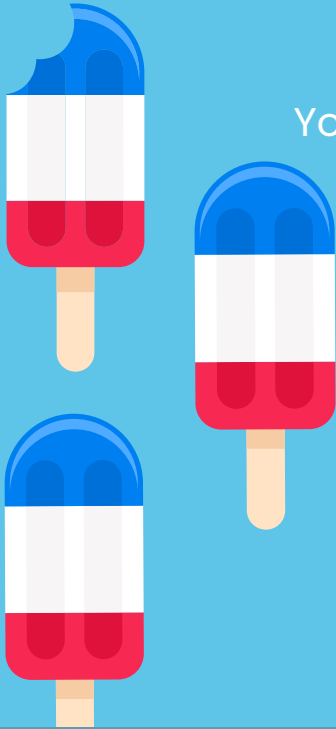
Yes, they do involve money and can be expensive, but, if you are inviting friends and family, then why not instil a BYOB (bring your own burger) policy where you don't feel the pinch on your pocket for feeding everybody.

During various lockdowns, we have all missed the opportunities to get together and share with family and friends, so while the weather is nice, why not bring people together for a lovely time this summer!



6. Make your own ice lollies

With the cost of treats skyrocketing, this fun and easy-to-do activity will give you and your little ones something cooling and easily accessible during the hotter summer holiday weeks!



You don't need to go crazy with special moulds either – use items you most likely already have, such as ice-cube trays or baking trays lined with tin foil.

You also don't need any particularly special ingredients – using water and blended fruit or drinks cordial will provide a tasty treat that helps keep you cool at the same time.

7. Play football

Football is the nation's favourite game and, as we used to hear on 'The Fast Show,' you only need 'jumpers for goalposts' to enjoy a good old-fashioned kickaround in the park.

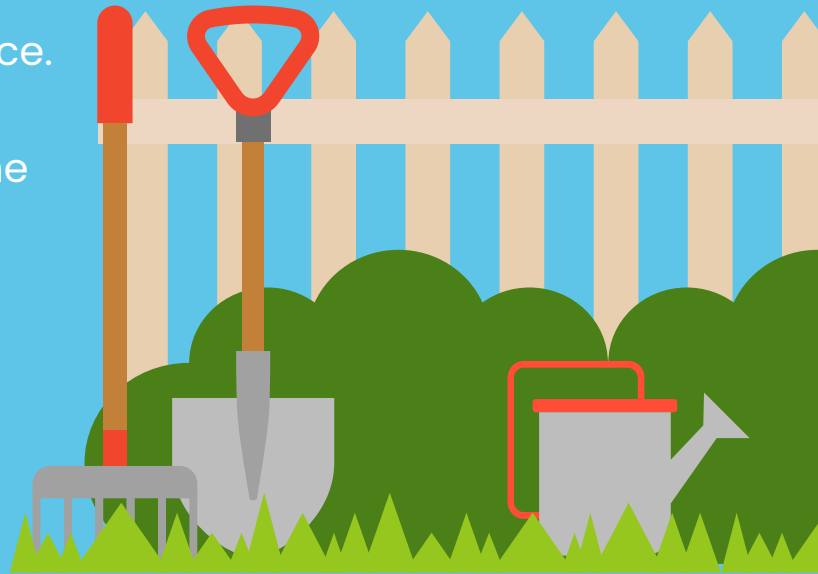
Many children love playing with their friends, but they equally enjoy playing with their parents too! So, if you have some time to join them, why not do so!



8. Do some gardening

You don't need to be a budding horticulturalist to make the most of your garden – take an hour out to engage and remove some of those undesirable weeds to make the garden a more enjoyable space.

And if you're wondering what some of those plants actually are, then why not have a look at LeafSnap ([Android/iOS](#)), which can help identify exactly what your garden is growing!



9. Go swimming

Healthy, fun and an essential skill, swimming is something the whole family can partake in and enjoy. With many of your local pools offering multitudes of family-friendly sessions during the summer holidays, lots of people will be taking a dive during the summer break.



10. Bake a cake

Being able to cook is a vital skill – and baking is no exception! The ability to work with flour and knock together tasty and cost-effective treats is a worthwhile ability to have.

The BBC Good Food website is full of delicious recipes and this [list of 75 cakes](#) is a great starting point to explore what you and your children might be interested in baking!





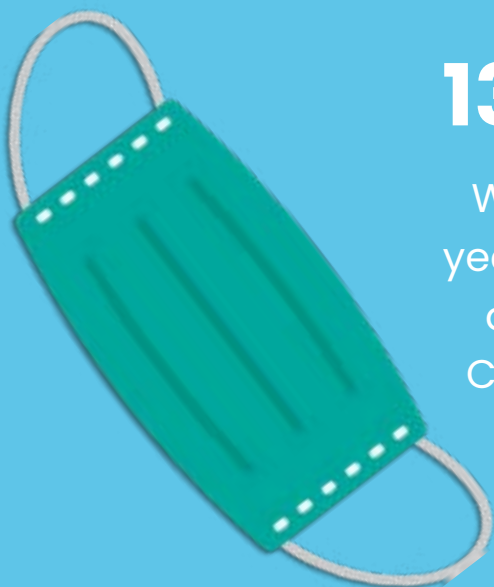
Make your parent/carer their favourite soft drink

It's the small things that count and keeping hydrated is recommended! Why not show your children how to make your favourite soft drink and see if they can factor some time into their day to supply you with a drink?

12. Design a new Pokémon

"Gotta catch them all," as they say! We are big fans of Pokémon here at NetSupport, so why not explore designing a new Pokémon as a fun activity?

Many children love this one - they will draw their designs, think about what type they'll be and what moves they can do. If you're looking for inspiration on this one, why not check out [Bulbapedia](#), a Pokémon community-driven online encyclopaedia about all things Pokémon!



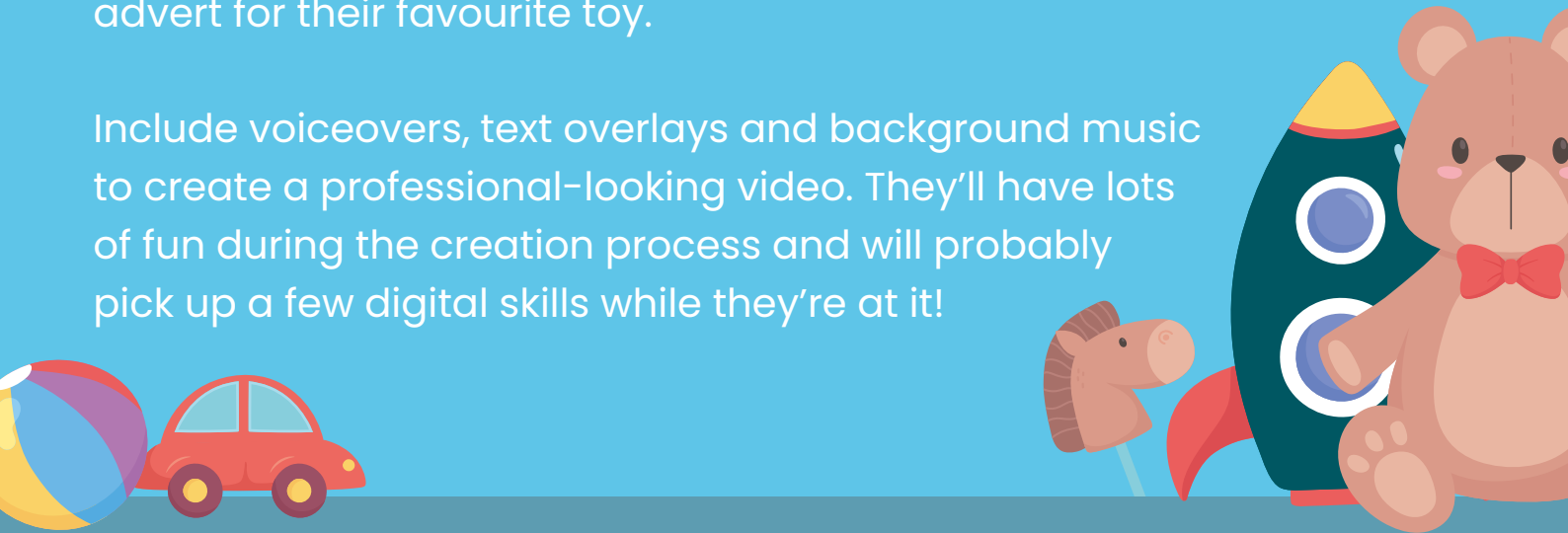
13. Create a face mask

We've all had to endure face masks the last few years, and creating your own can now form a fun activity for children! This great suggestion from Crayola Teachers gives you plenty of inspiration around making them - [check it out here!](#)

14. Make a TV advert for your favourite toy

Chances are you'll have a smartphone or a tablet device... and there are plenty of free tools, such as Adobe Premier Rush ([Android/iOS](#)), with a 4+ rating that your children can use to make their own TV advert for their favourite toy.

Include voiceovers, text overlays and background music to create a professional-looking video. They'll have lots of fun during the creation process and will probably pick up a few digital skills while they're at it!



15. Create your own Top Trumps cards

Top Trumps has been a great game to play for as long as we can remember! The beauty of this activity is it gives children the opportunity to dig deeper into something that they're already interested in.

From cars to flowers to dangerous animals – there are many areas you can explore. The best thing of all is, once completed, the cards will be a great resource to play with repeatedly, too!



16. Make up a new sport/game

Who would have thought you could make up a new sport – but, that said, who isn't aware of Quidditch!? Ok, so it's unlikely that you'll be able to fashion a golden snitch or a broomstick to fly around on, but with a bit of imagination there are many games you can create!

We'd suggest a game that involves standing on square slabs in your garden, linking to a game of catch. Each time you successfully catch the ball (one handed), you get to move a square. The person who manages to get to the other player's slab wins! We call it 'Slab Catch'.

What could you come up with?

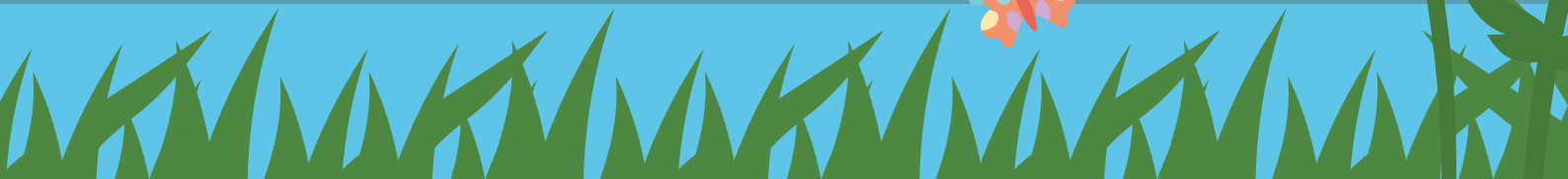
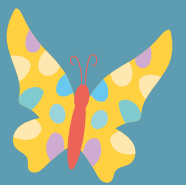


17. Create a fairy garden

Many children love the show "In The Night Garden" – the magical characters really resonate with them.

Whether you seek to recreate some of that magic, or tell your children a fairy story, the inspiration for creating a magical fairy garden can come from many enchanting stories.

If you're looking for some practical ideas on how to do it, why not check out [this post from HomeBNC](#) which contains 50 ideas to get you started.




18. Pick fruit

Many of us have fond memories of picking fruits with our parents, especially blackberries. However, you don't have to choose these as there are plenty of 'pick your own' fruit farm locations around the country.



That being said, with blackberries starting to become available from August onwards, why not grab a few old tubs and get picking? If you freeze them when you get home, you'll have plenty to see you through.

19. Build an obstacle course

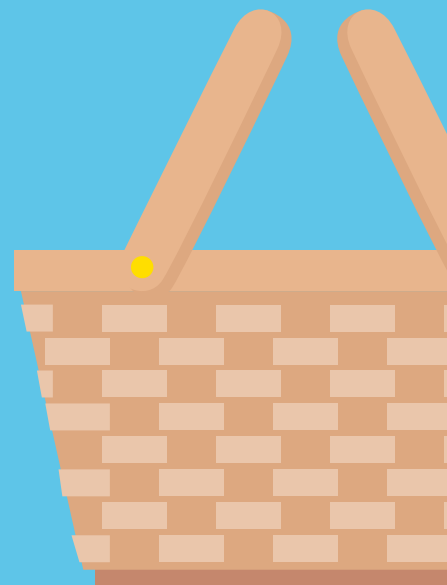


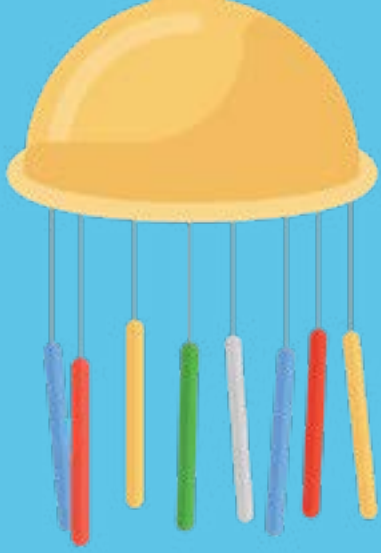
With a few household items, you can quickly make an obstacle course to get around and have some fun with! (But, as we all know, accidents can happen, so before embarking on this activity, please do make sure you keep you and your children safe.)

20. Have a picnic

This activity (tied in with activity #18) can form a fun day out you can all enjoy! You could have it in your garden, go to your local park or, for something a little bit different, why not visit a local Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)?

This handy [GOV.UK website](https://www.gov.uk) has a series of resources there to help you discover places near to you!



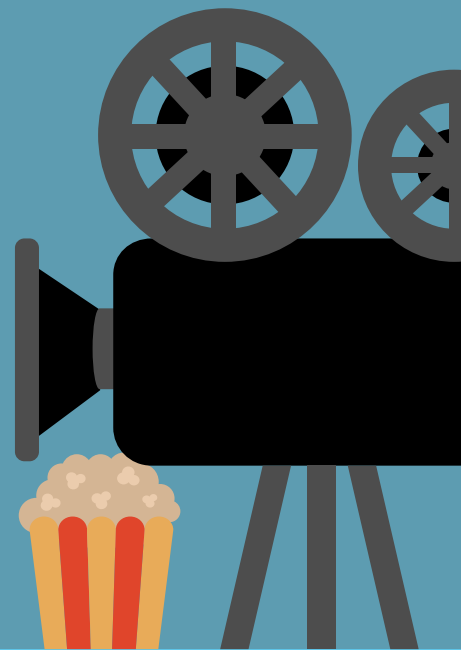


21. Make a wind chime

Fun to make, enchanting to have and listen to, wind chimes are great. Have a look at this resource with [12 different ideas for making wind chimes](#) from everyday items. Our favourite was the recycled bottle tops - you could even paint them to make them more decorative and unique!

22. Enjoy a film night

Grab your popcorn, choose a film and snuggle up for a bit of action, romance, comedy or whatever you feel like watching! If you take a while to choose, why not consider the 'ten-minute rule' with the film you pick. If after ten minutes you're not engrossed and enjoying the film, pick another and start again! If the kids are quiet, keep going!



23. Do some stargazing

With the summer nights lasting well past what would be often considered a bedtime, star gazing can not only be interesting and educational, but given the time of day you can do it, you can even turn it into a bit of an adventure!

If you're not sure on the constellations and stars yourself, then why not download one of the many free stargazing AR apps to help you, such as 'Star Walk 2 Free' available on [iOS](#) and [Android](#).

24. Make a bird feeder

Supporting local wildlife is something you can do easily, so why not consider building a bird feeder to attract some to your very own window? Allow your kids to learn which birds can be found in your local area and how to support them, especially during the winter months.

This [website has 32 simple ideas](#) on how to make one, including one out of empty plastic bottles!



25. Design your own Lego character

Lego has inspired children for decades, with a big part of this being down to the various expressions and variations of characters.

Now, you can even design your own minifigures on their website, so why not have a go at making your own using this [simple-to-use tool](#)!

26. Play tennis

Tennis is a fabulous sport and many areas around the UK have open access courts that are free to use. To find your local free tennis courts, simply jump on Google and run a search. Equipment is of course required, but without access to racquets, you can still enjoy foot tennis!

The key to this activity, like many of the ideas shared here, is to get outside, be active and have fun.



27. Feed the ducks

Many parks have lakes and areas which attract ducks, and interacting with them is a very peaceful activity. One word of warning: bread isn't a natural food source for ducks and, as such, the RSPB has offered some advice on what food is appropriate to give them. Please [check it out here](#) before engaging in this activity.



28. Play hopscotch using chalk

A classic outdoor activity, simple to organise and do. If you're looking for some ideas and/or variations on the rules and how to do it, check out this handy resource from [parents.com](#).



29. Read a new book

Joining your local library is a great thing to do, giving you free access to thousands of incredible books. Whether you're into fictional stories, hard facts or even world records, there is something for everyone!

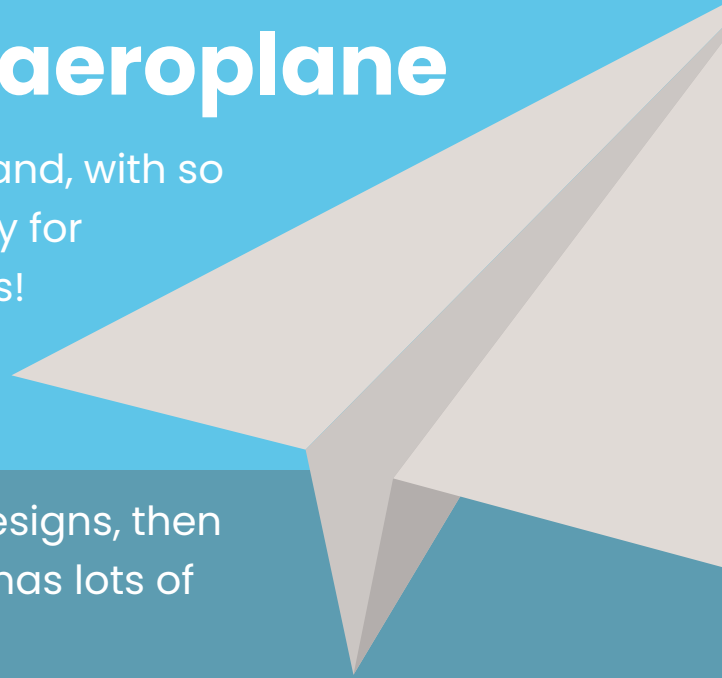
If getting there is logistically difficult for you, but you have access to technology, why not check out a tool such as [Pickatale](#) which is free for 30 days.

For something a bit different, why not visit the [British Library](#) and explore some rare and older books!



30. Make a paper aeroplane

Paper aeroplanes are a bundle of fun and, with so many different designs, the opportunity for competition in building them is endless! Which can fly furthest? Which can do the most loops?



If you're looking for some innovative designs, then why not check out foldnfly.com which has lots of different ones to explore.



31. Solve some riddles

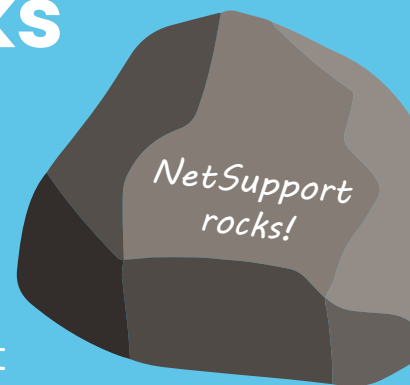
Codes, ciphers and cryptology have long inspired young people and adults alike. Creating codes and ciphers, sharing them with others or even just having your own secret code is a hugely fun activity!

This [website has some great printables](#) and further information!

32. Collect and paint rocks

Such a fun activity to do: gather some stones or rocks and paint them - simple as!

Here at NetSupport, we've done a similar thing with wellbeing and positive messages in the office. Why not channel your creativity to make some fun door stops for your own home or decorative elements for rooms in the house?





33. Press flowers

Flower pressing is a fun way to learn more about plants and flowers, as well as to record some of the nature that surrounds your area.

This [site has some great pointers](#) and approaches to help get you started on your flower pressing journey.

34. Do some sketching

Doodling and sketching is a great way to pass time. It also helps to develop fine motor skills, whatever your age.

If you're seeking inspiration, this post has [60 great prompts](#) for things that you can sketch to get your sketching practice going.



35. Play a board game

Whether you have some board games to play, or even just noughts and crosses on paper, you can have bundles of fun and even develop your strategic thinking at the same time!



36. Choose your own adventure book

Many children adore reading 'choose your own adventure' books. They lead on to a love of explorations, creativity and so much more!

Whether you own a book or borrow one from the library, take control of your own journey!

37. Make your own pizza

Now we're talking. Whether you go for the simplest approach of getting some bread, tomato puree and cheese, or go for a more complex recipe, making a pizza is a great way to spend some time this summer!

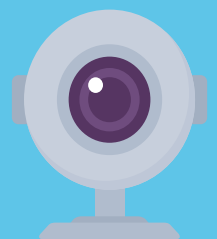
Make sure to check out some of the [recipes shared here!](#)



38. Visit relatives (in person or online)

This one shouldn't take much explaining but making the time to visit family is always time well spent.

If they're not based too close, tools such as Zoom, Facetime and WhatsApp make it easier than ever to stay in touch!



39. Make bubble solution

Bubbles are so much fun to play with (mind your eyes, obviously!). With this recipe from [BBC Good Food](#), you'll be making fun bubbles in no time!



40. Keep a diary

We're not Adrian Mole (remember that book!?), but keeping a diary is good for helping your children to express their feelings in writing, rather than talking about them (a way that they might sometimes find difficult).

They can also be a great avenue of support, even though the children themselves would be the only viewer.

41. Try a new hobby

Stepping outside your comfort zone and starting a new hobby can open your eyes to a new world.

When out on one of your summer walks, why not pop into your local community centre and see what clubs are available? Perhaps consider joining a youth group or even the Brownies or Scouts!





42.

Make a plastic cup phone on a string

Not sure how to do it yourself? Get 2 paper cups, poke a hole in the bottom of each, push some string through and tie a knot to keep them in place.

Move the two cups apart and speak into one while the other person holds the other one to their ear.

43. Do the washing up every day for a week

If this approach seems too onerous for your children, why not take it a bit slower by asking them to only wash up for a certain meal or on alternate days?

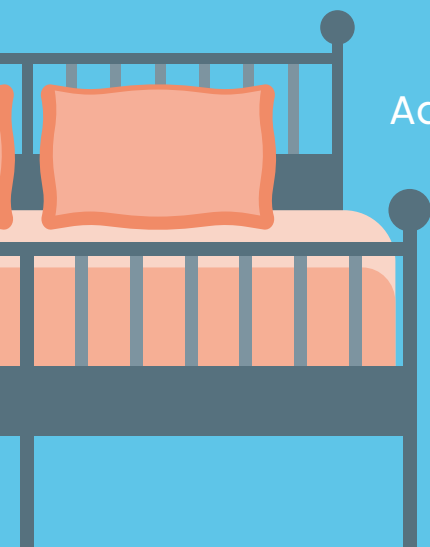
Either way, sharing household responsibilities with all members is definitely the right thing to do, we think.



44. Make your bed every day

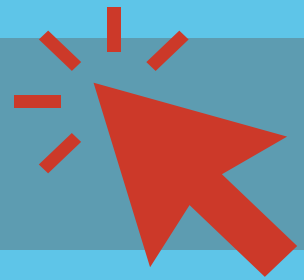
This [commencement speech](#) from former Navy Seal, Admiral William H. McRaven, to university students went viral as he extolled the importance of making your own bed every day.

The key takeaway: no matter how bad your day has been, you'll always have a nice bed to get into.



45. Make your own how-to guide on your favourite website

Children love to be valued and seen as helpful. With that in mind, why not ask them to create a how-to guide on one of their favourite websites using the tango.us tool?



Simple to use and fun to learn, it will help them and even you, too!



46. Go camping – in your lounge!

This will always seem like an adventure and the reality is, you're just sleeping – using the same pillows and covers as you would in bed – but just on the floor in the lounge!

Some children even see it as a reward and will be happy to go to bed earlier than usual, just to have the opportunity. Why not try it out?

47. Take a virtual tour (AirPano)

Want to travel the world? Don't we all!? With the free website AirPano.com, you can take virtual tours of places all over the world, both above and below the water!

The immersive 360° experiences are free and often accompanied with informative markers and points of interest to help you learn about the place you're visiting, too.



48. Give some old clothes to charity

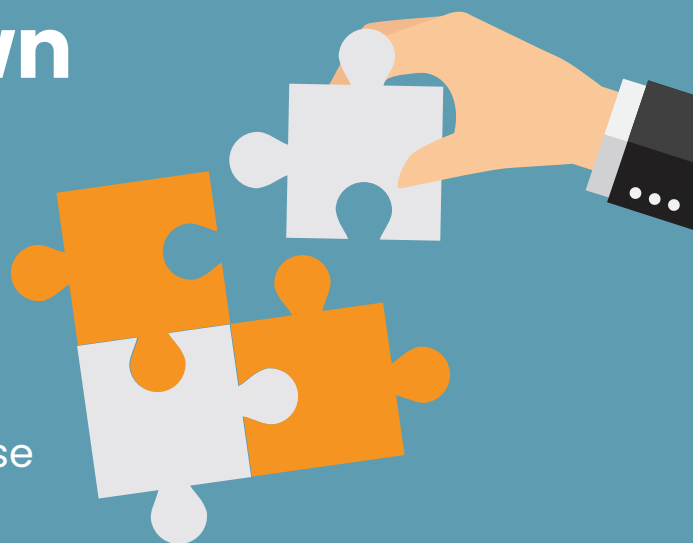
If you're anything like most of the NetSupport team, you'll hate clutter. So, taking some time to go through old clothes that are no longer fit for purpose can be a great way to support local charities.

Many recycling centres will accept old clothes, and textiles can be recycled too – meaning you're helping the planet, even if the clothes aren't usable in their current state.



49. Create your own jigsaw puzzle

Puzzles are great fun and, with the website im-a-puzzle.com, you can create puzzles for free using your own images and photos. You can even choose how complex you want to make them!



Puzzles are completed online once you've made them and you can easily share the one you've made with friends and family via a link, [such as this one.](#)

50. Grow an Aloe Vera plant

The benefits of Aloe Vera are well documented – and growing! Maintaining a plant is good practice to learn the habits of looking after others, too.

For this idea, why not grab a cheap plant? Make sure it gets plenty of light, doesn't get too hot, water it properly and it will help your children gain the valuable experience of looking after something, plus get lots of enjoyment out of the process!



Well, that wraps up our list of...

50 Things To Do This Summer

From all of us here at NetSupport,
have a great summer!



Disclaimer: All web links correct at time of publication. Please ensure suitability of recommended applications/websites before giving children access.