

Summer Theme Ideas

Ever wonder what to do when the kids get bored during the summer? Have a weekly theme!

Borrow books from the public library, borrow toys from friends, go on field trips, cook / prepare food & recipes that fit into the theme, create games & activities, and of course, incorporate arts & crafts!

Themes:

- ★ [Trees/Nature](#)
- ★ [Zoo / Animals](#)
- ★ [Angels / Saints](#)
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- ★ [Safety Week](#)
- ★ [Senses](#)
- ★ [Monsters](#)
- ★ [Family Heritage](#)
- ★ [Pirates](#)
- ★ [Fine Art](#)
- ★ [Mad Science](#)
- ★ [Dinosaurs & Fossils](#)
- ★ [Numbers](#)
- ★ [Eco-Friendly Week](#)
- ★ [Feelings](#)
- ★ [Rainy Day Fun](#)

[Resources / Links](#)

Trees / Nature

Project

nature table / bug kit / nature pot (paint a large flower pot and put it by the front / back door to deposit stick collections, rock collections, bark, shells, fossils...) / leaf rubbings / make creatures out of rocks, sticks, etc. / paint "pet rocks" / start a terrarium / get a dry aquarium off craigslist and fill it with nature finds

Food / Recipe

- ★ "sticks & trees" mac & cheese - mac & cheese with steamed carrot sticks and broccoli florets added
- ★ "Ants on a Log" - celery sticks with cream cheese, hummus, or peanut butter, then top with a few raisins for "ants" (or sunflower seeds, cranberries, etc.)
- ★ Make [flower pot cookies](#)

Field Trip

[Wild Basin Preserve](#); [Austin Nature & Science Center](#) @ Zilker Park / [Botanical Gardens](#); [Inner Space Caverns](#); camping; hike at a state park or a city park like [Zilker](#), [Walnut Creek](#) (watch for mountain bikes & dogs off leash), or [Emma Long](#)

Books

- ★ Arthur goes to Camp (Marc Brown)
- ★ Arthur's Camp-Out (Lillian Hoban)
- ★ Amelia Bedelia Goes Camping (Peggy Parish)
- ★ Curious George Goes Camping (Margaret & H. A. Rey)
- ★ The Great Kapok Tree, Lynne Cherry
- ★ "Slowly, Slowly, Slowly," said the Sloth, Eric Carle
- ★ Owl Moon, Jane Yolen
- ★ Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening, Robert Frost (ill. Susan Jeffers)
- ★ Snow, Marion Dane Bauer
- ★ Clouds, Marion Dane Bauer
- ★ Wind, Marion Dane Bauer
- ★ Rain, Marion Dane Bauer
- ★ Splash!, Flora McDonnell
- ★ In the Park, Huy Von Lee
- ★ Rain, Manya Stojic
- ★ The Butterfly, Patricia Polacco (for older readers)
- ★ The Bee Tree, Patricia Polacco

- ★ The Tiny Seed, Eric Carle
- ★ Miss Spider's ABC, David Kirk
- ★ What Comes in Spring?, Barbara S. Horton
- ★ The Storm Book, Charlotte Zolotow
- ★ (Seasons): What Comes in Spring?, Barbara S. Horton
- ★ Magic School Bus, Joanna Cole
- ★ Eric Carle books

Movies

- ★ Bug's Life
- ★ Avatar (for older kids)

Zoo / Animals

Project

draw animals and make a zoo out of shoeboxes (or amazon boxes) / Play charades (guess the animal) / Duck, Duck, Goose! / build Lego animals / make a [sensory box](#) with animals / Pipe Cleaner & Bead [snake](#) / draw various animals to scale with sidewalk chalk... start with a [blue whale](#) (100 feet!) /

Food / Recipe

animal crackers / make animal faces with snacks (Search Pinterest for [Animal Snacks](#))

Field Trip

[Cameron Park Zoo](#) - Waco; [Austin Zoo](#); observe waterfowl @ [Arboretum duck pond](#), [Mills Pond](#) (in Wells Branch, off Wells Port) ([don't feed the ducks](#), though); [SA Zoo](#); Petting Zoo (there is one in Leander at the [Good Earth Farm School](#)); free [printable zoo scavenger hunt](#); peacocks at [Mayfield Park](#);

Books

- ★ Eric Carle's The Very Busy Spider
- ★ Books about Noah's Ark
- ★ Goodnight Gorilla, Peggy Rathmann
- ★ Animals Should Definitely NOT Wear Clothing, Judi Barrett
- ★ Panda Bear, Panda Bear, What do you See?, Eric Carle
- ★ Amazing Gorillas, Sarah Thompson
- ★ Amazing Tigers, Sarah Thompson
- ★ A Trip to the Zoo, Karen Wallace (DK book)
- ★ Splash!, Flora McDonnell
- ★ Zoo-Looking, Mem Fox

- ★ Going to Sleep on a Farm, Wendy Cheyette Lewison
- ★ Eric Carle books
- ★ The Jungle Book, Rudyard Kipling (older kids/teens)
- ★ Jumanji, Chris Van Allsberg

Movies

- ★ The Jungle Book (1967 / G)
- ★ [Jumanji](#) (1995 / PG)
- ★ Madagascar (2005 / PG)
- ★ Zootopia (2016 / PG)
- ★ Secret Life of Pets (2016 / PG)
- ★ Penguins of Madagascar (2014 / PG)
- ★ Babe (1995 / G)
- ★ Chicken Little (2005 / G)
- ★ Charlotte's Web (2006 / G)
- ★ Shaun the Sheep (2015 / PG)
- ★ Zootopia (2016 / PG)

Angels / Saints

Project

[angel-making activities](#) available on-line and at craft stores; make a Joseph and the Many-Colored Coat doll out of colorful pipe cleaners or fabric scraps; [make a saint costume](#) so it's ready for All Saint's Day, Halloween, or for your saint's feast day; [make a shrine](#) for Mary or your patron saint using a holy card, popsicle sticks and paint

Food / Recipe

angel food cake; There are LOTS of saint snack food ideas at [CatholicCing.com](#).

Field Trip

visit various churches (call first for availability); be an "angel" for someone: make "homeless bags"(with socks, gum, granola bars, water, etc.) to distribute to homeless; Visit the [Painted Churches](#) (start in Schulenberg, TX)

Books

- ★ The Littlest Angel, Charles Tazewell
- ★ Little Angel, Geraldine McCaughrean
- ★ Looking for Angels, Valiska Gregory
- ★ The Secret of Kells, Tomm Moore
- ★ Tomie dePaola has written several children's books about saints & angels -

- Angels, Angels Everywhere,
- Pascual and the Kitchen Angels,
- Patrick, Patron Saint of Ireland,
- The Holy Twins: Benedict and Scholastica,
- Mary, The Mother of Jesus,
- Christopher: The Holy Giant, and
- Francis, The Poor Man of Assisi

And that's just one author... The library is the BEST source for books, and [Catholic Arts and Gifts](#) on Burnet Rd and [Credo Catholic](#) (south Austin) both have plenty of books for purchase.

Movies

- ★ The Secret of Kells (St. Brendan) (2009 / [not rated](#))
- ★ [Thérèse](#) (2004 / PG) - [iMom review](#)
- ★ Anthony, Warrior of God (2006 / PG)
- ★ Molokai, The Story of Father Damien (1999 / PG)
- ★ Romero (1989 / PG-13)
- ★ **NOT FOR KIDS:** [Black Robe](#) (1991 / R)
- ★ Fr. James Martin, SJ has a "[Top 10](#)" [saint movie list here](#)

Colors

Project

color wheel / look at [Crayola.com](#) for ideas / Lite Brite / Color by Number books / Watercolors / Sort toys by colors / Perler Beads / Color Sight Words; make pony bead suncatchers (melt in silicone muffin tin) or [wind chime](#); make a colorful [sensory box](#); Make "[stained glass window](#)" [art](#) using tissue paper and clear contact paper

Food / Recipe

Eat a [rainbow](#) of fruits & [vegetables](#) / use food coloring to dye celery stalks, carnations, boiled eggs / "paint" with natural food dyes (beets, carrots, red cabbage, blueberries, spinach, etc.) / [Rainbow Fruit Cups](#) /

Field Trip

[Boggy Creek Farm](#) - colorful fruits & vegetables; look for peacocks at [Mayfield Park](#); visit H-E-B, particularly the produce dept and look for their "5-a-day" posters for getting 5 colors of fruits & veggies a day; Visit the [Blanton Museum](#) of Art and do a [color scavenger hunt](#) (or [this scavenger hunt](#) for reading kids or [this one](#) or [this one](#) for non-readers) - bring colored pencils

Books

- ★ *Maisy's Colors*, Lucy Cousins
- ★ *Rainbow Fish*, Marcus Pfister
- ★ *M&Ms Counting Book*, B. McGrath
- ★ *A Color of His Own*, Leo Lionni
- ★ *Blueberries for Sal*, Robert McCloskey
- ★ *Micawber*, John Lithgow
- ★ *White is for Blueberry*, George Shannon
- ★ *Get Red*, Tony Porto
- ★ *Cat's Colors*, Jane Cabrera
- ★ *Dog's Colorful Day*, E. Dodd
- ★ *The Color Box*, Dayle A Dodds
- ★ *The Crayon Box that Talked*, S. deRolf
- ★ *What Makes a Rainbow* (board book), B.A. Schwartz
- ★ *Very Lonely Firefly*, Eric Carle (most of Eric Carle's books are so colorful and so artful that they're perfect for a colors theme)
- ★ *A Beastly Story*, Bill Martin Jr
- ★ *Strange Blue Creature*, Paul Borovsky
- ★ *Little Blue & Little Yellow*, Leo Lionni
- ★ *The Big Blue Spot*, Peter Holwitz
- ★ *My Crayons Talk*, Patricia Hubbard
- ★ *Kitten Red Yellow Blue*, Peter Catalanotto
- ★ *Mouse Paint*, Ellen Stoll Walsh

Movies

- ★ [Made in America](#) (TV show) - Crayola Crayon Factory show
- ★ Mr. Rogers shows [how Crayons are made](#) (6 minutes - youtube)

Old West / Pioneers

Project

Make a "WANTED" poster; make a covered wagon out of recyclable materials; sew a quilt square out of scraps (or glue a quilt square onto posterboard); make your own butter from cream

Food / Recipe

beans, chili, cornbread

Field Trip

- ★ Cows - [Arboretum](#)

- ★ [Pioneer Farms](#)
- ★ pony rides at [Takota's Ponies](#) (call 512-801-9964)
- ★ [Wells Branch Homestead](#) (2106 Klattenhoff 78728 at the Katherine Fleischer Park)

Books

- ★ American Girls books?
- ★ Sign of the Beaver, Elizabeth George Speare
- ★ Little House on the Prairie books, Laura Ingalls
- ★ The Courage of Sarah Noble, Alice Dalgleish
- ★ Sarah, Plain & Tall, Patricia MacLachlan
- ★ Caleb's Story, Patricia MacLachlan

Movies

- ★ [Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron](#) (2002 / G)
- ★ [Sarah, Plain & Tall](#) (1991 / G)
- ★ Pocahontas (1995 / G)

Space

Project

stars / make a [rocket using paper towel tube](#) (or TP tube) - add tissue paper strips to one end for "fire" and cover with construction paper to decorate. Tie yarn to other end and hang, fly, launch etc... [Color space pages](#); Make a [Sun Jar](#); Make [constellation tubes](#); Make a [galaxy calm-down bottle](#); [Oreo lunar phases](#); Make a [solar system mobile](#) (print your planets on cardstock or use ping pong balls (Dollar Tree), bouncy balls (Dollar Tree), styrofoam balls (craft store), recycled lids, etc.); paint glow-in-the-dark stars on the wall and/or ceiling of bedroom; [star stamping](#); [Straw Rockets](#);

Food / Recipe

starfruit / Jell-O (astronauts eat it, although they don't have cool star-shapes like we do, by putting the Jell-O in star-shaped ice cube trays from IKEA) / Astronaut food / [Pinterest space snacks](#) /

Field Trip

Houston - [Space Center](#) / [Bob Bullock Museum](#) (3rd floor has astronaut suit, replica of spacecraft) / Go to a Star Party [at Westcave Preserve](#), [at UT](#) or [at ACC](#) or borrow a telescope and host your own / Visit [McDonald Observatory](#) in the Davis Mountains /

Books

- ★ Floating Home, David Getz

- ★ Stargazers, Gail Gibbons
- ★ Grandpa Takes me to the Moon, T. Gaffney
- ★ Star Shapes, Peter Malone
- ★ The Moon Book, Gail Gibbons
- ★ I Like Stars, Margaret Wise Brown
- ★ The Berenstain Bears On the Moon, Stan & Jan Berenstain
- ★ The Planets in our Solar System, Franklyn M Branley
- ★ Babar Visits another Planet, Laurent de Brunhoff
- ★ Arty Facts Space & Art Activities, Polly Goodman
- ★ The History News in Space, Michael Johnstone
- ★ A Pig is Big, Douglas Florian
- ★ See the Stars, Ken Crosswell
- ★ Star Shapes, Peter Malone
- ★ Space Guys, Martha Weston (level 1 phonics reader)

Movies

- ★ Wall-E (2008 / G)
- ★ [Space Camp](#) (older audience / 1986 / PG)
- ★ [There Goes a Spaceship](#) (Real Wheels video from Austin Public Library or youtube)
- ★ [Space Station 3D](#) (IMAX movie available from Netflix / 2002 / not rated)
- ★ Star Wars
- ★ Doctor Who (older kids)
- ★ [Flight of the Navigator](#) (1986 / PG)
- ★ [Treasure Planet](#) (2002 / PG)

Ocean / Sea

Project

make a rainbow fish with tissue paper squares; make "shell art" critters and other decor items; make an ocean in a bottle (water bottle with blue food coloring / water and fish beads... decorate outside with foam fish stickers); make an ocean [sensory box](#) - use blue filling (rocks, giftwrap stuffing, etc.) and dollar store sea creatures (or from a [Toob](#)); [starfish craft](#); Select a Scripture passage referring to the sea and create artwork or a bookmark quoting scripture, like [Wisdom](#), [Matthew 8:23-27](#), or [Genesis](#); [draw a blue whale](#) to scale; make [foil fish](#);

Food / Recipe

fish, shrimp, sushi, goldfish / dolphins; [Sand Dollar cookies](#); [Tidal Wave](#) (minus the rum);

Field Trip

[Austin Aquarium](#); [Sea World](#) (with Sea World BINGO cards); Visit the [Aquarium at the Houston Zoo](#); [Aquarena Springs](#); [Dallas World Aquarium](#); [Texas State Aquarium](#); road trip to the Texas Gulf Coast (Galveston, Corpus Christi, Port Aransas, Padre Island)

Books

- ★ A House for Hermit Crab, Eric Carle
- ★ Swimmy, Leo Lionni
- ★ Rainbow Fish, Marcus Pfister
- ★ Let's Call Him Lau-wiliwili-humuhumu-nukunuku-nukunuku-apua'a-'oi'oi by Tim Myers
- ★ Curious George Goes to the Aquarium, Margaret & H. A. Rey
- ★ Out of the Ocean, Debra Frasier
- ★ Why Noah Chose the Dove, Eric Carle
- ★ Three Cheers for Tacky, Helen Lester
- ★ How I Became a Pirate, Melinda Long
- ★ I'm a Manatee, John Lithgow
- ★ Amazing Whales, Sarah Thompson
- ★ Do Dolphins Really Smile?, Laura Driscoll
- ★ Amazing Sharks, Sarah Thompson
- ★ Animals Animals, Eric Carle
- ★ Papa Papa, Jean Marzollo
- ★ The Grouchy Ladybug, Eric Carle
- ★ One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish, Dr. Seuss
- ★ Follow Me!, Bethany Roberts
- ★ Whale, David Lucas

Movies

- ★ Finding Nemo (2003 / G)
- ★ [Eyewitness Oceans](#)
- ★ Dolphins (IMAX 2000)
- ★ Into the Deep (IMAX 2002)
- ★ The Great Barrier Reef (IMAX 1999)
- ★ The Living Sea (IMAX 1995)
- ★ Search for the Great Sharks (IMAX 1999)
- ★ Whales: An Unforgettable Journey (IMAX 1995)
- ★ (IMAX movies available on DVD from <http://scuba.about.com/cs/apparelnovelties/tp/imax.htm> or on Netflix)
- ★ [Whale Rider](#) (2002 / PG-13)
- ★ [The Little Mermaid](#) (1989 / G)
- ★ [Atlantis: The Lost Empire](#) (2001 / PG)
- ★ [Finding Dory](#) (2016 / PG)
- ★ [Moana](#) (2016 / PG)

★ Free Willy

Water

Project

Make a water play table (plastic box with small cups, strainer, sponges, water beads, funnels, water beads and/or tapioca, etc.); explore items that float and sink; science experiments; water balloons!; play in the sprinklers; Lots of fun [outdoor water games here](#);

Food / Recipe

homemade lemonade / iced tea / try different [infused waters](#) / Sonic [Ocean Water](#) / [Coconut Water Fresh Berry popsicles](#) (recipe #6 - scroll down) / blue Jell-o /

Field Trip

Learn about the [Edwards Aquifer](#) and visit/swim at [Barton Springs Pool](#) at Zilker Park; [Brushy Creek Lake Park](#) in Cedar Park with water playscape; Lady Bird Lake; Lake Georgetown; Lake Pflugerville; The Thinkery; Volente Beach; Schlitterbahn; Typhoon Texas; [learn swimming safety](#); glass bottom boat tour at [The Meadows Center](#) (formerly called Aquarena Springs); [Witte Museum](#), overlooking the San Antonio River ([acequia](#)); [visit Austin area beaches](#); Go on a [waterfall scavenger hunt](#) (either day trip or spread out over time);

Books

- ★ The Dirty Little Boy, MW Brown
- ★ A Raindrop's Journey, Mark Graver
- ★ Magic School Bus at the Waterworks, Joanna Cole
- ★ A Drop of Water: A Book of Science and Wonder, Walter Wick

Movies

- ★ [Raindrop: Water Adventure](#) (2017 / youtube / not rated)

Baseball

Project

[Paper Plate Lacing](#) activity; [fingerprint baseball](#); diamond shapes; make a baseball diamond; play water baseball (#6 here); [Hang a wiffle ball from a string in a tree](#) and practice batting; [Make a pennant](#) with your favorite team's colors;

Food / Recipe

Baseball cake / cupcakes; hot dogs; peanuts & Cracker Jack; Make [Oreo baseball pops](#); Eat “baseball bats” (large pretzel rods); sunflower seeds ; Big League Chew gum; Make a Baseball-themed concession stand and sell lemonade and treats in your front yard;

Field Trip

Dell Diamond / go play baseball with friends / play kickball / go to a [UT baseball](#) game

Books

- ★ Casey at the Bat, Ernest Thayer (J811.52)
- ★ Play Ball, Amelia Bedelia, Peggy Parish
- ★ The Ball Game, David Packard
- ★ Mice at Bat, Kelly Oechsli
- ★ Mighty Casey, James Preller
- ★ [A Big Day for Baseball](#), Mary Pope Osborne
- ★ Field of Dreams, W. P. Kinsella (chapter book for older kids)

Movies

- ★ Angels in the Outfield (1994 / PG)
- ★ [Angels in the Outfield](#) (1951 / not rated/”approved”)
- ★ Rookie of the Year (1993 / PG)
- ★ The Sandlot (1993 / PG) “You’re killin’ me, Smalls.”
- ★ Field of Dreams (older kids / 1989 / PG) “If you build it, they will come.”
- ★ A League of their Own (1992 / PG) “There’s no crying in baseball!”

World / International Discovery

Project

make a globe using playdoh, Crayola Model Magic, or papier mache’ / [Print a world map](#) / search [Pinterest for International crafts](#) / Make Japanese paper lanterns, African masks, paper bag pinata, or a [Dutch windmill](#) /

Food / Recipe

foreign foods - Chinese, Italian, Mexican, Greek, etc...; sesame chicken

Field Trip

San Antonio River Walk / "Chinatown" area on North Lamar / visit restaurants and try new foods

Books

- ★ Hello World!, Manja Stojic
- ★ Jambo Means Hello: Swahili Alphabet Book, Muriel Feelings
- ★ Moja Means One: Swahili Counting Book, Muriel Feelings
- ★ The Crystal Heart (A Vietnamese Legend), Aaron Shepard
- ★ Jamaica Sandwich, B. Cleary
- ★ Kathleen O'Byrne, Irish Dancer, Declan Carville & Brendan Ellis
- ★ Grandfather's Journey, Allen Say
- ★ The Boy of the Three-Year Nap, Dianne Snyder & Allen Say
- ★ Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain, Verna Aardema
- ★ A is for Africa, Ifeoma Onyefulu
- ★ Children Around the World, Donata Montanari
- ★ Wake Up, World: A Day in the Life of Children Around the World, Beatrice Hollyer
- ★ Whoever You Are, Mem Fox
- ★ Let's Eat: What Children Eat Around the World, Beatrice Hollyer
- ★ Throw Your Tooth on the Roof, Selby Beeler
- ★ My Chinatown, Kam Mak
- ★ Jingle Dancer, Cynthia L Smith
- ★ Ten Oni Drummers, Matthew Golub
- ★ Rome Antics, David McCaulay
- ★ Ashanti to Zulu: African Traditions, Margaret Musgrove
- ★ Poor Puppy, Nick Bruel
- ★ What is your Language?, Debra Leventhal
- ★ Listen to the Wind, Greg Mortenson
- ★ Three Cups of Tea, Greg Mortensen (middle school reader)

Movies

- ★ Mulan (1998 / G)
- ★ Hercules (1997 / G)
- ★ Aladdin (1992 / G)
- ★ The Karate Kid (1984 / PG)
- ★ Coco (2017 / PG)
- ★ [Moana](#) (2016 / PG)

Olympics

Project

Make an Olympic torch - glue a small paper plate to an empty paper towel tube and paint it all gold then glue on tissue paper to look like a flame; Lots of ideas on [Pinterest](#); Make a mission

Rosary using the colors of the Olympic rings; Study the flags of other countries, then design your own; make your own Olympic obstacle course with running, biking, swimming, etc.

Food / Recipe

Eat foods from different countries (learn something about the country while you're at it...); eat foods in the colors of the Olympic rings

Field Trip

[volunteer at Special Olympics](#); Little Gym; Gymboree; SWIMMING!; Austin Park & Pizza; "Olympic events" out of obstacles and features at your local park or playground; ice skating;

Books

- ★ Magic Tree House Research Guide - Ancient Greece & The Olympics, Mary Pope Osborne
- ★ Hour of the Olympics, Mary Pope Osborne
- ★ Olympig!, Victoria Jamieson
- ★ What Are the Summer Olympics?, Gail Herman
- ★ G is for Gold Medal: An Olympics Alphabet, Brad Herzog
- ★ Wally Raccoon's Farm Yard Olympics, Leela Hope

Movies

- ★ [Cool Runnings](#) (1993 / PG)
- ★ Miracle (2004 / PG)
- ★ [Touch the Wall](#) (2014 / not rated documentary)
- ★ Chariots of Fire (1981 / PG) - older kids
- ★ [Lindsey Vonn: In the Moment](#) (1991 / not rated) - older kids
- ★ [Olympia Part One: Festival of the Nations](#) (1938 / not rated)
- ★ Olympia Part Two: Festival of Beauty (1938 / not rated)
- ★ Olympics [movies for families](#)

Explore Austin / Texas

Project

Build a Lego model of a well-known Austin landmark (capital, UT tower, 360 bridge); Color [printables and do activities](#); Draw Texas on a poster and cut out... decorate with landmarks and landforms; Complete the [Round the Rock Instagram Summer Challenge](#) (I know it's a 2014 post - no contest now, but 50 fun things to do in RR)

Food / Recipe

BBQ / Tex-Mex; eat lunch downtown at a new place; Pralines; pecan pie; Blue Bell Ice Cream (Brenham, but you can buy at HEB)

Field Trip

AUSTIN: Duck Tour of Austin; 360 to MoPac loop; Central Market; Mount Bonnell; Congress Ave Bat Bridge; Boggy Creek Organic Vegetable Farm; Austin Zoo; Zilker Park; Wild Basin; look for [Austin murals](#);

TEXAS: French Legation Museum; Texas Capitol; Susanna Dickinson Museum; O. Henry Museum; Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum; The Alamo and the Mission Trail in San Antonio; Road Trip!; Camping; “State ___ Capital” - Lockhart is the BBQ Capital, Luling is the Watermelon Capital, etc.; Stay at the [Marriott in Houston](#) that has a Texas-shaped lazy river on the roof; Visit the [Painted Churches](#) (start in Schulenberg, TX)

Books

- ★ Inside Outside Book of Texas, Munro
- ★ Susanna of the Alamo, Jakes
- ★ L is for Lone Star: A Texas Alphabet, Carol Crane
- ★ Round-Up: A Texas Number Book, Carol Crane
- ★ Texas Alphabet, Laurie Parker
- ★ [The Story of Texas](#), John Edward Weems

Movies

- ★ Texas: The Big Picture (IMAX 2003);
- ★ [The Last Command](#) (1955 / not rated)
- ★ [The Alamo](#) (1960 / not rated)
- ★ [The Alamo](#) (2004 / PG-13)
- ★ [The Alamo: Thirteen Days to Glory](#) (1987 / not rated)

Music

Project

Make musical instruments (oatmeal can drum, shoebox guitar, straw panpipe, etc.); Draw musical bars & notes on the sidewalk with chalk and “play” a simple song by hopping on each note (Twinkle Twinkle or Happy Birthday)

Food / Recipe

Make [Xylophone snacks](#); Cut snacks into [musical notes](#); [Saint Cecelia's piano keys](#);

Field Trip

Music Together @ Austin Opera; Kindermusik; Symphony Square; Free Concerts on Thursdays (noon) at CPC

Books

- ★ Remarkable Farkle McBride, John Lithgow
- ★ Carnival of the Animals, John Lithgow
- ★ Zin! Zin! Zin! A Violin!, Lloyd Moss
- ★ Meet the Orchestra, Ann Hayes
- ★ I Know a Shy Fellow Who Swallowed a Cello, Barbara S. Garriel
- ★ M is for Music, Kathleen Krull
- ★ Trumpet of the Swan, E. B. White (chapter book for older readers)

Movies

- ★ [Fantasia](#) (1940 / G)
- ★ [The Sound of Music](#) (1965 / G)
- ★ [Singin' in the Rain](#) (1952 / not rated/approved)
- ★ [The Music Man](#) (1962 / not rated/approved)
- ★ [Musicals for Kids](#)

Creepy Stories / Campfire

Project

make a fake fire with tissue paper; build different tents using a sheet and rope

Food / Recipe

S'Mores OR campfire in a bowl: put chocolate pudding in a small bowl, sprinkle on some crushed Oreo cookies (dirt), place marshmallows in a circle (fire ring of stones), use shredded coconut for kindling, small pretzel sticks for tinder, and large pretzel rods (or licorice) for logs; [campfire cupcakes](#);

Field Trip

ummm... go camping! State Parks are a great place to start. Even camping in your backyard can be fun! String up a hammock and read some books.

Books

- ★ Teeny Tiny, Jill Bennett / Tomie dePaola
- ★ Danny & the Dinosaur go Camping, Syd Hoff
- ★ Amelia Bedelia Goes Camping, Peggy Parish

- ★ Curious George Goes Camping, Margret Rey and H. A. Rey
- ★ S is for S'Mores, a Camping Alphabet, Helen Foster James
- ★ A Camping Spree with Mr. McGee, Chris Van Dusen
- ★ Bailey Goes Camping, Kevin Henkes
- ★ Maisy Goes Camping, Lucy Cousins
- ★ Arthur's Camp-Out, Lillian Hoban
- ★ Ready, Freddy! Camping Catastrophe!, Abby Klein

Movies

- ★ [The Parent Trap](#) (1961 / G)
- ★ Ernest Goes to Camp (1987 / PG)

Hawaii

Project

Make a volcano; Make a [volcano mini book](#); . Print [activities and coloring pages](#); make a [lei & grass crown](#); Color [Hawaii state info page](#); [pinecone pineapple](#); [colorful surfboards](#); [coconut bowling](#); make your own Hawaiian shirt (stamp acrylic paints on a white t-shirt using [flower stamps](#) and lots of colorful paint); [make a grass skirt](#) out of a thrift store t-shirt;

Food / Recipe

Poi; pineapple; Hawaiian Chicken with rice; Macadamia Nuts; coconuts; [rice krispy volcanoes](#); eat at Hula Hut

Field Trip

Hawaii, of course! HA HA HA! [Virtual field trip](#); [Hawaiian culture in Texas](#); Take a [hula dance class](#); Watch [Austin Outrigger Canoe Club rowing](#);

Books

- ★ The Three Little Hawaiian Pigs and the Magic Shark, Donivee Martin Laird
- ★ Let's Call Him Lau-wiliwili-humuhumu-nukunuku-nukunuku-apua'a-'oi'oi, Tim Myers
- ★ A is for Aloha, Uilani Goldsberry

Movies

- ★ Moana (2016 / PG)
- ★ Lilo & Stitch (2002 / PG)
- ★ Hula for Children from Austin Public Library

Trains

Project

Cut out shapes from die cut machine at Teacher Heaven and make an alphabet train, or a family train (one family member per car); Print [train cars onto cardstock](#); Use common shapes (squares, triangles, etc.) to design your own train;

Food / Recipe

[Rice Krispies Treat trains](#) – decorate with frosting or candy / [rice krispie coal](#);

Field Trip

[Zilker Zephyr Train Ride](#); [Austin Steam Train ride](#); [Cedar Rock Railroad](#); [Texas Transportation Museum](#);

Books

- ★ Freight Train, Donald Crews
- ★ Inside Freight Train, Donald Crews
- ★ Little Engine that Could, Watty Piper
- ★ Window Music, Anastasia Suen
- ★ Here Comes the Train, Charlotte Voake
- ★ Curious George Takes the Train, Margaret & H. A. Rey
- ★ New Baby Train, Woody Guthrie
- ★ I'll Push, You Pull, Paul Humphrey
- ★ Polar Express, Chris Van Allsburg

Movies

- ★ Choo Choo Trains video from Austin Public Library (30 minutes of JUST trains - no narration - no cartoons)
- ★ [There Goes a Train](#) (from library)
- ★ [The Journey of Natty Gann](#) (1985 / PG)
- ★ The Polar Express (2004 / G)

Vehicles: Planes & Automobiles (and
boats, bikes, bulldozers)

Project

Cut out shapes from die cut machine at Teacher Heaven and make a construction site in a box (like a diorama); create a [sensory bin](#) with rocks and/or sand and construction vehicles; Play [vehicle memory game](#) or use [these flash cards](#); make [vehicles out of popsicle sticks](#);

Food / Recipe

Make a chocolate cake and chocolate pudding, then serve them from the back of a dumptruck (cleaned out / lined with clear plastic wrap, of course)

Field Trip

[Texas Transportation Museum](#); Visit the big planes / helicopters at Camp Mabry; visit the airport; park at a construction site (in a safe place, of course)

Books

- ★ Truck, Donald Crews
- ★ Flying, Donald Crews
- ★ School Bus, Donald Crews
- ★ Harbor, Donald Crews
- ★ Sail Away, Donald Crews
- ★ Whose Vehicle is This? Sharon Katz Cooper
- ★ Get to Work Trucks!, Don Carter

Movies

- ★ There Goes a Dump Truck (Real Wheels video from APL)
- ★ There Goes a Bulldozer
- ★ There Goes a Fire Truck (and MANY more in this series)
- ★ Cars (2006 / G)
- ★ Cars 2 (2011 / G)
- ★ Planes (2013 / PG)
- ★ Planes: Fire & Rescue (2014 / PG)

Farms

Project

make your own butter from cream; make a paper plate sheep with cotton balls and clothespin legs; [farm land painting](#); make a [popsicle stick tractor](#); [farm sensory play](#) box; Make a [farm animal puppet show](#);

Food / Recipe

cook with farm-fresh eggs, fruit, & veggies

Field Trip

Boggy Creek Farm (organic vegetable farm in east Austin); Pioneer Farms; Crowe's Nest Farm; pony rides at Takota's Ponies (call 512-801-9964); Sweet Berry Farm (Marble Falls - strawberries, blackberries, blueberries, flowers, pumpkins)

Books

- ★ Charlotte's Web, E.B. White
- ★ Click Clack Moo... Cows that Type, Doreen Cronin
- ★ Giggle Giggle Quack, Doreen Cronin
- ★ Dooby Dooby Moo, Doreen Cronin
- ★ Sheep in a Jeep, Nancy Shaw
- ★ The Quiet Little Farm, Janet Kerr
- ★ Going to Sleep on a Farm, Wendy Cheyette Lewison
- ★ Pete the Cat: Old MacDonald Had a Farm, James Dean
- ★ Open the Barn Door, Christopher Santoro
- ★ Big Red Barn, Margaret Wise Brown
- ★ Spot Goes to the Farm, Eric Hill
- ★ Moo Baa La La La, Sandra Boynton
- ★ Little Blue Truck, Alice Schertle

Movies

- ★ Charlotte's Web (2006 / G)
- ★ Charlotte's Web (1973 / G)
- ★ Babe (1995 / G)
- ★ Shaun the Sheep (2015 / PG)

Foods

Project

plant a garden; make your own "foods with moods" pictures; retell The Very Hungry Caterpillar using [this activity](#);

Food / Recipe

hmmmm..... be creative here! Make foods from books you read (see below)

Field Trip

visit a farm (Boggy Creek Farm, Strawberry Farm in Marble Falls or Lexington, etc.); visit/tour a grocery store; tour Blue Bell; tour Amy's

Books

- ★ cookbooks
- ★ How are you Peeling - Foods with Moods, S. Freymann
- ★ Jake Baked the Cake, B. G. Hennessy
- ★ Pancakes, Pancakes!, Eric Carle
- ★ Thundercake, Patricia Polacco
- ★ Two for Stew, Laura Numeroff
- ★ The Carrot Seed, Ruth Krauss
- ★ The Very Hungry Caterpillar, Eric Carle

Movies

- ★ Ratatouille (2007 / G)

Patriotic / USA

Project

Make a flag (design your own or make US flag); draw / make ALL the US flags from history; [color activity pages](#); or on the [Crayola web page](#); research & color state flags; play the Scrambled States of America game; make your own state flash cards; make a fireworks t-shirt like [this](#) or [this](#);

Food / Recipe

flag cake / Jell-O & whipped cream parfait / make a [patriotic flag snack](#) with berries / [patriotic dipped pretzels](#) / [firecracker hot dogs](#) /

Field Trip

Bob Bullock Museum; LBJ Library

Books

- ★ America, My Land, Your Land, Our Land, W. Nikola-Lisa
- ★ Scrambled States of America, Laurie Keller
- ★ Oh Say Can You See?, Sheila Keenan
- ★ My America, Jan Spivey Gilchrist
- ★ American Girls books
- ★ When Mr. Jefferson Came to Philadelphia, Ann Turner

Movies

- ★ [Kit Kitteredge](#) (American Girls movie / 2008 / G)

US History

Project

Build boats out of couch cushions and pretend to be the Nina, Pinta, Santa Maria, the Mayflower, or other famous boat that came to the "New World."

Food / Recipe

Use Little House Cookbook for recipes from 1800s – borrow from your library

Field Trip

Washington D.C. :o) ; The Alamo & San Antonio Missions; Bob Bullock Museum

Books

- ★ Leif the Lucky, D'Aulaire
- ★ Columbus, D'Aulaire
- ★ I Sailed with Columbus, M. Schlein
- ★ If You Were There in 1492, Barbara Brenner
- ★ Voyages of Christopher Columbus, J. Clare
- ★ Westward with Columbus, J. Dylan
- ★ Nina, Pinta, Santa Maria, D.B. Fradin
- ★ Johnny Tremain, E. Forbes
- ★ George Washington's Socks, E. Woodruff
- ★ George Washington, D'Aulaire
- ★ Abraham Lincoln, D'Aulaire
- ★ Benjamin Franklin, D'Aulaire

Movies

- ★ School House Rock (youtube!)
- ★ [Pocahontas](#) (1995 / G)

Alphabet

Project

Play alphabet BINGO - cross off each letter as you find something that begins with that letter; make a [sensory box](#) using filler and letters (magnets or foam letters) from dollar store; use a

[salt box](#) to practice letter formation; put shaving cream on the wall of the bathtub/shower and practice writing letters in the shaving cream; learn the ASL alphabet; older students - learn Morse Code;

Food / Recipe

Alphabet soup; Scrabble Cheez-Its (play with your food); [Cinnamon Schoolbook Cookies](#) from Trader Joes

Field Trip

Play alphabet game in the car; visit places beginning with each letter of the alphabet (or drive by... a=aquifer, b=bank, c=car, etc.)

Books

- ★ Bruno Munari's ABC, Bruno Munari
- ★ Chicka Chicka Boom Boom, Bill Martin Jr
- ★ Dr. Seuss' ABC, Dr. Seuss
- ★ An Alphabet of Animals, I Brent
- ★ The Animal ABC, Leslie Baker
- ★ Miss Spider's ABC, David Kirk
- ★ Alphabet Under Construction, Denise Fleming
- ★ Zoopa - Animal Alphabet, Gianna Marino
- ★ Racecar Alphabet, Brian Floca
- ★ Poor Puppy, Nick Bruel
- ★ Bad Kitty, Nick Bruel
- ★ P is for Pterodactyl, Raj Haldar

Movies

Safety Week

(Fire, Police, Poison, 911, Bicycle)

Project

Poison Control: Have your child draw as many "[yucky faces](#)" as you can on 1"-2" white stickers (cut plain labels in half or buy large garage sale labels) and put them on poisonous materials in your home; Draw a map of your home and include fire escape routes... follow up with a fire drill; Create a bicycle obstacle course and have races, using all your safety gear, of course; Create stickers and/or [bracelet](#) with mom's phone number on it (or other emergency numbers); [learn about gun safety](#) with NRA's Eddie the Eagle;

Food / Recipe

make sugar cookies and use number cookie cutters to make "911" cookies; make homemade treats to share with firefighters when you go on a field trip

Field Trip

Fire Station!!!

Books

- ★ Where There's Smoke, Patricia Lakin
- ★ Kids Meet Emergency and Rescue Vehicles, Andra Serlin Abramson
- ★ Richard Scarry's A Day at the Police Station, Richard Scarry
- ★ Police Officers on Patrol, Kersten Hamilton
- ★ Keeping You Safe: A Book About Police Officers, Ann Owen
- ★ Officer Buckle & Gloria, Peggy Rathmann

Movies

- ★ There Goes a Rescue Hero
- ★ Rescue Heroes cartoons
- ★ Zootopia (2016 / PG)
- ★ Underdog (2007 / PG)

Senses

(Taste, Touch, Smell, Sight, Hearing)

Project

Draw / cut from magazines "my favorite smell," "my favorite sight," etc... - make a collage or notebook; play with your [sensory boxes](#); Learn ASL alphabet;

Food / Recipe

TASTE lots of food... explore sweet, salty, sour, spicy, etc.; ID foods by SMELL; LOOK at foods with a magnifying glass; LISTEN to sounds different foods make (crunch, squish, etc.); TOUCH different foods (temperature, hardness, texture, etc.)

Field Trip

Congress Ave (or McNeil) Bat Bridge (discuss echolocation & hearing – not to mention the lovely smell of guano)

Books

- ★ The Magic School Bus in the Bat Cave, Joanna Cole
- ★ The Magic School Bus Explores the Senses, Joanna Cole
- ★ Hear This, Sally Hewitt
- ★ Touch That, Sally Hewitt
- ★ Taste This, Sally Hewitt
- ★ Smell It!, Sally Hewitt
- ★ Look Here, Sally Hewitt

Movies

- ★ The Miracle Worker (1962 / not rated/approved) - movie about Helen Keller's teacher
- ★ The Miracle Worker (1979 / not rated)
- ★ Helen Keller: The Miracle Continues (1984 / not rated)
- ★ [The Miracle Worker](#) (Disney 2000 / TV-PG)
- ★ SOUND: Singing in the Rain / Sound of Music
- ★

Monsters

Project

make Play-Doh monsters (or Crayola Model Magic) to protect you - the sillier the better; Make "Monster Spray" for those kids afraid of monsters– a few squirts below the bed at bedtime will take care of those nasty pests; make a monster sensory box - use googly eyes and colorful pompoms; make a [monster jar](#); [handprint monsters](#); [paper plate monster craft](#); [monster handprint craft](#);

Food / Recipe

monster cupcakes; [monster eye cookies](#);

Field Trip

Dinosaur Park in Cedar Creek (it's a stretch, I admit... dinosaurs are monster-y, though)

Books

- ★ Monster Manners, Joanna Cole
- ★ A Beastly Story, Bill Martin Jr.
- ★ Strange Blue Creature, Paul Borovsky
- ★ 10-Step Guide to Living with your Monster, Laura Numeroff
- ★ The Green Monsters, Gus Clarke

Movies

- ★ Monsters, Inc. (2001 / G)
- ★ Monster University (2013 / G)
- ★ Hotel Transylvania (2012 / PG)

Family / Heritage

Project

(older kids) - write to family members far away and ask them to tell you their favorite childhood stories (either written, or if they can, have them videotape and mail / e-mail back)

(younger kids with parents' help) send a teddy bear (even a picture of teddy) or some other favorite toy to a distant relative and ask them to take teddy on an adventure and then send him back with stories (à la Flat Stanley).

A friend went to a ceramics store and wrote out old family recipes on tiles, had them glazed, then put them on her backsplash of her oven in her kitchen.

Make a family tree on posterboard - be sure to print out pictures

Food / Recipe

make an "old family recipe" like grandma's pie or Aunt Penny's lasagne

Field Trip

visit family! ;-) If family is too far away, visit a nursing home and ask residents to tell stories from their own families

Books

- ★ The Relatives Came, Cynthia Rylant
- ★ When Lightning Comes in a Jar, Patricia Polacco
- ★ Big Brother Little Brother, Penny Dale
- ★ Nana Upstairs, Nana Downstairs, Tomie dePaola
- ★ My Baby Sister, Tomie dePaola
- ★ The Friday Nights of Nana, Amy Hest
- ★ Making Room, Phoebe Koehler

Movies

- ★ Cheaper by the Dozen (1950 / not rated)
- ★ Coco (2017 / PG)

Pirates

Project

Decorate a Treasure Chest; Dig for "buried treasure" in your sandbox; use eye pencil to draw mustache on faces; [Rocking Pirate Boat](#) craft;

Food / Recipe

Pirate Booty, "grog," limes, make hardtack

Field Trip

Austin Aquarium ([here's an interesting perspective](#)); Pirate Cruise (South Padre Island / Port Isabel / Port Aransas)

Books

- ★ How I Became a Pirate, Melinda Long
- ★ Pirates, C. Drew Lamm
- ★ Pirates Don't Change Diapers, Melinda Long
- ★ Pirate Pete, Kim Kennedy
- ★ Shiver Me Letters: A Pirate ABC, June Sobel

Movies

- ★ Peter Pan (1953 / not rated/approved)
- ★ [Peter Pan](#) (2003 / PG)
- ★ [Return to Neverland](#) (2002 / G)
- ★ [Pirates of the Caribbean](#) (older kids / PG-13) "But you *have* heard of me."
- ★ [The Princess Bride](#) (1987 / PG) "Murdered by pirates is good."

Fine Art

Project

Art! Use a different medium than you normally do - try watercolor, paint, oil pastels, watercolor pencils, stamp pads (fingerprint art), fingerpaints, play doh or clay sculpture, food art (YES, PLAY with your food!), etc... Crayola.com is a surprisingly good resource for using common art items (crayons, markers, etc.) in a new or unusual way.

Food / Recipe

paint with food colors (blueberry, beet juice, etc.); [focaccia bread art](#); search “food art for kids” on pinterest; draw / sketch a fruit bowl still life... then eat it; recreate famous paintings with snack foods

Field Trip

Blanton, AMOA, DMA, Umlauf Sculpture Garden; [Tips for visiting an art museum with kids](#);

Books

- ★ Micawber, John Lithgow
- ★ Willy's Pictures, Anthony Browne
- ★ Dog's Night, Meredith Hooper
- ★ [Dan's Angel](#), Alexander Sturgis
- ★ Several recommendations [here](#)

Movies

- ★ None that I could find appropriate for kids (for adults, I found Frida, Pollack, and a few more)

Mad Science!

Project

see Janice Van Cleave's books for easy projects; Visit [Pinterest](#) for ideas;

Food / Recipe

see [Kitchen Chemistry](#); make Ice Cream in a Bag, Check for [color separation](#) of M&Ms colors -

Field Trip

Check the Thinkery for cool exhibits; Texas Memorial Museum (?), Mayborn in Waco; Science Mill in New Braunfels

Books

- ★ DK books (check the library)
- ★ Magic School Bus (dozens of titles), Joanna Cole
- ★ Chemistry for Every Kid, Janice Van Cleave
- ★ Physics for Every Kid, Janice Van Cleave
- ★ Janice Van Cleave's Science Around the Year, Janice Van Cleave (do you see a pattern?)

Movies

Bill Nye, Science Guy; Beakman's World, Mythbusters

Dinosaurs & Fossils

Project

Make a fossil - use plaster of paris to create your own or make a cast of a print found on a trail; [make a fossil "egg"](#); Go fossil hunting (just remember that you may not take anything from a state park or private property... take only pictures); use a sandbox to bury fossils (plastic dinos, other toys) for a dino dig - use spoons & paintbrushes like paleontologists; make a dinosaur [sensory bin](#) with plastic dinosaurs in beans, pebbles, or sand; make [paper plate dinosaurs](#); Make a ["Name-a-Saurus"](#);

Food / Recipe

Tyson Dino Nuggets & broccoli (trees); "bones" (pretzel rods or sticks); chocolate pudding & "dirt" (crushed Oreos) with a plastic dinosaur on top or buried in the cup; Dino fossil sugar cookies (use large dino to make footprint); [Dinosaur Veggies](#);

Field Trip

Texas Memorial Museum; [Dinosaur Park](#) in Cedar Creek (life-size dino models in the woods); Dinosaur Valley State Park (near Fort Worth); [Waco Mammoth National Monument](#); Zilker Botanical Center (sometimes has life-size dinos); Witte Museum in San Antonio; Austin Science & Nature Center (fossil center and dino dig pit); Check for field trip opportunities at the [Paleontological Society of Austin](#);

Books

- ★ Visit your library and go to the non-fiction section, #567
- ★ Oh Say Can You Say Di-no-saur?, Bonnie Worth
- ★ How Do Dinosaurs ___, Jane Yolen (several titles)

Movies

- ★ [The Land Before Time](#) (1988 / G)
- ★ [The Good Dinosaur](#) (2015 / PG)
- ★ [Jurassic Park](#) (1993 / PG-13 / older kids only... scary)
- ★ [Ice Age](#) series (2002+ / PG)
- ★ [Dinosaur](#) (2000 / PG)

Numbers

Project

Create an “airport” with numbered gates for all your airplanes (paper airplanes ok); make a numbers [sensory bin](#) using dollar store number magnets or foam pieces in a box with filler; Make [this Very Hungry Caterpillar](#) activity and count the foods as they go in; many activities [here](#);

Food / Recipe

Choose a variety of fruits and vegetables and COUNT The seeds - compare! Make [Number Trail Mix](#);

Field Trip

The Thinkery; Museum of Science & Technology in Cedar Park

Books

- ★ Ten, Nine, Eight, Molly Bang
- ★ Mouse Count, Ellen Stoll Walsh
- ★ The Very Hungry Caterpillar, Eric Carle

Movies

- ★ ???

Eco-Friendly Week

Project

Clean up your local park; Start a compost pile / bin in your backyard; visit Ecology Action or Cycled Plastics and recycle the things that your curbside pick-up won't take; make recycle signs to put on your trash can & recycle bin; Make crafts using only recyclable materials you collect around the house.

Food / Recipe

Eat from your backyard garden or eat locally grown foods (Farmer's Markets can be found at www.localharvest.org);

Field Trip

Farmer's Market (like Boggy Creek Farm or a local Farmer's Market)

Books

- ★ Janice Van Cleave's Ecology for Every Kid, Janice Van Cleave

- ★ Here Comes the Garbage Barge, Jonah Winter
- ★ Compost Stew: An A to Z Recipe for the Earth, Mary McKenna Siddals
- ★ Story of Stuff, Annie Leonard (more for mom & dad than for kids)

Movies

- ★ www.storyofstuff.com - 20 minute video that literally tells the story of all the “stuff” we consume!

Feelings

Project

Make [feelings magnets](#) with vocabulary that expresses various emotions

Food / Recipe

Go to the store and find fruits and veggies that have “faces” like in the How Are You Peeling? book

Field Trip

???

Books

- ★ Just Me and My Puppy, Mercer Mayer
- ★ How are you Peeling? Foods with Moods, Saxton Fraymann
- ★ When Sophie Gets Angry - Really Really Angry, Molly Bang
- ★ Today I Feel Silly, Jamie Lee Curtis

Movies

- ★ [Inside Out](#) (2015 / PG)

Rainy Day Fun

Project

Make a [cloud in a jar](#); [Indoor activities to burn energy](#); Make a [rain chain](#) - lots of DIY ideas on Pinterest; toddler fun - [rain sensory bag](#); Try one of the 25 Rain Themes Arts, Crafts, &

Activities collected [here](#), including [something](#) that looks very Montessori-ish; make a [river](#) in the backyard; work on a [rain garden](#);

Food / Recipe

[Meringue Rain Drops](#); Make [pictures with your snacks](#) (blueberry rain drops / bread cloud / orange slice umbrella); [Sky Jell-O](#) with puffy clouds (not exactly rain, but close enough - and CUTE!)

Field Trip

[Play outside in the rain](#); Splash in puddles; make mud pies; Visit The Thinkery, The Blanton, Bob Bullock (garage parking), or another indoor museum

Books

- ★ The Rain Came Down, David Shannon
- ★ Puddles, Jonathan London
- ★ Rain, Marion Dane Bauer
- ★ Rain, Manya Stojic

Movies

- ★ Singin' in the Rain (1952 / not rated)

Resources / Links

- ★ [Pinterest.com](#)
- ★ [Crayola.com](#)
- ★ [FreefuninAustin.com](#)
- ★ [Regina Mater Golden Reading List](#)
- ★