

Mom's Moment: Summer Boredom Busters

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As we head into the dead of summer, I'm pulling my hair out trying to keep my kids entertained. In the same boat?

Here are 7 non-cliché boredom busters to stimulate the kiddos, and in turn, keep us mamas somewhat sane.

Travel “at home”

Surrendering an extravagant, expensive summer vacay? Instill in kids a love for travel from the comfort of home. You've probably heard of Little Passports, monthly subscription kits for kids exposing them to the world- but they just released a pseudo “camp in a box.” These [adventure packs](#) are full of hands-on activities, and have themes ranging Space, Oceans and Art. There are activity books, maps, stickers and more- educational entertainment done right!

Get crafty

For older kids, like tweens and teens, suggest they get in touch with their inner artist. [StitchPeople](#) is an all-inclusive cross-stitch book, teaching readers everything they need to know about the craft. They'll feel accomplished creating home décor showcasing their family, friends, pets and beyond. Affordable and fun; ideal for DIY buffs.

Encourage a new hobby

My photo-obsessed ways are rubbing off on my son; in fact, he's been begging for a camera of his own. After some thought- I figured, why not?! Gift your kids- even young ones- the opportunity to learn a new hobby. And because I'm anti giving him the phone, I'm all for Nikon's waterproof and rugged [COOLPIX W300](#). It's the perfect gadget for kids to document their adventures without worrying about damaging the device. (Also ideal for bringing on vacay.) Compact and easy to use, with built in wi-fi and Bluetooth.

Get messy... kind of

When all else fails, I get out the finger paints, but truth be told- most ends up all over their bodies. Opt for some affordable, washable [art smocks](#) by Bumkins. And while you're at it, go for some all-inclusive easy art projects; there are really unique sets from [Faber-Castell](#). I love the create your own book sets, and sticker suncatchers.

Use smart apps

Let's be real- most kids want to do something techy. I prefer dodging anything iPad, but I actually have a newfound love affair for [ABCmouse](#). While I've seen the commercials, I've never actually surfed the app... until now- and my 5-year-old loves it. ABCmouse focuses on age specific learning games covering math, reading and beyond. The creative and engaging activities prevent the summer slide for ages 2-8.

Sing and dance

Consider [Codi](#) “smart DJ” loaded with 200 fully curated, classic songs and stories to provide developmental support. The adorable robot is an interactive “friend” that stimulates a child's imagination and creates a sense of adventure WITHOUT a screen. Codi encourages good habits like brushing teeth, and parents can even send their children voice messages.

Fill a “FUNBOY”

Do I have your attention? The brand, FUNBOY, just released an awesome [heart splash pool](#). While it's fit for two adults, I say- make it a ball pit for kids to play! The best part: it inflates in 2 minutes.

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