

HERE COMES THE SUMMER!

SUMMER SURVIVAL TOOLKIT

2026



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With the summer holidays now upon us, we have put together a selection of links to places you may like to visit, along with activities to enjoy at home that you and your child may find useful. We hope these ideas help you make the most of the summer break, providing plenty of opportunities for fun, learning, and quality time together.

Animal Parks & Farms

All Things Alpaca <https://allthingsalpaca.co.uk>
Barleylands Farm <https://barleylands.co.uk>
Hopefield Animal Sanctuary <https://hopefield.org.uk>
Marsh Farm <https://marshfarm.co.uk>
Old MacDonald's Farm <https://oldmacdonalds.co.uk>
Stantons Farm
<https://www.dayoutwiththekids.co.uk/attractions/stantons-farm>
Wellgate Community Farm <https://www.wellgatecommunityfarm.org.uk>

Parks, Forests & Nature

Bedfords Park <https://www.havering.gov.uk/parks/bedfords-park>
Belhus Woods Country Park
<https://www.explore-essex.com/places-to-go/belhus-woods-country-park>
Cottons Park <https://www.havering.gov.uk/parks/cottons-park>
Cudmore Grove Country Park
<https://www.explore-essex.com/places-to-go/cudmore-grove-country-park>
Fairlop Waters Country Park <https://visionrcl.org.uk/centre/fairlop-waters>
Great Notley Country Park
<https://www.explore-essex.com/places-to-go/great-notley-country-park>
Hainault Forest <https://www.hainaultforest.co.uk>
Harold Wood Park
<https://www.havering.gov.uk/parks/harold-wood-park>
Hornchurch Country Park
<https://www.havering.gov.uk/parks/hornchurch-country-park>
King George's Playing Fields
<https://www.brentwood.gov.uk/parks-and-open-spaces>
Lawns Park <https://www.havering.gov.uk/parks/lawns-park>
Mayesbrook Park <https://www.lbbd.gov.uk/mayesbrook-park>
Parsloes Park <https://www.lbbd.gov.uk/parsloes-park>
Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park <https://www.queenelizabetholympicpark.co.uk>
Raphael Park <https://www.havering.gov.uk/parks/raphael-park>
Rainham Marshes <https://www.rspb.org.uk/days-out/reserves/rainham-marshes>
Thames Chase Forest Centre
<https://www.forestryengland.uk/thames-chase>
Thorndon Country Park
<https://www.explore-essex.com/places-to-go/thorndon-country-park>
Weald Country Park
<https://www.explore-essex.com/places-to-go/weald-country-park>

Beaches & Splash Parks

Barking Splash Park <https://www.lbbd.gov.uk/splashy-land>
Clacton Beach & Pier <https://clactonpier.co.uk>
Maldon Splash Park <https://www.blackwaterleisure.co.uk/maldon-splash-park>
Mersea Island Beach (Cudmore Grove)
<https://www.explore-essex.com/places-to-go/cudmore-grove-country-park>
Southend Adventure Island <https://adventureisland.co.uk>
Sealife Adventure Southend <https://sealifeadventure.co.uk>

Museums, History & Transport

Colchester Castle <https://colchester.cimuseums.org.uk/visit/colchester-castle>
Cutty Sark <https://www.rmg.co.uk/cutty-sark>
Discover Children's Story Centre <https://discover.org.uk>
Epping Ongar Railway <https://www.eorailway.co.uk>
Foundling Museum <https://foundlingmuseum.org.uk>
HMS Belfast <https://www.iwm.org.uk/visits/hms-belfast>
Kelvedon Hatch Secret Nuclear Bunker <https://secretnuclearbunker.com>
London Transport Museum <https://www.ltmuseum.co.uk>
Tower of London <https://www.hrp.org.uk/tower-of-london>
Valence House Museum <https://valencehousecollections.co.uk>
Young V&A <https://www.vam.ac.uk/young>

Indoor Play & Soft Play

360 Play Basildon <https://360play.co.uk/basildon>
Babylon Park <https://babylonpark.com>
Kidspace Romford <https://kidspaceadventures.com/romford>
NAMCO Funscape Romford <https://www.namcofunscape.com/romford>
Oxygen Activeplay Romford <https://oxygenactiveplay.co.uk>
Partyman World Upminster <https://partymanworld.co.uk/upminster>
Partyman World Lakeside <https://partymanworld.co.uk/lakeside>

Active Adventures

AirHop Chelmsford <https://airhop.co.uk/chelmsford>
Go Ape Chelmsford <https://goape.co.uk/locations/chelmsford>
Grangewaters Outdoor Activities <https://www.grangewaters.com>
Mulligans Basildon <https://www.mrmulligan.com/basildon>
Ninja Warrior UK Chelmsford <https://www.ninjawarrioruk.co.uk/chelmsford>
Spirits Bar & Games Chelmsford <https://spiritsbarandgames.co.uk>
Stubbers Adventure Centre <https://stubbers.co.uk>
TeamSport Indoor Karting Basildon
<https://www.team-sport.co.uk/go-kart-tracks/basildon>
Whalebone Golf Club <https://whalebonegolfclub.co.uk>

Unique Days Out

Barnards Miniature Railway <https://barnardsminiaturerailway.co.uk>

Damyns Hall Aerodrome <https://damynshall.com>

Queen's Theatre Hornchurch <https://queens-theatre.co.uk>

Wind in the Willows Sculpture Trail

www.dayoutwiththekids.co.uk/attractions/the-wind-in-the-willows-sculpture-trail

Writtle Maize Maze <https://writtlemaizemaze.co.uk>

Things to Do at Home

Not every day has to be a day out! Sometimes the best memories are made at home. Here are some low-cost ideas to keep children entertained over the summer holidays.

Creative Activities

- Painting and drawing
- Colouring books
- Salt dough creations
- Air-dry clay modelling
- Jewellery making
- Sewing and simple crafts
- Junk modelling using recycling materials
- Make your own greetings cards

Games & Puzzles

- Board games
- Card games
- Jigsaw puzzles
- Treasure hunts
- Lego or construction challenges
- Memory games
- Scavenger hunts around the house

Kitchen Fun

- Bake cakes or biscuits together
- Decorate cupcakes
- Homemade pizzas
- Make fruit kebabs
- Ice cream sundaes
- Smoothie making
- Picnic in the garden or living room

Garden & Outdoor Fun

- Water play
- Bubble machines
- Sidewalk chalk
- Obstacle courses
- Nature scavenger hunt
- Gardening
- Bird watching
- Den building
- Mini sports day

Quiet Time

- Visit your local library
- Read books together
- Audiobooks
- Story sacks
- Mindfulness colouring
- Listening to calming music

Rainy Day Ideas

- Family movie afternoon
- Build a blanket fort
- Indoor camping
- Dance party
- Karaoke
- Puppet shows
- Fancy dress
- Create your own theatre performance

Free Online Activities

- Cosmic Kids Yoga
- BBC Bitesize
- National Geographic Kids
- GoNoodle
- Draw with Rob
- The Scouts – Indoor Activities
- Twinkl (many free resources available)

Remember

Summer doesn't have to be filled with expensive trips. Some children feel happiest and safest at home, and that's okay. The most important thing is spending quality time together in a way that works for your family.