

Nature lovers

Go to the park
Sit outside and look at the stars. Take snacks, drinks and blankets
Walk in the woods or on the beach
Plant seeds from something you've eaten, such as apples or watermelons
Pick berries together and make a pie
Pick wild flowers and press them in wax paper
Go birdwatching
Collect leaves and try to identify them online

Just for fun

Take turns reading to each other in new places such as at the beach or by a pond
Paint your nails together, or have a spa night with facials and foot spas
Look through old photo albums together
Pull out a box of toys they haven't played with for a while
Build Lego towers together
Play shops, restaurant or ice cream stand together
Have a tea party
Make life-size drawings of each other on the back of some old wrapping paper sheets

Crafty kids

Make breakfast together, such as pancakes in different shapes and sizes
Draw on the pavement or fences with chunky chalks
Make your own treasure map
Make a family tree
Make your own memory game
Scrapbook together
Help your child send an email to a grandparent, aunt, or uncle
Write encouraging letters to each other and leave them around the house
Draw caricatures of each other
Write a story together
Make homemade play-doh (<http://theimaginationtree.com/2012/04/best-ever-no-cook-play-dough-recipe.html>)
Make necklaces out of coloured pasta shapes and string
Make swords out of rolled up newspaper, and have a pretend sword fight
Build something out of recycled items such as toilet paper rolls and plastic bottles
Make a slideshow of your favourite digital photographs
Make bookmarks
Create memory boxes together to put your child's favourite pictures, artwork, and mementos

Learn and grow

Conduct cool science experiments together (see <http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/experiments.html> for ideas)
Rearrange their bedroom furniture or redecorate it (a lick of paint goes a long way)
Teach your child how to cook their favourite meal
Teach your child how to play a new game such as chess
Style your child's hair and let them style yours. Teach them how to braid
Share stories about when you were a child
Visit the library
Visit a free public museum or art gallery
Volunteer together
Bake a cake together
Teach your child how to ride a bike
Let your child teach you about something he or she knows or does well
Make up a silly song together
Teach one another some new dance moves
Make a meal together and invite friends around
Visit a nursing home and interview residents about what your town was like when they were young
Teach your child a song you sang when you were a child

Never sitting still

Go for a bike ride together
Play hopscotch
Have a water balloon fight
Jump on a trampoline together
Play tennis: lots of parks now run free tennis sessions
Have a sandcastle competition at the beach
Kick a football in the garden or park
Help your child practice a sport he or she enjoys
Go to a free event for kids' at your local leisure centre
Go fishing
Visit your local leisure centre: they often have free day activities
Visit your local leisure centre pool: many have free family swims sessions
Exercise together
Have a picnic outside or on the living room floor
Watch your child playing a sport, or take him or her to see a friend's game
Visit a skate park together