

# Summer

Talking activities for the seasons



Summer months can be a great time to learn. There are so many outdoor activities. Be sure to join in and play with your child. When you play together and talk about what you're doing, you're helping your child learn new words and ideas. Summer is the perfect time to learn and talk about the weather, nature, and animals.

Try these activities, songs, books, and crafts to help your child learn. Talk, read, and sing with your child in the language, or languages, you use at home.

## Fun outside

### Parks

Visit different parks in your community, including picnic areas and spray parks. Be sure to join in and play too.

- Try activities like playing with a ball, playing a new sport, flying a kite, or going to a pool.
- Talk about what you're doing, and use lots of action words, like jump, roll, slide, kick, or splash.

### The great outdoors

Camping or visiting a beach or lake are great ways to learn.

- Try activities like hiking or fishing. Play in the sand, swim in the lake, or throw rocks in the water.
- Talk about what you do, see, and hear, like how the sand feels rough, wet, cold, or hot.
- Describe animals, insects, cool rocks, and different kinds of trees and plants.



## Activities

### Fairs, festivals, and parades

Most communities have a fair or a parade during the spring or summer. Some may have festivals, rodeos, or cultural events. Many of these events have free activities and can be opportunities to learn new things. Look for fun activities for children like petting zoos, face painting, music, and games. Talk about all the things you see and do together.

### Gardening

Whether you have plants in your house or a garden, let your child help you take care of the plants.

- They can help choose flowers and plants to grow.
- They can dig in the dirt with a toy shovel or spoon and help put seeds in the dirt.
- With your help, your child can water the seeds or plants.
- Talk about what the seeds will grow into, talk about what plants need, and how they grow.



For more information scan this QR code or visit: [ahs.ca/talkbox](https://ahs.ca/talkbox)



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## Songs and rhymes

Singing is a great way for your child to learn new words. Do the actions that go with the song.

**Hello Mr. Sun** (sung to the tune of If You're Happy and You Know It)

Hello Mr. Sun, how are you?  
Hello Mr. Sun, how are you?  
We're so glad you're out today,  
And we hope that you will stay,  
Yes, we do! (clap, clap)

**Other nursery rhymes to try:** The Ants Go Marching, Baby Shark, or A Sailor Went to Sea.

### Want to learn more songs and rhymes?

- Join a parent-child group or music class at the library or community centre.
- Search for songs on the internet. Learn the song, then sing it with your child. Young children learn best from interaction with people instead of watching on a screen.

Sing songs and rhymes from your culture, your own childhood, or make them up by putting new words to familiar tunes.

## Crafts

### Make your own bubbles

- Put 1.5 litres of warm water in a 2-litre plastic bottle. Add 1 cup of dish soap and 2 tablespoons of corn syrup. Put the water in first or you'll have a lot of suds.
- Stir a bit, then put the lid on tightly and shake gently. Let the bubbles stand to let the air settle.
- Dip wands and blow to make bubbles.
  - You can make your own wands by shaping a pipe cleaner or use a plastic bottle with the bottom cut off.
  - Try items from your home like a straw, cookie cutters, or a slotted spoon.
- Blow bubbles with your child. Take turns blowing, chasing, and popping the bubbles.

## Books

Go to your local public library to find these, and many more, great books and e-books.

- Lottie's New Beach Towel by Petra Mathers
- Corduroy Goes to the Beach by Don Freeman
- Maisy Goes Camping by Lucy Cousins
- Beach Day by Karen Roosa
- Little Cloud by Eric Carle
- Mr. Gumpy's Outing by John Burningham
- Sea, Sand, Me by Patricia Hubbell
- Shark in the Park by Nick Sharratt

When reading, follow your child's interests. You can skip pages, change the story, or just talk about the pictures together.

## Where to get help

Speech-language pathologists can help. Learn more at [ahs.ca/pedrehab](https://ahs.ca/pedrehab).



When making crafts, talk about what you're doing together, what comes next, and have fun.