10 summer fun activities that take 5 minutes!

1.Painting with water

Small 10/ 15 minute activity that can be done with younger children and older! Great for a sibling activity to be done together.

Get paintbrushes and a little bucket of water and let them 'paint' the fences/ wall etc.

2. Empty spray cans

If you are finished with a spray bottle - fill it up with water and draw chalk phonics sounds/ common exception words or number problems onto a wall or floor. Let children say the sound or answer the question and then spray them away.

3. Alphabet games - 2 players:

Write one word beginning with a letter in chalk outside, the other player then has to write as many words as they can think of beginning with the same letter. This allows children to practise their vocabulary and spelling! Then swap and think of another letter and begin again.

Cleaning up after playing...

If you have any plastic garden toys/ plant pots or places outside that children could clean. Give them a bucket of water and a sponge/ cloth and let them clean everywhere outside!

4. Ice smashing challenge!

Can be done with younger siblings too.. Get toys/ letters/ numbers and freeze them. Then get children to smash them apart.

5. Masking tape!

You could use this to spell words, do long jump competitions or even write number sentences with it.

6. Make your own word puzzles: Muddle words up and get children to guess what the word is.

7. Rainy day? Play party games indoors.

Blind fold your child with a scarf and have a game of putting the face back perfectly on the wall. Or wrap some games up and play party games together such as musical statues or musical chairs.

8. Sink or float?

Get something that can contain water but you can see through. We cut up a plastic milk bottle. Fill it with water on a tray then gather random objects from about the house that will fit in your container. Your child has to guess if they will sink or float and then sort them into two piles.

Enjoying science? Look at some of these websites to find some cool science experiments to do over summer.

https://handsonaswegrow.com/50-simple-science-experiments/

9. Number thief!

So all you need is a pack of cards.

TOP TIP: Get a “character” to steal the letters. You could use a cuddly toy, a puppet, or put on a hat to take turns to be the thief – whatever your child would like best.

The game is simple:

1. Lay the cards out Ace-10
2. Tell your child to close their eyes because the naughty *insert character name here* is going to steal a number.
3. Take one card away.
4. Let them look and tell you the missing number.
5. If they struggle say “let’s count together” and ‘find’ it.

So once they’ve got the hang of it steal two/three/four numbers, let them do the stealing, put numbers in the wrong order, hide the number somewhere in the room. Whatever you like to jazz it up.

To make the game harder:

Nifty 50 (2-4 players)

The object is to some up with a math equation that has a sum or difference closest to the number 50. First player to 5 points is the winner!

Deal all the cards between all the players. Each player turns over 4 cards and makes a two digit + two digit number sentence or two digit - two digit number sentence that has solution is closest to 50. The equation that is closest to 50 gets one point. IF you can create an equation that is exactly 50, it's worth 2 points. If both players have the same answer, no one gets a point.

During play, Aces are worth 1, and face cards and 10s are worth 0, other cards are face value. After the cards are used, they are put in a discard pile.

Make Ten (1-2 players)

This game is traditionally played as solitaire, but can easily be modified for two players. It allows younger kids to be able to practice their math facts to 10.

Deal the cards into three rows of 5 face up, the rest are in a pile face down to the side. If you can add two cards that equal the sum of 10, you collect the cards. New cards are dealt into the holes that were left from the cards that were picked up. Face cards (K, Q,J, 10) can only be picked up if you have a matching pair.

If you are playing the solitaire version, you win if you can pick up all the cards in the entire deck without getting stuck! If you are playing with two players, and there are no more moves to be made, the player with the most cards at that time is the winner.

10. Readathon outdoors You could make a camp with tables/ chairs or blankets and see how many books you can read in a day!

11. Create an idea box. Spend 10 minutes brainstorming ideas with your children about what they can do to overcome boredom. Write down their suggestions, and put them in an empty box. Then, the next time they're bored, have them pick out one of their own suggestions. Given that it was their idea, they will want to do it more!

12. Maths riddles: Have a go at making up some of your own maths riddles and solving them.. Here are a few examples!

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/54905286e4b050812345644c/t/5e90f4f2ff9b653b09b582d2/1586558216270/10_Math_Riddles_For_Kids_Worksheet.pdf

Hint: This puzzle has more than one solution!

Games that take longer than 5 minutes and can be done with family members/ siblings.

Treasure hunt

The basic idea – a pirate has broken into your house and hidden common exception words and treasure but left a map– your child has to follow the map to find all the common exception words until they reach the end where X marks the spot and treasure is hidden. So here's how I did it…

1. Draw a rough simple map of your house/garden and plant 6 common exception words and some sort of treat. We buried gold coins in our sandpit but you can place cakes under buckets, actual coins under a pillow etc. etc.

2. Roll map into a scroll with a pencil and plonk it by your letter box. Ask the kids if they heard the postman and do they want to go and see what he's posted.

3. Tell them the map says “Pirate Pete has hidden treasure in your house/garden and it is their job to find all common exception words and write them down by following the map. If they do it correctly they will find the X and the buried treasure.”

4. Help them with where to start, then let them find the common exception words and write them down as they find them, following the map each time.

5. At the end they find the treasure, they will be super happy and yet what they have actually done is practice writing lots of common exception words!

Obviously you can do variations on this depending on what your child is into. Perhaps a cheeky fairy hid them and left a note, or a disgusting troll, or a naughty witch. You could extend the game to finding phonics words/ spelling words they find tricky or even do it with number sentences.

Here is a list of common exception words to help you!

Year 1 and 2 Common Exception Words

Year 1			Year 2			
the	they	one	door	gold	plant	clothes
a	be	once	floor	hold	path	busy
do	he	ask	poor	bath	bath	people
to	me	friend	because	every	hour	water
today	she	school	find	great	move	again
of	we	put	kind	break	prove	half
said	no	push	mind	steak	improve	money
says	go	pull	behind	pretty	sure	Mr
are	so	full	child	beautiful	sugar	Mrs
were	by	house	children	after	eye	parents
was	my	our	wild	fast	could	Christmas
is	here		climb	last	should	everybody
his	there		most	past	would	even
has	where		only	father	who	
I	love		both	class	whole	
you	come		old	grass	any	
your	some		cold	pass	many	

Happy playing!