

Holiday fun can be free!

You don't have to spend a fortune to have fun. Discover some fun activities that your class can do without breaking into the piggy bank

There are lots of people in the poster who are doing things that don't cost a penny. How many activities can the class think of that they can do for free? Here are some ideas...

Bookworms Remind the children it is possible to 'read for free' by joining their local library. The summer holidays are an ideal opportunity to make the most of local libraries. (See pages 8–9 for details of The Summer Reading Challenge™.)

Soapy suds There are a surprising number of things that you can do with a bowl of soapy water. Children can use it to wash doll clothes, plastic toys or tea sets; see what kinds of objects float or sink; make a paper boat or wooden raft; explore colours and shapes in the bubbles. If the suds are thick enough, a range of objects can be dropped into the bowl for a fun 'feely' game – where you have to find and guess the objects just using the sense of touch.

Treasure map Children can make a map of a real location such as their home or garden and decide on a spot to hide their treasure. They can then challenge a friend or parent to use the map to find their treasure.

Junk sculpture It is amazing just how much we throw away each week. Encourage children to start their own junk collection of boxes, cartons and other left-over packaging. They can then use these to create their own fun sculptures – perhaps a robot, a doll's house, spaceship or farmyard. Once they start collecting, children will have lots of imaginative ideas!

Secret den These don't always have to be outdoors. With some imagination, a table, chairs and some blankets/rugs can make a snug hideaway. What other locations can the children think of for their den? Remind them to check with grown ups first!

Speed ramp A piece of wood, strong cardboard, a plastic lid – there are lots of ways to make a simple ramp. Children can use it to roll toy cars and marbles down. What happens if the ramp is made steeper? How can they measure what travels furthest?



Minibeast world Collect twigs, petals, leaves, stones and soil to create an environment for some insects. These can be created in a shoebox, or in a plastic bottle (an adult will need to cut the top off). Remind children that afterwards, they should return any insects to the places that they were found.

Magic perfumes Stir petals and leaves into a bowl of water. Can the children create a pleasant smell from their choice of ingredients? Which petals are the most/least perfumed? Remind children that they should not drink their creations and that they should wash their hands afterwards.

