

Things You Can Do With Your CASA Kid

Even though these activities are grouped into "younger" and "older children," many can be done with either age group, depending on the interests and maturity of your child(ren).

Please note that out-of-county or exceptional activities (i.e. river rafting, ski diving, etc.) will require "special permission" from the social worker, foster parent and/or CASA case supervisor. When in doubt if you need special permission, check with your supervisor.

Activities for Younger Children

- Blow bubbles with them in their yard or at the park.
- Easy crafts. Tie knots, make a belt, weave cattails, use a kit from the craft store.
- Share a hobby. Start a collection of insects, leaves, bottle caps, rocks, etc.
- Learn about the computer at the library and locate some books on a particular topic (i.e. dinosaurs, monsters, soapbox cars, etc.)
- Cut out pictures to form a scrapbook of favorite things: cars, pets, family pictures, and places you go together.
- Go to breakfast or lunch and practice manners. Check on each other to see if you follow through with all possible "Thank you's," "Pleases," and proper etiquette.
- Go for a bus or trolley car ride in a nearby town.
- Go to a school function together—carnival, music program, plays, etc.
- Easy sewing. Get a kit from the store or do simple small pieces of needlepoint, embroidery or easy placemats, etc.
- Drawing and painting with watercolors, magic marker, paint by number, etc.
- Assemble a jigsaw puzzle together; use a poster folder to save an incomplete puzzle until next visit.
- Write a letter to a relative, President, or a favorite famous person.
- Make an easy doll. Look in the library for some ideas.
- Put together a simple airplane model.
- Build something out of Legos. Some of the kits have moving parts.
- Make a gift for Christmas—get ideas from Good Housekeeping magazines or the library.
- Work on flash cards together.

- Make some placemats. Draw, paint or sew simple designs—use clear contact paper to preserve.

- Make easy decorations for a Christmas tree—popcorn strings, glue together some pasta wheels or macaroni, or look for ideas in books.

- Decorate cookies. Buy ready-made cookies, a can of frosting and sprinkles.
- Go to the pet store—learn about some of the animals that you see from books and videos.

- Go on an adult errand together—do shopping (let them help), go to the post office, etc.

- Visit a wildlife area. Look for ducks and other wildlife. Take pictures.
- Wrap presents together.
- Press some leaves or wildflowers. You can find information in the library on various ways to work with leaves.
- Send a postcard when you are away. When you return, you might share some souvenirs or photos.
- Talk about phone etiquette, and who to call in an emergency.
- Teach a song or a poem to each other.
- Go to the Little League or school ball game.
- Go to a play or concert.
- Drive through a car wash.
- Tour a dairy.
- Visit a fire station
- Go to the circus.
- See a parade.
- Rent a video from the library or borrow one from the CASA office.
- Go to a local festival, fair, or the farm show.
- Take the "long way" to the pizza parlor (or other regularly-visited establishment). Provides good opportunity to talk and a chance to see if your child is observant.
- Take a kite to the park and fly it.
- Go for a walk in a park, by the river, around campus.
- Go fishing.
- Go on a picnic.
- Play cards, checkers, marbles, tic-tac-toe, Bingo, or other games.
- Rent a metal detector and go hunting for lost coins.
- Plant a garden or put a few seeds in a pot. Plant a peanut plant in a clear plastic cup and watch the roots grow; learn about the parts of a plant.
- Miniature golf.

- Rake up and play in leaves.
- Play horseshoes or throw a Frisbee.
- Visit the recycle center and bring stuff to recycle. Learn about the environment and what you can do to help.
- Teach your kid how to tell time, count, say the months of the year.
- Read a story together. Record it to hear your voices.
- Go bowling.
- Get a pumpkin and carve or paint it.

Activities for Older Children

- Assist them in researching what requirements are necessary for graduation from a school and help them research colleges.
- Have them give you a tour of their school; introduce you to their teacher, etc.
- Discuss the importance of a smile, "Please" and "Thank you," and even the effects of a simple compliment to someone.
- See a movie.
- Go to a baseball game.
- Study the DMV manual with one another before a driver's test or while beginning driver's education.
- If your mentee has begun attending a new school, talk about what is different and what is the same. Share your own experiences with new schools and settings.
- Learn to play an instrument together.
- Do a service project together; local environmental clean up, Habitat for Humanity, serving lunch in a mission or collecting cans of food for a food drive.
- Do a research project at the library related to a school report, or a special topic of interest, such as the country, the army, dogs, etc.
- Research political positions and candidates who will be on the ballot in upcoming elections.
- Check local college and high school sports schedules and choose an event to attend.
- Check your local parks and recreation department for hiking trails or activities.
- Check out lesser-known sports such as field hockey, rugby or rowing.
- Learn a language together—get a tape or CD/DVD for help.
- Offer to help your kid make something for their room.
- Learn a cheerleading routine or twirl batons.
- Go for a bike ride. Explore your community on bikes. Take a picnic lunch.
- Go to a car show.
- Shoot some hoops.
- Do a simple science project, like making a sundial, using food coloring in some water to show how a flower soaks up water. Check the library for a book with more ideas.

- Help your child get a library card.
 - Learn how to use microscopes, computers, calculators, magnets, and cameras together.
 - Tutor them in a problem area—ask the teacher for help but don't spend too much time on schoolwork.
 - Go to the mall and walk around.
 - Talk about friends you each have—what your best friend is like, what it means to be a friend.
 - Observe behavior of your kid, and help them work through some of their problems. Listening is sometimes better than giving advice.
 - Go roller-skating or ice-skating.
 - Play billiards.
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- Teach your kid how to wash clothes, iron, mend clothing, clean the house, and change the oil or a tire on the car.
 - Help them look for a job and practice interviews, fill out applications, write resumes, etc.
 - Make something basic out of wood—footstool, shelf, birdhouse, birdfeeder; sand and varnish.
 - Talk about balancing a budget.
 - Talk about balancing a checkbook.
 - Talk about balancing work and life.
 - Talk about credit cards.
 - Visit a community college.
 - Visit a local technical school.