Things to do at home with kids

To make this more fun you could print and cut these suggestions up onto strips, then lucky dip an activity.

At the end I’ve done up a shopping list so you can get prepared. Most things you should have around the home though.

I’ve included links for those things that need a visual explainer or recipe.

1. Treasure hunt (with clues, hide a favourite toy somewhere in the house)
2. Make a batch of play doh <https://livingwellmom.com/easy-homemade-playdough-recipe/>
3. Tint shaving cream with food colouring, paint the windows or glass doors, then rinse it off
4. Go through clothing from previous seasons, try on and cull things that are too small
5. Play dress ups in mum and dad’s clothes- do a photoshoot
6. Graffiti the garden fence with chalk
7. Make a small bowl, plate or egg cup from air dry clay
8. Day spa- do a Mani/Pedi/foot soak/face mask
9. Go through old photos and videos, and old craft and paintings
10. Have a Living Room disco- play freeze, musical chairs, have a dance off
11. Go through recipe books together and have a bake off challenge
12. Do a backyard scavenger hunt <https://heyletsmakestuff.com/printable-back-yard-scavenger-hunt/>
13. Make Origami animals or paper ninja stars (check youtube for instructions)
14. Gardening- pull weeds, trim bushes, collect flowers for a vase
15. Make a mud kitchen in the garden, can you make different coloured rock paint?
16. Practice hammering nails into a plank of wood <https://www.howweelearn.com/porcupine-woodworking-craft/>
17. Organise the books on your shelf into a rainbow <https://i.pinimg.com/564x/b5/d4/b3/b5d4b3328c79b026d6e63fd44ecf42d6.jpg>
18. String up a sheet tent in the backyard <https://www.flickr.com/photos/32006501@N04/5858911190/in/photostream/>
19. Find three toys to give to charity
20. Using lego characters or other small toys, make a stop motion movie (download the app Stop Motion to your phone or ipad)
21. Organise your lego and then have a building challenge (who can build the best house, hotel or shop?)
22. Write notes of love, compliments or doodles and hide them around the house for family to find
23. Do a marshmallow toothpick engineering challenge <https://playteachrepeat.com/marshmallow-toothpick-building-challenge/>
24. Do a yoga class together <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-6erFaJZqP4>
25. Create an “god’s eye” weaving using sticks and wool <https://www.skiptomylou.org/gods-eye/>
26. Build a teepee fairy house <https://www.reallifeathome.com/teepee-style-fairy-house/>
27. Try shadow drawing, leaf rubbings, painting bark or stones
28. Build a bug hotel <https://www.pinterest.com.au/pin/417568196702254667/>
29. Try leaf threading <https://kidscraftroom.com/all-natural-leaf-threading/> and make a nature chandelier <https://www.pinterest.com.au/pin/120471358752239565/>
30. Use a mirror to draw a self portrait
31. Create an alfoil river in the garden and float things down it <https://www.pinterest.com.au/pin/120471358754159749/>
32. Learn to braid hair
33. Create an obstacle course
34. Build a fort using the couch and every cushion/ pillow you can find
35. Thread pasta into jewellery
36. Make 3D paper rainbows <https://teachpreschool.org/2012/03/07/paper-rainbows-and-the-ten-second-rule/>
37. Make your own bubble blower <https://www.pinterest.com.au/pin/4292562132234372/>
38. Put goggles and swimmers on and swim in the bath
39. Go through your board/ card games and challenge yourself to play them all. Design your own game
40. Make greeting cards for the stationery cupboard to be used for birthdays and other occasions
41. Paint a family portrait to be framed and hung
42. Choose a picture book each and read aloud to each other in mum and dads bed
43. Have a handball tournament
44. Write a short story or poem that includes a dog, an umbrella and some sushi
45. Find 10 different shaped leaves in the garden
46. Create a paper crown for a member of your family and decorate it
47. Make a paper chain to hang up in the dining room <https://www.pinterest.com.au/pin/20618110782314477/>
48. Try the travelling water experiment <https://www.pinterest.com.au/pin/120471358753094315/>
49. Fill a small spray bottle with water & aromatherapy oil and then spray and wipe the house
50. Fold paper and cut out paper snowflakes
51. Make pom poms out of wool <https://www.pinterest.com.au/pin/120471358753869763/>
52. Play drawing games like simon says drawing <http://www.momto2poshlildivas.com/2012/06/playing-simon-says-draw-to-practice.html> Mr Squiggle drawing <http://www.creatifulkids.com/squiggle-drawing-for-kids/>

Or blindfolded drawing

1. Put on a puppet show using toys behind the couch
2. Make DIY rain clouds in a jar <https://www.pinterest.com.au/pin/120471358768337332/>
3. Do the magic milk experiment <https://www.pinterest.com.au/pin/120471358754816698/>
4. Create a sensory shaker bottle using an old bottle, glitter and water (and whatever else you’d like to put in there!)
5. Outdoor games like egg and spoon race, tag team races, three legged races, or play stuck in the mud
6. Fold paper planes and see how far they will fly
7. Build the highest block tower you can
8. Learn how to bake bread
9. Make a lego zip line <https://littlebinsforlittlehands.com/lego-zip-line-homemade-toy-zip-line-kids/>
10. Keep a balloon in the air as long as possible
11. Build a house with a deck of cards
12. String up the Christmas lights in your living room
13. Play cinema- make tickets, popcorn, give your guests a rug and watch a movie together
14. Play hotels using your bedrooms as “hotel rooms” or restaurants by setting up the dining room like a restaurant with menus
15. Make up a workout and do it together (eg- 25 star jumps, 20 squats, 15 crunches, hop like a bunny around the lounge room, frog leap your partner)
16. Choose an inspirational quote and create a poster for your room
17. Change the bedsheets and build a sheet city in your bedroom before they get washed!
18. Press flowers within a few heavy books
19. Play the gummy bear game (using dice and 4 gummies each. Roll a 1 you eat one in your pile, a 2 you pass one bear to your left, a 3 you pass to your right, a 4 you keep it, a 5 you eat it, a 6 you keep it- keep playing till the gummies are gone!)
20. Make sidewalk paint <https://www.apartmenttherapy.com/how-to-make-sidewalk-chalk-pai-84828>
21. Make a magic potion using aromatherapy oils, glitter, water, petals
22. Take some garden clippings and see which ones you can get to grow roots for replanting
23. Use masking tape to make a race track. Race matchbox cars. Or use the inside of your bathtub as a ramp for racing
24. Listen to a kids podcast or audio book. Podcast suggestions: Brains on, Wow in the world, Circle round, Little green pod, Good night stories for rebel girls, Fierce girls, Story pirates, But why?
25. With some old clothes, cut and create clothes for your toys
26. Take everyone’s height measurement on a door frame
27. Using butchers paper trace a partners whole body. Now try to draw and include as many body parts and organs as you can
28. Give someone a back, foot or head massage
29. Try sharpie tie dye using a sharpie and rubbing alcohol <https://www.pinterest.com.au/pin/120471358768337745/>
30. Take some artistic photos in black and white. Play around with filters and see what you can create
31. Water play- buckets, scoopers, whisk, pouring jugs, bubbles!
32. Have a picnic lunch outside. Take books and toys with you
33. Sort through all your crafts and art supplies. See if something inspires you. Organise and sharpen all your pencils and test all your markers
34. Make a bottle rocket <https://frugalfun4boys.com/epic-bottle-rocket-flew-higher-2-story-house/>
35. Make rainbow paper <https://www.sciencekiddo.com/rainbow-paper-kid-color-science/>
36. Make a stained glass window using clear contact & cellophane <http://www.pinkstripeysocks.com/2013/07/contact-paper-and-cellophane-stained.html?m=1>
37. Make a marble run <https://buggyandbuddy.com/10-awesome-homemade-marble-runs/>
38. Paint a stick gnome <https://www.pinterest.com.au/pin/120471358769742437/>
39. Make a rainbow stick <https://www.pinterest.com.au/pin/120471358768339841/>
40. Jump rope- can you get to 100 without stopping?
41. Take apart an old appliance. Can you put it back together?
42. Research your family tree- see how far back you can go.
43. Make a time capsule of this time to be opened in ten years
44. Get swimmers on and wash the car!
45. Set up camp in the garden and play inside the tent
46. Write a letter to a friend, relative or teacher to mail
47. Lie on a rug in the garden and spot cloud shapes. Make up a story about what you see.
48. Work together to a family emblem, motto or song. Include elements that are important to you and your family
49. Learn to finger knit, french knit or braid wool into friendship bracelets
50. Sketch your dream red carpet look!
51. Try Michaelangelo drawing under the table <https://www.pinterest.com.au/pin/120471358768337776/>
52. Make a pretty lantern using an old jar, tissue paper and glue <https://www.pinterest.com.au/pin/232216924514964027/>
53. Make an infinite paper flipper! <https://www.pinterest.com.au/pin/833517843522854656/>
54. Make frozen dinosaur eggs (or fairies, or Ooshies!) <https://www.pinterest.com.au/pin/815362707513858208/>
55. Make a paper cut out family <https://www.pinterest.com.au/pin/142285669464029864/>
56. Make a paper plate whale <https://www.pinterest.com.au/pin/575123814914968111/>
57. Try dying some old plain fabric using natural dyes <https://www.pinterest.com.au/pin/526358275201444269/>
58. Do a chalk photo shoot <https://www.pinterest.com.au/pin/450148925236459598/>

Shopping list:

*For playdoh:*

* Cream of tartar
* Table salt
* All purpose flour
* Food colourings
* Vegetable oil

*General: A lot of this you will already have. But maybe do a check and buy what you need if you still can!*

* Chalk
* Shaving cream
* Food colouring
* Paper- coloured and white
* Air dry clay
* glitter
* Cornstarch
* Mini marshmallows
* Toothpicks
* Wool
* Acrylic paints
* Watercolour paints
* Crayons
* Shaving cream
* Balloons
* Sharpie
* Rubbing alcohol
* Butchers paper or a large paper table cloth
* Baking soda
* Vinegar
* Duct tape
* An empty plastic bottle
* Black paper
* Nailpolish
* Tissue paper
* PVA glue
* An old jar
* Sticky tape
* A marble