

Spring & Summer Family Activities



- Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day invite flag waving at local parades followed by a backyard barbeque or park picnic. Pack an after dark dessert picnic to follow the fireworks display. Or roast s'mores in your backyard.
- Remember military families and those deployed on Memorial Day. Military families with a deployed spouse and single parents have much in common.
- When vacations are a stretch on the budget, consider a staycation. Explore the tourist spots in your area.

- Sleep outdoors.
- Camping can be an affordable option, especially if you can borrow the expensive items like the tent, sleeping bags, camp stove, and lantern.
- Christian camps offer scholarships for your child to attend and be surrounded by trusted adults. Volunteer to help at camp or take the time your child is away to accomplish projects.
- Get away to a one-night hotel splurge with a waterpark or similar fun activity built into the price.
- Extended family with a farm, pool, cabin, or boat often like to host a get-together. Bring baked goods, plan activities, or volunteer you and your child to help your hosts with a project like painting or yard work.

Create a Celebration

- Invent a holiday. Think a bit ahead, add a little creativity, and maybe borrow a few items from friends and family to make these fantastical family days and mini-vacations free.
- Celebrate "Chocolate Chip Cookie" day, or "Go Fly a Kite" day or "Make your own popsicles" or "Churn homemade ice cream" day. For "Sleep-in Saturdays," preselect an age appropriate video your child can watch while you get extra sleep.
- Have Taco Tuesdays, or Milkshake Mondays.
- Make an activity around your child's favorite trend: dinosaurs, pandas, ponies, or baseball. Go to a butterfly exhibit at a local

zoo. Turn the backyard into a colorful whimsical wonderland where unicorns would rollick (Think Dollar Store for supplies. Repurpose things you already have in a different setting).

- Invite your child to make a 'you are special' plate at a pottery painting store or get a unique plate at a discount store. Commemorate courageous moments like the first day at a new school, good grades, making the team, trying a new skill or activity.

Chore Parties

- Pass out treats and put on dancing music when a child finishes cleaning his room.
- As a family, tackle big projects like spring cleaning, tidying the garage, or raking the leaves with hot fudge sundaes or a water balloon fight.
- Work Party: Invite friends to help accomplish a task for you or someone else. Serve food and relax after with games.

Sensational Sundays

The definition of Sabbath is that which refreshes your soul. Sundays can feel awkward or lonely for a single mom who shares custody, or the solo parent weary from juggling work and caring for kids at the end of a long week. Nurture your body, mind, and soul with tender loving care.

- Visit extended family.
- Gather friends and go to the park for a picnic and play date.

- Pam's family enjoyed the same authentic and affordable Mexican café each Sunday after church.
- Give a nod to your own ethnicity and create that Italian spaghetti, lumpia, or fried rice from a family recipe.
- Cook for the week. With your child, prepare fun food ahead for lunches for the week.
- Use Sunday to nap, read, watch a comedy movie, rest and refresh.
- Ask family and close friends to be your backup so once a week you get a few free hours.

Birthday and Graduation

- Bring your favorite book party. Popcorn and apple juice in pajamas with favorite blankets and pillows on the living room floor while kids read or have read aloud their favorite kid stories - *Seuss, Give a Mouse A Cookie, I Love You This Much, All the Places to Love, Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel, The Giving Tree, ...*
- Celebrate with a scavenger hunt at the mall. Make a list of items to hunt (pair of striped pajamas, green shoes, piggy bank, funny t-shirt, you in a store window display) and take photos with your phone camera. Come back together at a designated time to compare and share photos over snacks - laughs guaranteed.
- Costume Hide and Seek. Use your own clothes, trade with others, or challenge party-goers to purchase outfits at a second-hand store for \$5.00 or less. Put on your disguise and blend in at the

mall. Hide in plain sight. How long will it take seekers to recognize and locate each person?

- Each year, write a birthday letter to your child, noting those best and endearing qualities, and your love for your child.
- Give your child a journaling Bible with room for notes.

For tips that work for relationships and parenting, see [*The Ten Best Decisions A Single Mom Can Make*](#) by Pam Farrel and PeggySue Wells.

Resources

[The Single Most Positive Step Toward Positive Change](#)

[Improve relationships with this list of healthy conversation topics.](#)

[Have Fun to be a Successful Single Mom](#)

[Rediscovering Your Happily Ever After: Moving From Hopeless to Hopeful for the Newly Divorced Mom](#)



History buff, and tropical island votary, PeggySue Wells parasails, skydives, snorkels, scuba dives, and has taken (but not passed) pilot training. Writing from the 100-Acre wood in Indiana, PeggySue Wells is the bestselling author of 29 books, translated into eight languages, including [*The Slave Across the Street*](#), [*Slavery in the Land of the Free*](#), [*Bonding With Your Child Through Boundaries*](#), [*Homeless for the Holidays*](#), [*Chasing Sunrise*](#), and [*The Ten Best Decisions A Single Mom Can Make*](#).

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