

Planning a Vacation

PARENT ACTIVITY



Featured Book

The Night Before Summer Vacation
by Natasha Wing

Literacy fun on summer vacation!

School is out and the heat is rising... it's summertime! It's time for trips to the zoo, a museum, or the beach. It's time for family vacation!

Natasha Wing's fun-loving tale, *The Night Before Summer Vacation*, chronicles the adventures of one family in preparation for their summer vacation. Mom and Dad are packing and the kids are helping; everyone is rushing around in excitement.

After stuffing the car full of all the necessary (and maybe a few unnecessary) items, the family sits down to dinner. Before going to bed they look through scrapbooks of previous vacations and reminisce about those of the past. They remember where they went, what they did, and what they saw. They even think fondly of the rainy beach trip.

Although school is out, there are still plenty of opportunities for your child to put into practice all that (s)he has learned. Scrapbooking is a wonderful way to record the summer's adventures for a lasting memento. It is also a motivating way to encourage your child's reading and writing during summer break. Even before it's time to make a scrapbook, you can include your child in the planning and preparation of a fabulous family vacation. Two things to keep in mind, summer vacation does not have to entail a big trip, nor does a scrapbook need to look professional. Your vacation may be an exploration of different places in your town, neighborhood, or even your own backyard! A scrapbook can be a notebook, photo album or even homemade. Wherever you go and however you choose to scrapbook, be creative and enjoy it!

Here are a few ideas of ways your child can be involved and can show off those great literacy skills learned in school!

Planning a Vacation (Continued)

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Preparing for vacation:

- Work together to make a list or plan for vacation. Research a vacation destination online or at the library. Your child can help read and write the answers to questions like these: Where should we go? What should we plan to see? What else would we like to do? When should we go? How will we get there? You can use the printable organizer below to help get started.
- Once you've decided where you'll go, it's time to make a list of what to pack! Encourage your child to write a list of what (s)he should bring along. Don't forget a camera!

During vacation:

- When you've reached your destination, or even along the way, take lots of pictures to remember the fun. Pick up a postcard or two, and don't forget to have your child write one to Grandma and Grandpa!

After vacation:

- After you return home, look through the pictures and postcards you've collected to decide which ones should go in a scrapbook. Have your child pick a few to write about. The captions can range from a few words, to a simple sentence, or even a paragraph. Use the attached scrapbook page or make your own. Make it memorable and have fun!

Planning a Vacation Worksheet

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Where should we go?

What should we do?

When should we go?

How will we get there?



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Planning a Vacation Scrapbook Page

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Name: _____ Date: _____

A large, empty rounded rectangular box with a black border, intended for a child to draw or write about their vacation plans.Four horizontal lines spaced evenly down the page, providing a designated area for writing.