

Summer is here

Sun beaming through the windows, summer holidays are the best when they are busy and even more worthwhile when children learn as they play. With the weather warmer and daytime giving us longer days, parents can offer so much during the day. We have some suggestions for low cost, educational and enjoyable activities and places to visit with your toddlers and pre-teens.

1- Shadow drawing:



Tried and tested this is better and so great to engage the inner artist in your little beings who will get out and get some fresh air as they learn how to draw, get the older ones to join in and if you have access to chalk and a pavement get them to draw themselves and see the difference between shadow in morning, noon, and later in the day. This will help them understand the position of the sun during the day, and learn the way shadows are formed by blocking sunlight, and how to make them longer or shorter could be a question to further extend their inquisitive minds.

2- Free theatre tickets for kids this August

Make the most of our rich theatre access, living in London and around has its perks as we have most of west end theatre at our door step, For the whole of August, a child aged 16 or under can go to any participating show for free where tickets are available as long as they're accompanied by a full paying adult. Adults can also buy up to two extra children's tickets at half price and there are no booking fees.



3- Keep reading

The Summer Reading Challenge encourages children aged 4 to 11 to read six library books during the long summer holiday.

Children's reading can 'dip' during the summer holidays if they do not have regular access to books and encouragement to read for pleasure. The annual Summer Reading Challenge, celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, helps get three quarters of a million children into libraries each year to keep up their reading skills and confidence.

This challenge will keep children busy and Children can read whatever they like - fiction, fact books, poetry, joke books, picture books, audio books - just as long as they are borrowed from the library.

Children receive special rewards each time they finish a book and there's a certificate for everyone who completes the Challenge.

The Summer Reading Challenge is open to all primary school aged children and is designed for all reading abilities. Schools work with local libraries and give out information to encourage children to take part, and most libraries run Summer Reading Challenge linked early years activity for pre-schoolers.

4- Staying busy at home

It is inevitable that rainy days will feature given the unpredictable British weather. Some suggestion to keep children busy at home with things that are easy, inexpensive and mess free. Aqua beads, Lego, hema beads, role play toys and water magic painting are a great way to keep children busy. And don't forget to take them to Jamatkhana on non-school nights during the summer holidays for those 6 weeks, as it's a great opportunity to experience and learn about our faith and get them prepared to sit in peace and mingle with their Ismaili brothers and sisters.

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