



Have fun with your children, whilst teaching them valuable life skills at the same time

TAKE A BREAK

If exams are not on the horizon, then let your child enjoy Easter by getting creative – and learning at the same time

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It's that time of year when thoughts turn to the hopeful arrival of spring, there are shelves laden with chocolate in the shop – and there's another school holiday. For some families heading for the mountains, there is the chance of finding some late and final snow. If you are staying at home, how will your children spend their time?

In our home, I am celebrating the first year in seven without revision for public exams. There will still be revision – for school, university and medical exams – but the pressure is different. So to all those families who will be embracing this particular challenge, I wish you well with maintaining a calm and comforting environment, supplying plentiful hot drinks and snacks – and generally being nice throughout this rather stressful time.

If your children are younger and you are spared the revision experience, for the time being at least, this holiday is often a great time to take stock, relax and enjoy some local activities in a rather more low-key manner than during other holidays. I am a great believer in giving

the minds of children time to assimilate their term-time learning. Here are some ideas that might go down well with your younger children:

Set up a creative corner

Gather together boxes, pieces of paper of all shapes, textures and colours, glue, scissors, ribbon and give them free rein on what they can produce. Even children who don't appear to be creative will come up with creative ideas.

Give your children an old tape recorder

Let them tell a story into it. When they are in bed, type up the story leaving spaces for illustrations and make it into a little book. The next day, even your most reluctant writer or nervous reader will show enthusiasm for the result.

Let your child go food shopping

Equip them with a carefully constructed

list and a trolley and you will probably be surprised at how responsible they can be whilst learning about weight, money and other practical maths.

Get cooking

It's a great way to get to grips with weights and measures.

For older children, let them plan a dinner party of their own!

Go on a silent, mystery walk

Plan a walk where nobody can talk – just look and listen. The children can write down all the things they see, hear (and even smell and taste).

So enjoy the holiday. Let them relax, put away the workbooks and think creatively.



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