**GIANT LIST OF IDEAS FOR BEING HOME WITH KIDS**

● Have each kid pick a topic they'd like to learn about and spend 30 mins each day on that topic

● Spend one day reading every single picture book we have in the house

● Bake something every day

● Have each kid write a letter and/or emails to a different friend or family member each day

● Use all of our building toys on one giant structure

● Wash our hands!!!!

● Races of various kinds in the backyard (hopping on one foot, crabwalk, walking backwards, etc.)

● Try stop motion animation with playdough

● Facetime grandparents a lot

● inventory the plants & wildlife (from bugs on up) in your garden.

● learn the parts of plants/flowers & how they function (bonus if they learn the Latin names).

● write a short story & illustrate it.

● learn how to do simple book binding.

● have the kids help with yard work in between playing games outside. They're little, but they like getting dirty and "working" in the gardens.

● GoNoodle! Great for guided movement, relaxation, etc.

● Board games, card games

● Legos.

● Try some extreme dot to dot books (1400 dots?)

● Lots of reading, playing with the dog,

● Working on learning to sew using stuff we have on hand.

● Card making/scrapbooking projects (mostly for me but kids can do it too).

● Getting the garden ready, we need to weed and work the ground. I might get seeds and we'll set up to have our own starts this year.

● Make tents and reading caves : ) flashlights, tidy snacks, books, and pillows!

● Have a shadow show in the reading tent (we used blankets over chairs or a table)

● Get binoculars and learn about the birds near your house, look them up on google and search for their birdcalls on YouTube

● Learn how to make a stuffed animal

● Play with cornstarch and water and cheap action figures

● many educational websites are waving fees if your students school is closed

● Collect some tape markers and cardboard boxes. That'll keep them busy for a day or two.

● Watch all the hand washing videos & vote on your favourite. Discuss why each good, helpful, funny.

● Also pick your favorite song with a 20 second refrain or verse perfect for hand washing length of time.

● Jigsaw puzzles. Ones that are 500-1000 pieces and a challenging but not frustrating picture

● Team up and really clean and organize each kid's space, making a donation box for each. Parents are included.

● Have a board game day

● kids can also make their own games! Board games, card games, you name it! My daughter spent a lot of time this winter creating soccer and football games played with cards for moves and pieces made out of legos

● Write a story cooperatively. One person picks a character and the other picks a setting and then go gangbusters together.

● the folding picture story one! One person draws a small picture across the top of a paper, the next person writes a sentence that describes that picture and folds over the paper top of the paper hot dog style to cover the picture. So the 3rd person only sees a sentence and they have to draw a picture. They fold over the sentence.

● Any and all art is fun at home: beading, painting, drawing, play dough or kinetic sand, sewing, etc. when my daughter was young we could do art all day.

● Massive board game tournament with all the (mostly forgotten) board games we own!

● Enjoy doing yoga at home. There are kid-friendly YouTube videos and printed cards with poses.

● Zumba or Dance-along videos on YouTube

● Draw self portraits on blank faces

● color coded different interesting places on a map.

● Draw maps of places and then make directions from one place to another to see if someone else could follow it.

● Do scavenger hunts, indoor treasure hunts where they follow clues through the house to a "treasure" at the end (could be candy, a movie, whatever), and a lot of charades.

● Make a video to teach other children how to do something you are good at.

● There are a few easy "kitchen chemistry" type science experiments that are easy to do, like making slime, baking soda and vinegar reaction, etc.

● give the dogs a bath and brush

● wash and clean out my car (mostly their food trash and dirty socks)

● popcorn + movie marathon

● Listen to kid podcasts

● Declutter toys!

● Have an Olympics with a bunch of events competitions - funny ones, helpful ones like cleaning and really fun ones like minute to win in style.

● Learn new card games

● Lots of art projects!

● Dig up all the activity books, presents, etc that never got played with, and use those!

● There’s always time tested building a tent in the house with blankets and chairs. Great for just before nap time.

● Get out our hiking gear and try new hiking paths. As long as you stay away from over populated areas you will naturally stay a safe distance from others and sick people generally don't hike!

● Do a study on planets, then have the children create their own planets- how big is it, where in the universe is it located, atmosphere conditions, can it sustain life, how long is a day/year, name it, etc.

○ Spread the planets out around the house to show "approx." distance from each other.

○ Watch this to learn about relative distance

● Design a new space craft, draw plans, then create out of legos or household items. Spend some time pretending you're on different planets with different gravity, you could seriously spend a whole week on just fun space activities.

○ But that's not limited to space- these ideas would work for animals, geography, body systems, historical events/time periods, etc. Beyond that, do some fun physics experiments like making a bridge out of straws, egg drop protectors, paper airplanes, etc.

● PuppetMaster: an app where you can animate anything from a drawing to a stuffed animal.

● Puzzle races: put several puzzles (20+ piece puzzles) in a paper bag and shake it up. Pour pieces out and give each person the puzzle box they are to put together. Go! (Cooperation tends to be a result as pieces are traded.)

● Dig through cabinets and figure out recipes for that thing you got at the grocery store and thought "this is interesting surely it can be used for something!" And then make it!