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Outside-the-Box Indoor Activities That Make Kids Smile

As a parent, you're always looking for ways of entertaining and educating your little ones. It can be tough coming up with endless ideas that engage them, especially when bad weather or working from home prevents you from heading outside. Thankfully, there are tons of creative projects you and your children will adore. Here are a few worth trying.

Throw a Dance Party

Kids love dancing. Since indoor spaces don't offer room for organized athletics, this is an opportunity to replace team exercise with a freestyle workout. A [family dance party](#) is inexpensive fun that gets everyone sweating. Start by moving furniture out of the way. Then, put on age-appropriate music that features a funky groove. Spotify is brimming with [playlists](#) that suit your needs. Alternatively, visit [WackySafe](#) to find an appropriate online radio station for a kid-safe musical experience. Raise the excitement level with snazzy [disco lighting](#).

If you work remotely, you know how hard it can be to keep little ones occupied long enough that you're able to get your job done. With any luck, your dance shindig will wear them out and make them want to [take a nap](#). If not, set them up with educational activities that don't require supervision, such as building Legos, composing short stories, or calculating the length of furniture with a tape measure. Once these ideas have been exhausted, allow the use of electronic devices as a treat that only occurs when [adult responsibilities beckon](#). Let them watch an educational television show or play a learning game on the computer, phone, or tablet. They'll covet these occasions and stay out of your hair.

Teach a Dog Tricks

According to animal experts, there are [108 million canines](#) in the United States. The odds are decent you have a tail-wagger in your midst. Unite forces to train your four-legged buddy into [doing tricks](#), such as shaking hands, spinning in circles, and giving kisses. It's a great way of showing kids the value of persistence and introducing them to the concept of following instructions.

Enjoy Balloons

A large pack of these celebratory decorations is exceptionally affordable. Having one or two on hand offers practically endless options for indoor play. Split a room in half and conduct a tournament of floaty volleyball, or create makeshift rackets out of paper plates and toilet paper rolls, then use them to bounce your "tennis ball" back and forth. Conduct a balloon race, then explore the fine art of [balloon animals](#).

Perform a Play

There are many positive benefits to children [playing make-believe](#). Encourage this practice by helping them pull off a theatrical presentation. Craft a [unique story](#) together, or adapt one from a favorite book. There's no need to empty your wallet at the local party store to have amazing costumes. Colored paper, safety scissors, glue sticks, and a bit of imagination are all your sprouts need to match their onstage roles.

Get Scientific

Now that you've fed their creative side, it's time to nurture your children's analytical abilities. Lots of [science experiments](#) are a snap to set up at home. Crush a can using air pressure. Combine baking soda, sand, and sugar to make a carbon snake. Turn milk into sculptable plastic. Kids are naturally attracted to novelties such as these. Be sure to prioritize safety when investigations involve dangerous elements.

Keeping dependents busy when stuck indoors is less challenging than you might realize. Open your eyes to the options at your disposal, and you'll never run out of possibilities.