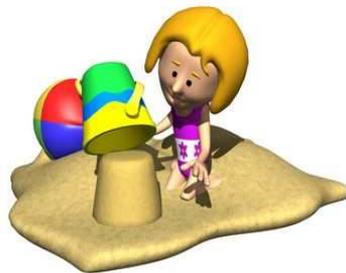


Family Fun Night – a new summer tradition for your family

This free tip sheet was produced by the Cheapskates Club – www.cheapskates.com.au

Build family communication and togetherness by having a weekly family fun night. It is so easy these days to let work, school and the business of life rule the day, that we can easily lose touch with each other. If we get together one night each week for to play a game, work on a hobby or play with all those expensive toys, we can rekindle those family ties.



On summer evenings, try family fun night in the sandpit in the backyard or at the park. Using an old mesh onion or orange bag, collect a variety of suitable sand toys to take along. These toys include various containers, a few wheeled vehicles, toy garden tools, and old kitchen utensils. In the sandpit with your kids, you can create towns with roads, castles, or anything they can imagine.

Hobbies are also great to share as a family. Maybe your family would be interested in pursuing musical skills together. Families make great singing groups because their voices match well. If that's not for you, maybe you'd all enjoy fishing. Square dancing is fun for some families, while others enjoy playing badminton or other active games and sports. The important thing is to have fun together.

Some fun games for family night include card games like Uno, board games like Scrabble or Hungry Hippos and dominoes. When choosing games to play there are several things to

consider: is Scrabble, for instance, fun for everyone, or does all the spelling and thinking feel like work to some of the players? Does the game take forever to play, so that some players' attention spans play out? Does the game encourage merciless competition, like Monopoly, leaving losers feeling left out? It's important for kids to learn how to lose and still have fun. Don't "throw" the game, intentionally letting them win all the time, but don't mercilessly beat them every time either. Make it fun. If losing is a problem for some of the kids, check out some of the new cooperative games where everyone is on the same team.

Board games don't have to cost a lot. Look in Op Shops and at garage sales, where you can often pick up classics such as Scrabble or Monopoly for just a couple of dollars.

Modelling clay and playdough is also a great activity for toy game hobby night. Collect some small cookie cutters and old jar lids (for pans) and create fancy cookies and desserts - inedible and calorie-free, of course! The kids can turn a large box on its side for a counter and place the goodies on display to sell.

Having a family fun night every week will help you stay close to your kids as they grow up. It will keep the bond of love fresh and the lines of communication open. Plan a family fun night this week!

*The Cheapskates Club
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and energy and still have fun!*
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