

Summer Celebrations for Parents and Kids

The following are authentic national holidays and anniversaries of notable events. Make them memorable occasions this summer as you spend time with your child. Many of these ideas will help you to teach some valuable life-lessons. Hope you'll have a safe, rewarding, fun summer!

JUNE

5 First Balloon Flight 1783

Have fun on the Internet at www.balloon.com finding lots of information about balloons, balloon history, and even learning to make dogs out of balloons. Your local library also has lots of books about hot air balloon flights.

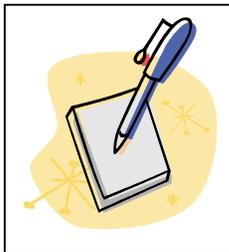
Here are a few to get you started: *The Amazing Air Balloon* by Jean Van Leeuwen, *Curious George and the Hot Air Balloon* by H. A. Rey, and for 9-12 year olds, *The Mystery of the Hot Air Balloon* (Boxcar Children Mysteries) by Gertrude Chandler Warner. You might draw or write about an imaginary trip in a hot air balloon.



9 Donald Duck's 70th Birthday - He's everyone's favorite duck friend. Why not get a movie of this character and watch it together with your child? Enjoy some silly laughter! Also, can you do a little math to figure out what year he was born?



10 Ball Point Pen Patented 1943



Enjoy taking a pen apart and discovering what makes it work. Go to <http://science.howstuffworks.com/question683.htm> and find out some interesting things about ball point pens. What does gravity contribute to the success of this pen? For young entrepreneurs, you might also research what's involved in getting a patent on an invention.

14 Flag Day - Be sure to display your flag proudly on this day. Talk with your child about what the stars and stripes symbolize. Let your child draw the flag to display on your refrigerator. Anyone up for a parade?

14 National Juggling Day

Test your skills today by giving juggling a try.



15 Ben Franklin flew a Kite 1752



You've just got to go fly a kite together today! You'll find directions and lots of information www.kites.org. Share with your child that Ben Franklin made a discovery about electricity when he flew his kite. Talk about what difference electricity has meant to us.

18 Splurge Day - How about going for ice cream today— maybe even a double dip cone! If you really want to splurge, you might go for a movie and popcorn! There are lots of ways to splurge.



19 Garfield the Cat first appeared 1978 - Find Garfield in today's newspaper comic section. Take the teachable moment to talk to your child about how stories have a different way of showing what the exact words are that a person (or a cat!) speaks. Find an article that has dialogue and point out the quotation marks and share that they show what goes in the speech bubbles of cartoons. Can you help your child figure out how old Garfield is today? Have a good laugh at Garfield's antics, too!

20 Fathers' Day - Children need to spend some time with Dad or someone who serves as their male role model today.



20 Summer begins 8:57 p.m. Make a bracelet by cutting either a wide strip of clear contact paper or a strip of



electrical tape (or packing tape, masking tape will do). Place the bracelet on your child's arm with the sticky side out. Take a walk and hunt for any signs of summer. Gather souvenirs of these signs of summer and stick them on the bracelet. When you get home, you can cut away the bracelet and display the summer items. You might even want to explore them further with a magnifying glass.

24 Berlin Airlift Anniversary - If you don't know the story of the candy drop during the Berlin Airlift, check out the children's book, *The Chocolate Pilot*. Maybe you could share a little candy to brighten someone's day just like the pilot in this story.





25 First Color TV Broadcast 1951 Talk to grandparents or great-grandparents to find out their memories of their first TV or color TV experience. With children who are old enough, spend a little time learning to read the TV guide portion of the newspaper. Reading charts (TV guides, bus/train/subway schedules, etc.) takes a special skill that children have to be taught.

27 Happy Birthday to Happy Birthday - On this day in 1859, two kindergarten teachers created this song with the words, "Good morning to all." It has now become the world's most often sung song. The new lyrics were created in 1924. This day is a good excuse to make a cake or cupcakes and sing Happy Birthday to Happy Birthday!



27 America's Kids Day - This is the day to teach your child the value life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness. Talk about some of the rights we have as citizens—many which we take for granted. For kids who are old enough, go to www.scholastic.com and explore their section on Ellis Island. Listen to the voices of immigrants who describe seeing the Statue of Liberty for the very first time. It'll bring tears to your eyes!

July

1 - First Adhesive Postage Stamp in 1847- Celebrate this day by writing a note to someone you care about—a relative or friend. As you mail your card, talk about the job the post office has of delivering your letter within days.



3 - Stay Out of the Sun Day/Air Conditioning Appreciation Day
Be sure to teach your children about the dangers of the sun's rays and how to protect their skin with sunscreen. You could celebrate this one by intentionally staying outside for a while so that coming back inside where there's air conditioning will feel so very good! Today you could talk to a grandparent or great-grandparent who might remember what it was like not to use or have air conditioning everywhere.



4 - Independence Day - The one calls for good food, fun, fireworks, and patriotism. If fireworks are involved, be sure to teach some safety tips! Why not take time to write to our soldiers in foreign countries to tell them how much we appreciate them? Go to http://news.statesmanjournal.com/nie/nie_lp_soldiers.cfm and you'll find addresses.



4 - Koko the Gorilla's Birthday 1971 - This was the gorilla who learned to communicate with humans through sign language. Check out *Koko's Kitten* from the library to enjoy reading. You might also check out a book to learn some basic words in sign language. What a beautiful, expressive language it is!



7 - Father-Daughter Take a Walk Together Day

This is an easy one! Go for that walk and enjoy the beauty of the ordinary things in your neighborhood.



10 - Don't Step on a Bee Day

Today go on a bee hunt in the park. Take a census of how many bees you can find. Just look, though, don't touch! And, **definitely**, don't step on a bee!!

11 -



Day of the Five Billion 1987 (Oct. 12 Six Billion) This is the day that Earth's population reached 5 billion. Try writing 5,000,000,000 and counting the number of zeros included. Talk about what the number becomes as zeros are removed. To compare population, how many people live in your town?

12 - Etch-a-Sketch Birthday 1960 - If you don't have one of these, they're fun! Even dollar stores have them now. Splurge and get one. Spend time writing and doodling to celebrate this birthday.

14 - Peggy Parish's Birthday 1927 - The library will have dozens of different Amelia Bedelia books that will bring laughter to you both today. Poor Amelia always takes things literally, and it makes her life interesting. Explain these idioms to your child.

15 - Rembrandt's Birthday 1606 Dutch painter - If you have a museum, this would be a great day to explore art work. Even your local library is likely to have some great art. Talk about What you both like and don't like. You could also go and find a picture of Rembrandt's famous *The Night Watch*. Get out the paints and create some of your own masterpieces!



17 - First Woman Walks in Space 1984



Explore the night sky and point out some of the constellations you recognize. You might also want to share or research women's contributions to the world.

18 - National Ice Cream Day - This is a popular ice cream recipe that you and your child can make without the churn and trouble. It'll be even better because your child made his/her own! This will be a great memory!

Ice Cream in a Baggie

Ingredients:

1-pint Zip-loc™ baggie

Ice cubes

1 tablespoon sugar

1/4 teaspoon vanilla

1 -gallon Zip-loc™ baggie

6 tablespoons rock salt

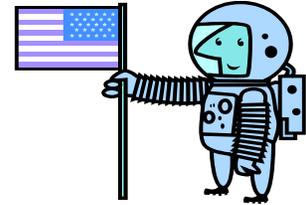
1/2 cup milk or half and half



1. Begin with a pint-sized Zip-lock baggie and a gallon-size Zip-lock baggie.
2. Fill the large bag half full of ice and add the rock salt. Seal the bag.
3. Put milk, vanilla, and sugar into the small bag, and seal it.
4. Place the small bag inside the larger one and seal again carefully.
5. Shake for 5 minutes until mixture is ice cream.
6. Wipe off top of small bag, and then open carefully. (Optional: Add sprinkles, nuts and fruit to top it off. Add a bit of cocoa or carob for flavor.)

Enjoy!

20 Moon Day 1969 - This is the day man first walked on the moon. With little ones, draw the phases of the moon as you do a quick experiment of positioning a basketball between a light and a tennis ball (or similar sized objects) to explain how the Earth's shadow creates the moon's phases.



22 Spooner's Day - Archibald Spooner whose frequent slips of the tongue led to coinage of spoonerisms (swell foop for fell swoop; blushing crow for crushing blow). Try your hand at a few today!

25 Parents' Day - Yes, there's a special day set aside to celebrate parents. Model for your child this special bond that exists between parents and children. Take time to write or call your own parents, if you're lucky enough to have them, and tell them how much you appreciate them. Let your kids know, too, how glad you are to be a parent because of them. They would probably love to hear your memories about the day they were born.



31 Blue Moon - Everyone knows the saying about something happening only "once in a blue moon." Explain this saying to your child and share that a blue moon actually means that a second full moon is occurring in the same month. This might be fun to celebrate by baking a cake or cupcakes and putting blue icing on it! Have a Blue Moon Party!



31 Harry Potter's Birthday - (For those of you who approve of the Harry Potter series) You might want to start reading one of the books in this great series together! You'll learn a whole new language. Why not start creating a special Harry Potter/Hogwarts Dictionary of the strange new words you encounter!