



S O S C N

# Summer 2024 Activity Ideas

## **Summer 2024 Activity Ideas**

**In this booklet you will find a variety of resources and activities for fun holiday experiences. All the examples are ‘tried and tested’ as they have been suggested by school age childcare services across Scotland. We hope you have a great summer, and we’d love to hear about your adventures.**

**Best wishes from the SOSCN team.**

# 6 TIPS FOR SUMMER PROGRAMMING

## 1. Involve children and young people in the planning

This is their holiday - what do they want to do? You could ask for suggestions under different headings e.g. sports; arts and crafts; themed project etc. It may also be helpful to provide some suggestions which are more unusual which you think children might like. Remember, children can't suggest things which they don't know about- holiday services are a great opportunity to try new and different activities. Even if children's suggestions seem 'ridiculous' or 'silly' e.g. "I want to fly to the moon", think how you could adapt this. Could you visit the moon virtually, build rockets, make moon cakes... what could you do around this theme?

## 2. Make the most of your staff skills and knowledge

Many staff will have additional skills, hobbies or interests outside of their work- do you know what these are? Find out. Could they lead an activity based upon this?



### **3. Having fun doesn't necessarily require having lots of money**

Trips out to attractions can be expensive for entrance tickets and transport so think about what is available locally at low or no cost. Do you have a local library, gallery or museum? Could they provide some activity session for you? If there is a cost, would the venue be willing to give you a discounted rate? Just because something is not advertised doesn't mean to say they couldn't do a bespoke session or price reduction- get in contact and have a chat. Remember, if you don't ask, you'll certainly never get and if you do, you might be pleasantly surprised. Also think about what activities might not need many resources or use free or recycled materials.

### **4. Remind parents about financial support to pay for holiday childcare**

Parents working and accessing universal credit can access support of up to 85% to pay for childcare; higher income parents can access 20% support to pay for childcare through the tax-free childcare system- work out your holiday costs with these discounts and actively market it to parents. Show how the holiday service can be more affordable to families.

## **5. Make links with your local community**

Does the community know you exist? Are there local businesses, companies or organisations which would allow you to visit them, or could they come in and visit the service, or would they be willing to donate some resources or sponsor the cost of an activity or a trip? Many supermarkets or large businesses have a commitment to supporting communities and employ someone to make links and work with local organisations. Even if you don't know of local businesses, your children and families will- maybe they work for them or own them. Ask families about the local community. Is there a local fair/community day in which you could participate by having a stall, a float or running an activity? Your service, children and families are all in a community, you can be active members of it. Ultimately this could be good marketing for you as well.

## **6. Work with other services**

Do you know other holiday services based within your area? Why not set up a visit to one another's service or meet in the park or by the beach? Perhaps you could hold a joint fun day- this is something that local networks or forums have done. It may be possible to apply for funding to support the costs of this. If you are feeling adventurous, perhaps you could visit a service in a different area?



# SUPPORT FROM LOCAL SUPERMARKETS

Some services have said that supermarkets have hosted visits, come to the service and provided cooking activities, or provided food. Some supermarkets also have community grant programmes which can be applied for:

**ASDA** – supporting local communities

<https://www.asda.com/creating-change-for-better/social/supporting-local-communities/community-champions>

**CO-OP** – community information

[https://www.coop.co.uk/communities?utm\\_source=coop.co.uk&utm\\_medium=referral&utm\\_campaign=CoopNavigation&utm\\_content=Community](https://www.coop.co.uk/communities?utm_source=coop.co.uk&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=CoopNavigation&utm_content=Community)

**MORRISONS** – community and charity news

<https://my.morrisons.com/community-and-charity/>

**TESCO** – community champions

<https://www.tescopl.com/sustainability/communities/community-champions>

**SPAR** – community cashback

<https://www.spar.co.uk/community/community-cashback/>

You could also get in touch directly with your local stores.

**To search for other possible funding streams, check out the SCVO website here - <https://tinyurl.com/545vp8ye>**

# Activity Ideas

In this section, we've collated a list of activity ideas shared by many of our members.

Those suggestions that are underlined can be clicked, taking you to a link with an example of the activity.

Most of these links are to videos on YouTube or blogs.

*SOSCN is not responsible for, and does not endorse, any content on external websites. All links correct and working when accessed in May 2024.*

# Food, Baking & Cooking

## Fun Recipes

- Smoothies
- Kebabs
- Pizza
- Sushi
- Summer rolls
- Tacos
- Muffins/cakes
- Poke bowls
- Pasta
- Ice cream bar

## Recreate TV Shows

- Masterchef
- Bake Off
- Nailed It
- Snack vs Chef
- Is it Cake?
- Bush tucker trials

## Events

- Picnic
- Teddy bear picnic
- BBQ
- Guess the food
- Introduce new foods
- Multi-cultural food activities

## Viral Recipes from Social Media

- Crinkle cake
- Grated frozen fruit
- Upside down puff pastry tarts
- Frozen yogurt bark



# Active & Sports

## Tournaments

- Olympics
- Euros/Football
- Strictly Come Dancing
- Highland Games
- Sports Day
- Wimbledon

## Other Sports

- Swimming
- Rugby
- Cricket
- Mini-putting
- Yoga
- Ultimate frisbee
- Dodgeball
- Hockey
- Basketball
- Netball
- Gymnastics
- Volleyball
- Rounders

## Active Activities

- Treasure hunt
- Den building
- Fire building
- Circus skills
- Obstacle course
- Water fight
- Colour run
- Nature walks
- Tug of war
- Limbo
- Capture the flag
- Party games
- Community litter pick
- Dancing

# Creative & Arts

## Creative

- Loose parts free play
- Den building
- Create a film
- Drama/plays/shows
- Song writing
- Create posters/adverts for your service
- Programming
- Website design
- Magic tricks

## Challenges

- Egg drop challenge
- Talent show
- Marshmallow tower
- Tin foil boat
- Lego challenges
- I'm a celebrity

## Simple Arts & Crafts

- Sock puppets
- Slime
- Potions
- Hamma beads
- Loom bands
- Jewellery
- Origami
- Puffy paint art
- Crochet

# Themes for Days or Week

- 70s, 80s, 90s day
- Superheroes
- Pirates
- Space
- Outdoors
- Carnival
- Under the sea
- Safari
- Cultural themes
- Sports
- Films (Star Wars, Disney, etc)
- Wizardry
- Construction



As we mentioned earlier, it might be useful to think about organisations and businesses in your community, or even think about the skills your parents, grandparents and families can bring. You might be able to find an expert that can provide equipment or facilitate activities, for example:

- Chef
- Carpenter
- Book binder
- Photographer
- Florist
- Baker
- Artist
- Storyteller
- Writer
- Musician
- Coach

## Organisations to consider

- Police – horses, car, etc.
- Fire brigade
- Animal charities
- First Aid providers
- Local supermarkets
- Local cafes & restaurants
- Book trust
- Community groups
- Senior citizen groups
- Sports clubs
- University and Colleges

# Trips & Outings

In this section, we've collated a list of venues for trips and outings across Scotland. Thank you to our members for your contribution to this section.

Those suggestions that are underlined can be clicked, taking you to a Google Maps page or the venue's own webpage.

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# Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire

Aberdeen Science Centre, Aberdeen

Codona's Amusement Park, Aberdeen

Aberdeen Science Centre, Aberdeen

Seaton Park, Aberdeen FREE

Duthie Park & Winter Gardens, Aberdeen FREE

Hazelhead Park, Aberdeen FREE

Westburn Park, Aberdeen FREE

Wyndford Farm Park, Aberdeen

Hoodles Playbarn, Inverurie

Bennachie Visitor Centre, Inverurie

The Den & Glen, Aberdeen

Deeside Activity Park, Aboyne

Haddo Country Park, Ellon

Aden Country Park, Peterhead FREE

Loopty Lou's Soft Play, Peterhead

Huntly Castle, Aberdeenshire

Balmedie Country Park, Balmedie

Grampian Transport Museum, Alford

Tolquhon Castle, Ellon

World Horse Welfare Belwade Farm, Aboyne

Stonehaven Open Air Swimming Pool, Stonehaven

Dizzy Rascals Play Centre, Laurencekirk

Tomintoul Adventure Play Park, Ballindalloch



# Highlands & Islands

Gairloch Museum, Gairloch

Landmark Forest Adventure Park, Carrbridge

WDC Scottish Dolphin Centre, Fochabers

Ardverikie Estate, Inverness-shire

Brodie Castle & Estate, Forres

Inshes District Park, Inverness FREE

Inverness Botanic Gardens, Inverness

Inverness Museum & Art Gallery, Inverness

Farm Ness, Inverness

Wildwoodz Adventure Park, Inverness

Abriachan Forest Trust, Inverness

Whin Park, Inverness

Inverewe Gardens, Achnasheen

Wyvis Natural Paly Park, Garve

Highland Folk Museum, Newtonmore FREE

Highland Wildlife Park, Kingussie

# Dundee, Angus & Fife

Discovery Point and RRS Discovery, Dundee

Dundee Science Centre, Dundee

Camperdown Wildlife Centre, Dundee

Verdant Works Museum, Dundee

The McManus Art Gallery & Museum, Dundee

Botanic Garden, Dundee

Broughty Castle Museum, Dundee

Monikie Country Park, Dundee

Dundee Urban Beach, Dundee FREE

Glamis Castle, Forfar

House of Dun & Angus Folk Museum, Montrose

Montrose Basin Wildlife Reserve, Montrose

Crombie County Park, Monikie

Arbroath Abbey, Arbroath

Brechin Castle Centre, Brechin

Signal Tower Museum, Arbroath FREE

Forfar Loch Country Park, Forfar

Murton Farm & Nature Reserve, Forfar

Barry Mill, Carnoustie

Craigtoun Country Park, St Andrews

St Andrews Botanic Garden, St Andrews

St Andrews Aquarium, St Andrews

Tentsmuir Nature Reserve, Fife, FREE

The Ecology Centre, Burntisland, Fife

Kellie Castle, Arncroach, Fife

Dunino Den, St Andrews

Little World of Play, Cowdenbeath

Cairnie Fruit Farm and Mega Maze, Cupar

# Central Scotland

Almond Valley, Livingston

Briarlands Farm, Stirling

Blair Drummond Safari Park, Stirling

Battle of Bannockburn Visitor Centre, Stirling

Balloch Castle & Country Park, Balloch FREE

Jump-N-Joy Trampoline Park, Tullibody

King's Park Adventure Playground, Stirling FREE

Lake of Menteith / Inchmahome Priory, Stirling

Wallace Monument, Stirling

Wellsfield Farm Park, Denny

The Helix, Falkirk

Callendar Park, Falkirk FREE

Lodge Forest Visitor Centre, Aberfoyle FREE

Active Kids Adventure Park, Perth

South Inch Park, Perth

Scone Palace, Perth



# Edinburgh & East

Almond Valley, Livingston

Camera Obscura, Edinburgh

Craigie's Farm Shop, Edinburgh

Jupiter Artland, Edinburgh

Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh FREE

City Sightseeing Tour, Edinburgh

East Meadows Play Park, Edinburgh

National Museum of Scotland FREE

National Mining Museum, Dalkeith FREE

Conifox Adventure Park, Kirkliston

Anstruther Scottish Fisheries Museum

Dalkeith Country Park, Dalkeith

East Links Family Park, Dunbar

Falkland Palace & Garden

Five Sisters Zoo, West Calder

East Linton, Preston Mill and Phantassie Doocot

Mill, FREE

Beecraigs Country Park, Linlithgow FREE

# Glasgow & West

City Kids Adventure play, Glasgow

Cuningar Loop, Dalmarnock FREE

Craft Daft On a Raft, Kirkintilloch

City Sightseeing Tour - Glasgow

Gleniffer Braes Country Park, Paisley, FREE

Kelvingrove Museum, Glasgow FREE

Kilmardinny Loch, Bearsden FREE

Linn Park Adventure Playground, Glasgow FREE

Lollipop Land Soft Play, East Kilbride

Make Do & Grow, Govan FREE

Monkey Madness, Clydebank

Movement Park, Whiteinch

National Museum of Rural Life, East Kilbride

Scottish Mask & Puppet Centre, Glasgow

Sharmanka Kinetic Theatre, Glasgow

St. Mungo's Museum, Glasgow FREE

The Children's Wood, Glasgow FREE

The Craft Pottery, Glasgow City

The Gallery of Modern Art, Glasgow FREE

Tollcross Farm, Glasgow FREE

Victoria Park, Glasgow FREE

The Hunterian Museum, Glasgow FREE

Summerlee Heritage Museum, Coatbridge FREE

The Tall Ship, Glasgow FREE

Balloch Castle & Country Park, Balloch

The Fyne Den, Cairndow

The Hill House, Helensburgh

Loch Lomond Faerie Trail, Luss

Loch Lomond Shores, Luss

# South

Biggar Puppet Theatre, Biggar

Biggar & Upper Clydesdale Museum, Biggar

Adventure Cove & Wild Woodland, Maybole

Falls of Clyde, Lanark

Dawyck Botanic Garden, Peebles

Heads of Ayr, Ayr

Culzean Castle, Maybole

Eglinton Country Park, Irvine

Harestanes Playground, Jedburgh

Jedburgh Castle Jail & Museum, Jedburgh

Mabie Farm Park, Dumfries

Crawick Multiverse, Sanquhar

Museum of Lead Mining, Wanlockhead

Dalscone Farm Fun, Dumfries

Dino Park at Hetland, Dumfries

Caerlaverock Castle, Dumfries

Drumlanrig Castle & Gardens, Thornhill



# SEND US YOUR ACTIVITIES IN ACTION!

We'd love for you to send us your pictures and videos of the activities your children take part in during the summer to share in our newsletters.

You can also tag us on social media.

Find us on:

Facebook

Instagram @soscn\_activities

Twitter @SOSCN

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