

Simply Charlotte Mason presents

More than **200** Ideas for Productive Afternoons



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In a Charlotte Mason approach, formal lessons are done by lunch time. That leaves afternoons free for informal learning opportunities and personal interests. Use those hours to continue to cultivate good habits and a spirit of initiative. Encourage your child to be a producer, not just a consumer. Here are more than 200 ideas to help keep those afternoon hours productive.

Music

1. Music lessons
2. Music practice
3. Compose a song
4. Record a song
5. Listen to music
6. Attend a concert
7. Present a concert
8. Dancing

Outdoor Life

9. Nature Study
10. Nature Walk
11. Special Nature Studies of personal interest, like
 - ~Animal care~Birdwatching~Flower pressing~Prize roses
 - ~Rock collecting ~Dog training
12. Climb a tree
13. Build a treehouse
14. Create a nature museum
15. Plant flower pots for the front porch
16. Plant a tree
17. Rake leaves and play in the pile
18. Sit on a blanket on the lawn: listen, watch, draw, read, eat
19. Play "Sight-Seeing" or "Picture Painting" (see *Home Education*, pages 45-51)
20. Help with yard work
21. Plan, plant, tend, harvest a garden
22. Outdoor survival skills, such as
 - ~Building a fire~Using a compass~Tying knots
 - ~Identifying plants~Constructing shelters

Sports and Recreation

23. Climbing wall
24. Bowling
25. Canoeing
26. Rafting
27. Kayaking
28. Zip line
29. Horseback riding
30. Basketball (can be an organized team or just shooting baskets or playing a game like HORSE)
31. Football (can be an organized team or just playing catch or playing with brothers/sisters)
32. Baseball (can be an organized team or just playing catch or practicing batting and pitching)
33. Soccer (can be an organized team or just practicing moving the ball)
34. Badminton
35. Swimming
36. Play in the sprinkler
37. Tennis
38. Ride bikes
39. Fly kites
40. Jump rope
41. Play four-square
42. Roller skating
43. Jogging
44. Exercising
45. Hiking
46. Explore a cave or cavern
47. Skateboarding
48. Ice skating
49. Sledding
50. Snowshoeing
51. Waterskiing
52. Cross-country skiing
53. Downhill skiing
54. Fishing
55. Hunting
56. Walk the dog

Handicraft Projects

57. Sewing
58. Quilting
59. Weaving
60. Woodworking
61. Leather tooling
62. Make jewelry
63. Pottery
64. Clay figurines
65. Card making
66. Origami
67. Paper Sloyd
68. Tatting
69. Lace making
70. Cake decorating
71. Flower arranging
72. Basket weaving
73. Knitting
74. Crocheting
75. Furniture making/caning
76. Wood burning
77. Calligraphy
78. Appliqué
79. Cross-stitch
80. Embroidery
81. Invite artisan friends over to give lessons

Art Projects

82. Drawing
83. Silk Dyeing
84. Sculpting
85. Paper maché
86. Wood burning
87. Painting
88. Pastels
89. Sidewalk Chalk
90. Brush Drawing
91. Decoupage

Home Skills

92. Mending
93. Cooking
94. Baking
95. Chores
96. Car maintenance
97. Plumbing maintenance
98. Carpentry
99. Electrical repair
100. House painting
101. Landscaping

Home Projects

102. Clean the garage
103. Clean the basement
104. Paint a room
105. Rearrange a room
106. Sweep the sidewalk
107. Scrub the porch
108. Scrub the floors
109. Wipe down baseboards
110. Wash the car
111. Vacuum the inside of the car
112. Clean out a closet
113. Clean a room
114. Wash windows
115. Clean shutters

Friends and Family

116. Park day with friends
117. Visit extended family
118. Tea time with poetry
119. Snack time with read-aloud
120. Plan an extended trip
121. Have a spelling bee
122. Read to a younger sibling
123. Rest/quiet time
124. Create/gather a table centerpiece for the next meal
125. Family traditions, you could use the afternoon to
 - ~Plan a celebration~Decorate for a celebration
 - ~Prepare for a celebration~Enjoy a celebration

Hobbies and Personal Interests

126. Leisure reading
127. Book of Mottoes, or commonplace book
128. Book of Centuries
129. Making plays
130. Making movies
131. Baking
132. Cooking
133. Gardening
134. Computer programming
135. Robotics
136. Construction
137. Inventing
138. Science experiments
139. Chess club
140. Book club
141. Photography
142. Write poetry
143. Design costumes
144. Stamp collecting
145. Coin collecting

- 146. Publish a family newspaper
- 147. Play board games
- 148. Invent a new game
- 149. Play card games
- 150. Foreign language practice/conversations
- 151. Creative writing

Volunteer Work and Ministry

- 152. Local food pantry
- 153. Stuffing envelopes
- 154. Litter clean up
- 155. Tutoring
- 156. Retirement home/nursing home
- 157. Animal shelter
- 158. Landscaping at a local non-profit
- 159. Hospital
- 160. Deliver quick bread or cookies to new neighbor
- 161. Make a card for a neighbor or church friend
- 162. Baking for first responders
- 163. Weekly game date with an elderly neighbor
- 164. Take a meal
- 165. Help someone move
- 166. Clean house for the mother of a new baby
- 167. Yard work for an elderly or sick neighbor
- 168. Help mom with young children
- 169. Handicrafts for local charities
- 170. Jobs
- 171. Babysitting
- 172. Lawn mowing
- 173. Other part-time jobs at local or family businesses

Errands and Appointments

- 174. Doctor appointments
- 175. Dentist appointments
- 176. Run errands while listening to music or a book

Outings

- 177. Visit an art museum
- 178. Visit a botanical garden
- 179. Attend a Shakespeare play
- 180. Trip to the library
- 181. Visit a Renaissance Faire
- 182. Go to a zoo
- 183. Go to an aquarium
- 184. Go to a museum of natural history
- 185. Visit a historical landmark or site
- 186. Go to a play
- 187. Go to the ballet
- 188. Visit a historical museum
- 189. Go to a history center
- 190. Go to a children's museum
- 191. Visit the state capitol
- 192. Tour an aircraft museum
- 193. Tour a retired locomotive
- 194. Tour a retired battleship
- 195. Tour a retired submarine
- 196. Go to a wildlife sanctuary
- 197. Visit a plant nursery or greenhouse
- 198. Pick berries at a pick-your-own farm
- 199. Visit a living history farm
- 200. Visit a TV station
- 201. Visit a radio station
- 202. Visit an auto manufacturing plant
- 203. Visit a space center
- 204. Visit a courtroom
- 205. Visit a florist
- 206. Visit an ice cream factory
- 207. Go to a planetarium
- 208. Visit a science museum
- 209. Go to a wildlife refuge
- 210. Travel to a foreign country (several afternoons!)
- 211. Visit a car repair shop
- 212. Go to a state park or national park