



FaithWorks Counseling

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Free or Low Cost Summer Activities for Children

Here's several free or very low-cost summer activities in Columbus that a single mom and her children can enjoy together—focused on fun, bonding, movement, creativity, and memory-making:

1. Explore Flat Rock Park

- Walking trails
- Playground
- Creek splashing / rock exploring
- Pack snacks or a picnic
- Nature scavenger hunt (find flowers, birds, butterflies, smooth rocks)

2. Columbus RiverWalk

- Walk, scooter, or bike
- Watch rafters on the Chattahoochee
- Sunset walks
- Free outdoor concerts/events sometimes happen in summer
- Woodruff Park Splash pad on Bay Avenue

3. Cooper Creek Park

- Playground
- Open space for bubbles, sidewalk chalk, frisbee
- Easy picnic spot
- Feed the ducks

4. Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center oxbow.columbusstate.edu

- Nature trails
- Wildlife education
- Kid-friendly exploration
- Some events are free

Learning + Fun

5. Columbus Museum comuga.org

- Visit the Amos Children's Center for hands on events

6. Chattahoochee Valley Library www.cvlga.org

- Summer reading programs
- Free story hours (check schedules)
- Children's events
- Air-conditioned fun on hot days

7. Barnes & Noble or local bookstores

- Free story hours (check schedules)

8. Home “Library Adventure Challenge”

- Pick 5 books weekly
- Create blanket fort reading days
- Dress up as book characters during reading time

Creative At-Home Freebies

9. Backyard Water Day

- Sprinkler
- Water balloons
- DIY car wash for bikes/toys
- Wash your dog

10. Sidewalk Chalk Obstacle Course

- Hopscotch
- Shapes
- ABC path

11. Mommy & Me Art Days

- Recycled crafts
- Finger paint
- Nature collages from leaves/flowers

Community Events

12. Splash Pads/Community Water Features

Check:

- Psalmond Road area parks
- Local churches/community centers
- Columbus Parks & Recreation summer events

13. Free festivals or downtown events

- Market Days
- Family movie nights
- Outdoor music

Faith + Community

14. Vacation Bible School (VBS)

Many Columbus churches offer:

- Free crafts
- Snacks
- Games
- Social time
- Positive values

Special Memory Builders

15. “Summer Adventure Jar”

Write free ideas on slips and then draw one from the jar to do that day:

- Dance party
- Pillow fort
- Ice cream picnic at home
- Nature walk
- Dress-up tea party
- Park hop day

16. Mommy-Daughter “Yes Day” (Free Version)

Let daughter choose from approved free options:

- Park
- Library
- Bubble day
- Pajama picnic

Budget-Friendly Mom Tip

For young children, connection matters more than cost. Kids often remember:

- Popsicles on the porch
- Catching lightning bugs
- Story time under blankets
- Park races
- Dance parties

Simple Weekly Summer Plan Example

Monday: Library

Tuesday: Park + picnic

Wednesday: Water day

Thursday: Craft day

Friday: RiverWalk adventure

Saturday: Free church/community event

Sunday: Family movie night at home with popcorn

Additional community activities and events can be found on social media, such as FaceBook and Instagram. Fees vary for the activities listed below.

Activ8 Summer Camps at Columbus State University
706-507-8070

Activities at Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, GA
www.callawaygardens.com

Coca Cola Space Science Center
www.ccssc.org

Wild Animal Safari, Pine Mountain, GA
www.animalsafari.com

Columbus Museum Summer Painting Camps
www.comuga.org

Roosevelt State Park (Swimming, hiking, horseback riding, fishing, picnic areas, camping)
<https://gastateparks.org/FDRoosevelt>

Springer Acting Camp
www.springeroperahouse.org/summer-academy