



Water Fun in the Sun

Sizzling summer days and water are a fantastic combination. This is the ideal time to explore water activities that everyone can appreciate. Swimming pools offer a refreshing escape and promote physical activity. However, if you don't have access to a pool or are seeking ways to cool off in your own backyard, there are plenty of alternatives to consider.

Water fun at home may include using a garden hose, sprinklers, buckets, bowls, cups, and other items that hold water. These simple supplies can be fun and break the same old complaint of being bored. Introduce these ideas to your family and see what other fun ideas they create for a fun afternoon of water play. Put on your swimsuit or clothing that can get wet and start playing!

- **Jump the Water:** Move a garden hose like a snake so the water sprays back and forth. Everyone jumps over the water as it moves.
- **Water Limbo:** Hold a garden hose and create a stream of water at shoulder height. Have participants go under the water stream while trying not to touch the water. Keep lowering the stream of water until everyone is wet.
- **Water Tag:** The person that is "it" gets the water gun or soaker and tries to "tag" someone by spraying them with water. Set boundary lines to limit the playing field and keep participants safe.
- **Prize Freeze:** Find small, age-appropriate toys that are waterproof. Place them in small containers or ice cube trays. Add water and freeze. Give the frozen chunks of ice to the participants. As soon as the ice melts, they get to keep the "prize". Participants can try unusual ways to get the ice to melt faster such as placing the ice on the hot cement, in their hands, in water, etc.
- **Sponge Relay:** Each team will need two buckets and one sponge. Fill one bucket with water and put a sponge in it for each team. Place the other bucket a set distance apart and see which team can transfer the most water from the full bucket to the empty bucket in a set amount of time. Try using plastic measuring cups to have the teams 'accurately' measure how much water they transferred.



More Water Fun

Do not forget the traditional water activities for summer fun such as water balloon games, jumping through the sprinklers, or washing your outdoor equipment (everything from cars to kids riding toys to lawn furniture).

While you are outside, do not forget to provide drinking water to keep everyone hydrated and use sunscreen to prevent a sunburn. Get your family outside playing with water and make memories that will last a lifetime.

Nancy Fecks originally wrote this newsletter. It was updated in 2025.
Source: *Summer and Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:*
<https://go.unl.edu/cdc-summer>

For more information check out Family Fun on the Run:
<http://go.unl.edu/familyrun>