

You can make any activity a learning experience by talking about it and “researching” it before you start.

Indoor Activity Ideas

- ❑ **Art galleries** – Visit <http://www.estesarts.com/> to see current gallery shows
- ❑ **Arcades**, video games
- ❑ **Discovery Science Center** <http://www.dcsm.org/>
- ❑ **Craft projects** create picture frames, journals, painted flower pots, models, bead jewelry, greeting cards, etc... Michael’s and Hobby Lobby have great craft ideas
- ❑ **Baking** - let your JP read the recipe and figure out measurements together
- ❑ **Theme activities surrounding holidays** - make valentines, dye Easter eggs, create a may basket or holiday wreath, carve a pumpkin...
- ❑ **Community service for the holidays** - make cookies or holiday decorations for a nursing home or help serve food at the soup kitchen
- ❑ **Bowling** <http://estesparkbowl.com/id1.html>
- ❑ **Cooking** - look through a cookbook, find recipes for a balanced meal and plan a budget; buy the food together (a great time to talk about cost and healthy choices!) and make the meal.
- ❑ **Public Library** - events calendar:
<http://www.esteslibrary.org/contentpages.asp?loc=32>
- ❑ Visit **restaurants** that have food from other countries and study the country ahead of time to make the experience special.
- ❑ Go to the library and **research a place**; visit the place; take pictures and talk about what you see there.
- ❑ **Go to a play (theatre)** and try to get backstage to see how things work and learn about lighting, etc.
- ❑ Visit the **Humane Society**
- ❑ **Museums**: Estes Park Museum <http://www.estesnet.com/Museum>, Stanley Museum <http://www.stanleymuseum.org/>, Natural History Museum in Denver, Old West Museum in Cheyenne
- ❑ High School, college and professional **sporting events**, Partners sometimes has tickets
- ❑ **Historical tours**
- ❑ Help with a **school project** or find out what the JP is studying and make it real through movies, books, etc.
- ❑ **IMAX** theatre in Denver - <http://www.dmns.org/main/en/>
- ❑ Rent or go to the **movies**
- ❑ Plant an **indoor herb garden**
- ❑ **Play pool**
- ❑ **Puzzles**
- ❑ **Play board games**
- ❑ **Rent movies and make dinner together**
- ❑ **Science experiments** <http://www.kids-science-experiments.com/>
- ❑ **Sewing or knitting**
- ❑ **Take a class together**- dance, pottery, quilting, martial arts, etc...

- ❑ **Window shopping**
- ❑ **Swimming** – Estes park Aquatic Center: T & Th 11:30am - 1:00pm T, W, Th, F
7:00 - 8:30 pm <http://www.estesvalleyrecreation.com>

Outdoor Activity Ideas

- ❑ **Rollerblading**
- ❑ **Take walks** together
- ❑ **Hiking:** Rocky Mountain National Park, Kaiyote Tours
<http://www.kaiyotetours.com/>
- ❑ **Biking:** BMX, road or mountain
- ❑ Watch the BMX races on Sat.
- ❑ **Swimming**
- ❑ **Frisbee or Frisbee golf**
- ❑ **Poudre River** (summertime) – there are a number of places up the Poudre Canyon where the water is shallow and not flowing very rapidly in July and August, including, but not limited too, Lions Gate park (off of Overland Trail), Diamond Rock and Poudre Park.
- ❑ **Golf**
- ❑ **Putt-Putt golf** – Fort Fun and Glow Golf in the mall
- ❑ **Tennis**
- ❑ **Loveland Sports Park** 950 N. Boyd Lake Ave. – Super fun park with a Spray park. Check out the photo at <http://www.ci.loveland.co.us/parksrec/LSP.htm>
- ❑ **Volleyball**
- ❑ Make an outdoor **garden**, eat the veggies or cut the flowers
- ❑ Travel to **different cities and explore** (Denver, Cheyenne, Estes Park, Loveland, etc.) Look up interesting facts/places online or at the library first.
- ❑ Check out books on how to draw, then sit at a park and **draw together**
- ❑ **Picnics**
- ❑ **Dog walks**
- ❑ **Horseback riding**
- ❑ Take a drive and **listen to music** that you like and that your JP likes, learn about what they like.
- ❑ Go to flea markets or **garage sales** together
- ❑ **Professional sporting events**
- ❑ Get **free tickets from Partners** and have a night on us.
- ❑ **Sledding**
- ❑ **Tubing**
- ❑ Abundance of Parks – check out the city website for a complete listing
www.ci.fort-collins.co.us/parks/
- ❑ **Snowshoeing**
- ❑ **Go- karting**
- ❑ Fort Collins **City Park Train** \$1.50/person - M-F 10AM – 4PM, Sat & Sun 10AM-6PM
- ❑ City Park **Paddle Boats** \$2.50/person M-F 3PM – 7PM, www.ci.fort-collins.co.us/parks/

- ❑ **Cable Car** (Old Town Fort Collins) May-Sept - Weekends & Holidays 12 p.m. -5 p.m. (last ride leaves @ 4:30) Adults -\$1 Kids=\$.50
- ❑ **Zoo** - the Denver zoo offers free zoo days <http://www.denverzoo.org/>
- ❑ **Work on cars, engines, motorcycles, bikes**
- ❑ **Rodeos**
- ❑ **Shoot hoops**
- ❑ **Study street signs**, learn about city design, GPS
- ❑ **Take a ride on the bus together**
- ❑ **Go to car shows or visit car lots to dream shop**
- ❑ **Wash a car**
- ❑ **Ski**- cross country, downhill, snowboard (if your JP is a 5th grader, all 5th graders get the ski free pass from school or check out their website at <http://www.coloradoski.com/Passes/5thGradePassport/>)
- ❑ **Gardens**: Botanic Gardens in Denver, Gardens in Cheyenne
- ❑ **Environmental Learning Center** – learn about Colorado ecosystems and see the raptors FREE
3745 E. Prospect Rd. <http://www.warnercnr.colostate.edu/elc>
- ❑ **Camping** (backyard camping might be a good first step for kids who have never camped before)
- ❑ **Look in the newspaper for free festivals** and activities around town. Do this together before you go out.
- ❑ **City festivals, Holiday Parades**
<http://downtownfortcollins.com/events.php>
- ❑ **Softball games**
- ❑ **Go for a bike ride and discover new paths**
- ❑ **Fishing**
- ❑ **Swetsville Zoo** – Really cool sculpture creatures made from used mechanical parts. 4801 E. Harmony Rd., free or donation
- ❑ **Ice skating**
- ❑ **Lee Martinez Farm** – observe (& pet) farm animals!
<http://www.ci.fort-collins.co.us/parks/martinez-park.php>
Tues. - Sat. 10am-5pm Fee= \$2.00 for ages 2-84
- ❑ **Take a class together** through Parks and Rec
- ❑ **Build something** out of wood