1. Go on a scavenger hunt. Give your child a bucket or a bag and either name items for him to locate or have pictures handy. (You can take a picture of the items, print and laminate them onto cards.)

2. Build a fort out of sheets and tall furniture or backs of chairs. Ask them what they would like to take inside this special place.

3. Blare your favorite music and dance yourself silly. Great way to get out the wiggles and have a giggle or two.

4. Do an egg hunt! My son loves it when we hide Easter eggs around the house. It also buys you a few minutes while they are searching. Little ones can also enjoy plastic eggs by placing them in containers and dumping them out, or putting them in empty egg cartons.

5. Make bird feeders out of pinecones. Have them paint the pinecones with peanut butter and roll them in bird food.

6. Collect boxes around the house (cereal, diaper, mailing, etc.). Cover them with colored duct tape or construction paper and let your child build and stack away!

7. Decorate cans (ex: coffee cans) with scrap paper. Stack and let your kids toss a soft ball to knock them over.

8. Cut up colored straws and provide your child with a shoelace for beading. Likewise, you can use colored pasta.

9. Make an “I Spy” bottle.
   Supplies: 1 plastic bottle, rice, small items/toys, hot glue gun.
   Directions: Make sure the bottle is clean. Lay out items and take a picture of them. Print picture and laminate if you can. Start filling bottle with rice and alternating with toys until bottle is ¾ full. Use a hot glue gun and glue the lid on.

10. Make pretzel dough and use cookie cutters to cut out shapes before baking. Enjoy with marinara or cheese sauce!
    Recipe: (Adopted from The Absolute Best Play Days by Pamela Waterman)
      ¾ cup warm water
      ½ envelope yeast
      1 tsp. sugar
      2 cups flour
      ½ tsp. salt
      1 egg
      Mix warm water, yeast and sugar. Separately mix salt and flour. After 5 minutes, add yeast mix to flour mix. Shape dough into initials, animals or fun shapes. Brush them with the beaten egg and bake at 425 degrees for 12 minutes.
11. Animal charades. Take turns with your child and pretend to be a dog, snake, lion, frog etc. Guess what animal the other is pretending to be. You can even create animal cards, pull one out of the bag and pretend to be the animal.

12. Obstacle Course. Create a course in your family room with boxes, blankets and ropes. Don’t forget to add jumping, somersaults and galloping to the mix!

13. Bring out the play dough. The options are endless with play dough!

14. Play dress up. Rummage through closets for scarves, hats, boots, gloves etc. You can even pretend to be in a fashion show.

15. Sock Detective. Gather some ordinary objects around the house such as a ball, spoon, cup, and block. Put them inside a sock and tie the sock closed. Have the child guess what each item is as he/she prods the sock to guess what is inside.

16. Set up a pretend grocery store with cereal boxes, pasta, canned veggies or soups, and fruit and veggies on hand. If you don’t have a cart, have the child place items in a reusable grocery bag and bring it to you to ‘pay’ for the items. They can learn to count out change too 😊

17. Bring out a mattress and jump away!

18. Read, read, read! Create a story time with snacks and snuggle.

19. Fill spray bottles with water and a few drops of food coloring. Bundle up and paint the snow!

20. Simon Says. It’s a classic that gets the body moving.

21. Sand Art. Stock up on colored sand at a local craft store and fill various plastic bottles, frames, tube necklaces and bracelets.

22. Make a job jar and write down age appropriate chores. Young children enjoy helping and can often help putting toys away, wiping off furniture, putting laundry from the dryer into the basket and so on.

23. Puzzles. If you don’t have any, you can check some out at your local library. The fishing magnetic ones can serve multiple purposes. Your child may be interested in using the magnetic rod to see what else around the house can be picked up.

24. Stock up on paint, dress your child in old clothes and let him have at it. Paint old boxes, $1 birdhouses, wooden ornaments, plain old paper. Whatever they can get messy with!

25. Set a timer for 10-15 minutes and have ‘Crazy Wild Time’. This usually involves a lot of chase, jumping up and down, spinning circles, and dancing.

26. Restore yourself with an old childhood favorite. Hide and Seek!

27. Build a tower out of pillows and let your child jump through or on them.
28. Make paper airplanes and have your child decorate them before soaring through the house.

29. Make pizzas. You can buy mini pizza crusts at the store. Set out a few toppings and pizza sauce. Let your child be the artist.

30. Grateful tree. As Thanksgiving approaches, cut out a tree trunk from cardstock. Tape it to a wall. Draw leaves on white cardstock and have your child color the leaves. Each day, have the family or child name one thing he/she is grateful for and tape it to the tree.

31. Make holiday and Christmas cards.

32. Make placemats out of poster board and contact paper. You can include numbers, the alphabet or fun pictures for your child to color. Or you can just let your child color or paint away and then cover it with contact paper.

33. Scrapbook a recent fun day. Talk about the pictures you took and let your child help add the pictures, buttons, stickers or whatever makes the scrapbook enjoyable.

34. Tape flat an unused coffee filter on a piece of paper. Have the child color the filter with markers. Then they can paint over it with water and a small paintbrush or q-tip and watch the colors blend.

35. Paint with shaving cream. Kids love the mess and the feel of the cream on their hands.

36. Mix cornstarch and water. Add the mixture to a muffin tin. In each tin, add a few drops of different food coloring. Let your child paint with the mixture. Better yet, help them make the colors themselves.

37. Reuse old bottle caps by adding adhesive foam stickers to the top. Buy a washable ink pad and let your child stamp away.

38. Buy a bag of pompoms from the dollar store. Have your child use a pair of tongs to put the poms in a container. Old wipe containers are good for this.

39. Experiment with color blending. Show your child how red and yellow make orange or blue and red make purple. You can do this in a variety of ways:
   - Grab an old muffin tin and fill each cup with white foam shaving cream. Have your child add a bit of food coloring to each one to create colors.
   - Mix together cornstarch and water to form paint. Add the paste to each tin and again add food coloring.
   - Fill spray bottles with water and add drops of food coloring. If the weather is nice, take them outside and do spray art on big pieces of paper. If there is snow, paint the snow!

40. Construct a lava lamp.
   Supplies: Empty clear bottle, food coloring, antacid tablets
   Directions: Fill a bottle ¾ full with vegetable oil. Fill the rest with water leaving a little space at the top. Add 10-15 drops of food coloring. Divide antacid tablets into small pieces. Drop one into the bottle and watch the bubbles and oil dance around. When it stops, add more.
41. Hammer activity. Collect a handful of golf tees and either a foam square or play dough. Let your child hammer the tees. This is also fun to do outdoor in the dirt (with a play hammer of course!)

42. Clear a table and recreate a nature scene with pinecones, rocks, leaves and branches. Bring out your dinosaurs or zoo animals. You can also use little people figurines and pretend they are exploring nature.

43. Break out the glue, poms, feathers, bits of yarn, google eyes or whatever you can find and let your child glue away with creativity.

44. Board games. Even if they don’t understand how to play Hi-Ho Cherry O, they may like to add the fruit to the trees.

45. Poke pipe cleaners through a colander and let your child pull them out and put them back in. Cheap and easy entertainment 😊

46. Construct shaker globes.
   Supplies: Reuse old water bottles or really any clear bottle, small objects such as dice, beads, poms, ribbon.
   Direction: Fill partway with water and add small objects. Fill the rest with water. Secure the cap with glue.

47. There is a Scandanavian saying “There is no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothing.” So, bundle up and get outside!

48. Make sugar cookie dough. Roll out dough and let your child use cookie cutters to cut out shapes. Bake the cookies and then decorate them with icing and sprinkles.

49. Create silly faces.
   Supplies: assorted colors of felt, yarn, googly eyes and Velcro dots.
   Make a few head shapes from felt. From the other colors, make eyes, ears, noses, mouths, hair, moustaches, etc. Use the yarn to make more hair. Attach Velcro dots to the backs of the googly eyes. Let your child make silly faces from the materials provided.

50. Christmas cardpuzzles.
   Supplies: Old Christmas cards, or other greeting cards, scissors, a craft nice or punches (shaped in square or circles)
   Directions: Cut card in half so you are only left with the front picture. Then cut out several shapes from the picture. (Ex: punch 2-3 squares out) Spread out all of the pieces on the floor (or in a bowl for added difficulty) Match the pictures to complete the puzzles. It may be helpful to mat the card on cardstock for extra support.