

8 Imaginative play prompts for long August days...



The summer holidays can feel long, hard, and often filled with tonnes of screen time and all the guilt that comes with it. Between the chaos and constant snack demands, setting aside just 20 minutes every now and again for imaginative play can make a huge difference. AND these moments of play create core memories that last, no matter what the rest of the day brings.

These prompts invite you and your little ones to step into magical worlds . No special toys needed, just your imagination and a sprinkle of adventure.

So, whether you join in or simply encourage from the sidelines, you're helping make magic happen.

How many can you tick off?

Happy adventuring!





Play Prompt #1: The Bedtime Buccaneers

Climb aboard your pirate ship (a.k.a. your bed)! Grab your crew (teddies welcome) and set sail across stormy seas.

👁️ What sea creatures can you spot?

🧜♀️ Can you rescue any stranded mermaids or shipwrecked toys?

💣 Don't forget to fire the cannons if baddies approach!

Use blankets for waves, pillows for islands, and socks for cannonballs. Adventure awaits!



Play Prompt #2: The Royal Banquet

You are hosting a grand feast in the palace!

👑 Set the table with real or play food—maybe even mix both.

🍷 What dishes will you serve to the king, queen, and guests?

🎉 You could create invitations and decide who sits where at the royal table.

How will you entertain your guests? Maybe a song, a joke, or a royal dance?

Put on your fanciest outfit and enjoy the grand celebration!





Play Prompt #3: The Sorcerer's Potion

Become a mighty sorcerer brewing a magical potion!

🧙♂️ Search your cupboards for the oldest, most out-of-date spices —think cinnamon sticks, cloves, or even dried rosemary.

🌀 Mix them in your cauldron (a mixing bowl will do) and add mysterious ingredients like water, orange squash and cornflour.

🌟 What magical powers will your potion have? Can it make you invisible, grant super strength, or summon friendly dragons?

Play Prompt #4: Mermaid Lagoon

The bathtub has turned into a magical mermaid lagoon!

🧜♀️ Step into the warm waters and imagine coral palaces, underwater treasure, and friendly sea creatures.

🛁 Use bath toys, plastic cups, shells, or even a whisk to stir the swirling sea.

🎵 Sing like a siren, dive for treasure, or make bubble potions!

Add a drop of food colouring or bubble bath to make the ocean extra magical.





Play Prompt #5: Modern Art Gallery

🎨 Create bright, bold artwork using pens, crayons, stickers, paint—whatever you have on hand.

🖼️ Hang your masterpieces on the walls, the fridge, or a string line with pegs.

🎟️ Make tickets for your guests (teddies, toys, or real people) and welcome them to the exhibition.

Can you give your artworks mysterious names like “Thoughts on a Tuesday” or “Explosion of Socks”?

Play Prompt #6: Moon Mission

Get ready for blast-off—you're heading to the moon!

🚀 Build your rocket ship from cushions, chairs, or cardboard boxes. Countdown from 10 and LAUNCH into space!

🌕 Land gently on the surface of the moon and step outside for your first moonwalk. Can you move in slow motion like there's hardly any gravity?

👽 Collect moon rocks (pebbles, buttons, or foil balls) and look out for alien life.

📻 Don't forget to report back to Mission Control—what do you see out there?





Play Prompt #7: The Secret Garden

Step outside and discover a hidden, magical world—right in your own garden, balcony, or patch of grass.

🌸 Search for nature’s tiny treasures: petals, feathers, interesting stones, twisty sticks.

🏠 Can you build a fairy or creature house using what you find? A leaf roof, a pebble floor, a twig path?

📖 Make up a story about who might live there—fairies, talking mice?

You could even leave them a gift or a note and check back tomorrow to see if they replied...

Play Prompt #8: The Great Treasure Hunt

It’s time to hide the treasure... and the kids are in charge.

🗺️ Choose a treasure (maybe some chocolate buttons, a tiny drawing, or a secret message) and hide it somewhere clever.

📍 Older adventurers can draw a treasure map with an X marking the spot.

🔥 Younger ones can guide the hunter with clues like “warmer, colder, freezing!” as they search.

🚩 Add riddles, arrows, or booby traps if you dare. Can the grown-ups find the loot before the pirates do?

