



Fun on a Budget

1

Have people over!

With COVID-19, you may need to set up in the yard or garage. Limit the numbers.

A. **Ask for help.** Most people will ask, "What can I bring?" so go ahead and plan to make it a potluck. That spreads the cost out and lets people bring something they know they will eat (and likely in their budget). Just suggest a course or food group (appetizer, veggie tray, etc.).

B. **Drinks** - Keep it simple. Instead of bottles, use your glasses. Instead of alcohol or soft drinks, serve water infused with flavors (citrus fruits, mint, cucumber, etc.). Instead of buying ice, empty your ice maker into bags or bowls several times, and keep those in the freezer.

C. **Keep it simple.** You don't have to make 3 main dishes, 10 sides, and 4 desserts. Just pick a main from what's on sale, 2-3 sides, and 1 dessert. Vegetables you cut up yourself (a day or two in advance) will probably be less expensive than a big vegetable tray that you purchase.

2

Choose hobbies and sports carefully.

Choose fun things to do that don't require lots of money.

A. **Swimming!** Do you really need a pool? A pool membership requires less investment and upkeep. Or, find a cool water toy for the yard - even less investment!

B. **Sports!** Putting your children in summer sporting activities is a great way to keep them active. However, the cost of these sports can become overwhelming. Get your family to play together - sports from your childhood or sports that you can do together (tennis, running/walking, disc golf, bicycling, etc.). The time you spend together will be memorable!

C. **Family Night!** Instead of watching another movie, play together. Get out some board games or cards, play charades or tell stories. Plan a "trip" to a foreign country - research the food and customs. Plan a meal and learn something about other cultures.

D. **Make your own fun** instead of buying more stuff to store. Gather balls, jump ropes, boxes, plastic jugs, tape, old sheets, etc. Have a contest to make something interesting or to go with your "trip" theme.

