



This week, Aug. 15 – 21, is Kids' Week, recognized by the Women of Today and other organizations. With summer quickly fading into the start of school, let's take advantage of what little time is left to spend with our children before the hustle and bustle of the school schedule arrives. The _____ Women of Today urge you to spend some time this week or in the time remaining before the summer is over to enjoy some special times together. They grow up too quickly and you can never get that time back! Celebrate the innocence and joy of being a kid with your children! Here are some suggestions to help you be creative with your days:

- **Sit down together and read a book (or several!) For older ones, maybe a chapter or 2 a day**
 - **Ride bikes together**
 - **Just run and play in the sunshine**
 - **Take your child fishing**
 - **Set up games that adults and kids can play together, like croquet or badminton**
 - **Take turns around a campfire telling scary (or funny) stories**
 - **Enjoy some time at a beach – sun, shore, and sandcastles**
 - **Turn on the lawn sprinklers and cool off**
 - **Paint or draw a “masterpiece” together – even use colored chalk on a sidewalk**
 - **Blow bubbles**
 - **Stuff a piñata with treats and hang it from a tree limb**
 - **Fill a pool with toys and have fun in the back yard**
 - **Have a treasure hunt**
 - **Stir up a recipe together and enjoy the results**
-

Kid's Week Project Ideas

Kids Week is a great opportunity for your chapters to celebrate kids! There are so many things you can do, here is a list to get your creative juices flowing.

- Assemble book bags for babies delivered at your local hospital – include a baby book, reading tips for parents, library location and schedule, nursery rhymes, poems, songs, and don't forget information about your Women of Today chapter!
- Hold a book drive or school supply drive Host a story hour at your local library.
- Make or decorate bookmarks and donate them to a local reading program or library
- Raise money for your favorite youth organization (Consider First Book – www.firstbook.org)
- Have a chapter family BBQ at a local park Host a family game day Assemble birthday bags for your local food shelf or for Cheerful Givers (www.cheerfulgivers.org)
- Organize a collection of something needed in your community.
- Write letters and draw pictures to send to soldiers overseas.

- Make fleece blankets for kids in the hospital and don't forget to invite the kids to help! Check out www.projectlinus.org for patterns and to find drop off locations.
- Make cards for sick kids. Check out www.makeachildsmile.org for details.
- Speak with your local food shelf or community closet to determine what is needed most. Consider items such as blankets, linens, clothing, towels, and more!
- Host a "Create a Giving Box" party. The Giving Box is a box where the entire family can put their extra change and at the end of each month (or year) the money in the box is donated to a charity of their choice.
- Host a family service event for your community. Visit www.doinggoodtogether.org/FamilyServiceNight.html for full details!
- Decorate placemats to donate to the local Meals on Wheels or similar organization.
- Create care packages for local seniors – here is one example from Meals on Wheels in the Twin Cities: www.meals-on-wheels.com/assets/files/AboutUsDocs/Create%20We%20Care%20Packages%20Job%20Description.doc
- Make cat toys or dog toys for the local animal shelter.
- Hold a lemonade stand with proceeds going to charity of the children's choice. Visit www.alexslimonade.org for information on running a stand and signs you can print.
- Collect, clip, and donate coupons to military families. Visit www.ocpnet.org for details.
- Host a coloring contest.
- Hosting or helping with a camp experience at a local hospital for the children who can't get to camp (**see www.campgetawella.org for details**)

-----Websites with more ideas:

- www.doinggoodtogether.org
- www.compassionatekids.com/volunteering.shtml
- www.cookiemag.com/homefront/2008/11/volunteering
- www.usatoday.com/tech/columnist/2003-01-23-kid-picks_x.htm
- www.kidscare.org www.dosomething.org
- www.bygpub.com/books/tg2rw/volunteer.htm
- www.kidsturncentral.com/holidays/christmas/volunteer.htm
- www.artistshelpingchildren.org/wayschildrencanvolunteer.html