

30-minute Homeschooling Activities

*Notes: Most of these activities will take at least 30 minutes, but for those that are undefined (marked with a *), use a timer.*

LEGO BUILDS (science/engineering)

Using Lego bricks, design and build a simple machine (pulley, merry-go-round, teeter totter, catapult, etc.). You can also create a great ball contraption (GBC) which is a machine that receives balls from one module and passes them to another module. You can also create something called a Rube Goldberg machine which is a machine intentionally designed to perform a simple task in an indirect or overly complicated way. These are fun!

DRAWING LESSONS (art)

Go to YouTube and simply search “drawing lessons,” and you will find tutorials for every skill level. These are so much fun and kids will enjoy seeing their finished masterpieces. For best results, keep a remote handy to pause the video so kids can keep up!

READ ALOUDS (reading)*

Find a classic book or even something fun - ANY kind of chapter book - and sit down for 30 minutes and read a couple chapters to the kids. Work through a book series! Have kids that can read take turns reading a paragraph or even a chapter!

SILENT READING (reading)*

Sometimes homeschooling parents just need a good, quiet 30 minutes. Set a timer, let kids pick anything to read and their favorite reading spot, and enjoy silent reading time!

MINECRAFT (history)

Create a new world in Minecraft just for education purposes. Have the child choose a historical location, landmark, or event and he/she must create it in the world. In order to know how to build it, proper research must be done!

GAMES (math or fun)

Look through your arsenal of board/card/dice games and see which ones help with math skills. If you can't find any games that help with math, WHO CARES! Find something fun and the kids will be entertained for a good 30 minutes. What if the game doesn't last that long? Find another game. Fill up your 30 minute slot with anything that isn't a screen!

SCIENCE JOURNAL (science)*

Let the kids out of the house for a chunk of time and allow them to explore the world around their home. Let them take photos or pick some plants and then copy them into their journals. Look up the scientific names online and learn what they are and what they have historically been used for. Why are they helpful in our world?

MEMORIZATION*

Find a passage of scripture, poem, or excerpt from a book and have the child work on memorizing it. You may need to help younger students, so to make it easier on yourself, record yourself saying it and have them listen to it while doing an activity like coloring!

MUSIC LISTENING JOURNAL (music)

Use a resource like this one: <https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/SQUILT-2570940>

Find some good music from different musical periods: baroque, classical, renaissance, modern and have students quietly listen and write down their thoughts and observations. The only two rules here are to try your best and to listen actively without making noise. For more fun, play some LIVE performances on YouTube so students can practice being good audience members. Some fun ones for younger kids include *Peter and the Wolf* (Prokofiev), *Carnival of the Animals* (Saint Saens), and the *Nutcracker* (Tchaikovsky).

PEN PALS (handwriting)*

Don't tell your kids that they are going to be working on their penmanship, but get them excited about having a pen pal. Get in touch with another homeschooling mom and have your kids get to know each other via snail mail! Give them some direction on what to write, but allow them to build the friendship all on their own.

NEED MORE IDEAS?

Below are a list of ideas to get your creative juices flowing! Remember, keep each activity to a 30-minute block. If the kids are loving the activity, remind them that they can finish it the next day.

- Coloring.
- Record a stop-frame video.
- Write a script and perform it (with costumes).
- Build an obstacle course and time each other to see who is the fastest.
- Build and test bridges. Use marshmallows/gumdrops and toothpicks/spaghetti noodles as building materials.
- Draw a self-portrait, portrait of someone else, or a still-life image
- Learn a new skill. Find something the child wants to learn to do, find a good video on YouTube, and let them run with it!
- Watch a short video or read a short story and then write an alternate ending.
- Create a comic book.
- Blanket time! Set out a small blanket with one type of activity or toy on it. Set a timer for 30 minutes. The child MUST stay on it the entire time! (works best for small children who can obey)
- Play-Doh. Parents.... take a deep breath! Play Doh isn't so bad if you have some patience and remember that it's just a half hour activity! Make sure kids keep it at the table and they should be golden!
- Plan a trip. This is a great activity for older kids. Give them a budget and a computer, and let them plan a special vacation for the family.
- Room time. Sometimes, mom and dad just need a few moments of quiet. Tell the kids they MUST stay in their room for 30 minutes of free time!
- Learn to type. Go to typing.com and play the fun typing games. You may not need to set a timer for this activity because it's so fun.
- Plan a meal. Let your child "shop" in your home grocery store and plan lunch or dinner for everyone!
- Chores. Can't leave this one out!!
- Write a song.
- Get all the notebooking pages you'll ever need → <https://bit.ly/2wZViwp> (#afflink)

And just in case this whole new world of homeschooling is new to you and overwhelming, remember that you've GOT THIS, MOMMA! But just in case you are feeling stressed out, here's a link to all the essential oils to help you survive this crazy season of life! www.myyl.com/jminard 😊