

Creating **fun!** on a Budget

These are tight financial times, but that doesn't mean you can't afford to have fun.

- ❖ *The perks of parenthood include laughing and playing with your children, and enjoying their wonder at the world.*
- ❖ *As you watch your family's bottom line, work together to brainstorm cost-effective ways to spend quality time and make new memories.*

Instead of going to the movies...

Watch a film already in your personal collection and pretend each family member is one of the characters.

Instead of going to the toy store when the kids say they're bored...

Take them to a park or the library, or keep them busy with a bottle of bubbles, board games or recyclable items such as paper towel tubes or shoe boxes that make great temporary toys.

When they're craving treats from a fast food place...

Encourage them to enjoy healthier versions of those selections by peeling potatoes and oven frying them, buying a whole wheat crust and other ingredients to make a pizza, or partially freezing fruit juices in paper or plastic cups to make a slush.

Instead of shopping for gifts...

Make a card, craft or other present that suits the tastes and personality of the person you're honoring.

As your children learn creative ways to entertain themselves, they'll begin to appreciate that all great experiences don't come with a price tag.