

JUNE HOLIDAY FUN

FIVE WAYS TO MAKE THE MOST OF MID-YEAR PRE-SCHOOL BREAK.



Photo: Sze ISSG

1 Make a splash

Public pools are a great way to cool down and they're peppered across the island, from Jurong West to Bishan to Pasir Ris. Some even come with exciting features like the "waterfall" overhead buckets, bubbling play structures and water play tables. If you have signed up for your free ActiveSG membership, you can also use the credits to pay the admission fees.

TIP: Where they are allowed, bring along some small water play toys like floaters and scoops to enhance your child's sensorial and cognitive play.



Photo: NParks

2 Venture into nature

Hop on a bumboat and head for Pulau Ubin, where you can rent bicycles and discover the nature conservation efforts on the island. Alternatively, there is Coney Island, home to coastal forests, grasslands and mangroves. Stroll along the shaded trails and spend a relaxing afternoon with your child talking about the flora and fauna. Another child-friendly option is Jacob Ballas Children's Garden, an outdoor sanctuary with a farm, an orchard, and a forest with a stream and ponds. Kids will love crossing the suspension bridge, scaling the treehouse and getting their hands dirty in the potting garden.

TIP: Hone your child's problem-solving and self-help skills by involving him in planning the excursion and discussing what you need for the trip.

3 Appreciate art

Interact with installations and create art in a fun environment in Artground, a multi-disciplinary arts centre-cum-playscape. Entry is free for families and children to explore the ground floor play area. It comes equipped with multi-sensory toys, walls to scribble on, as well as a Baby Stage with sensory walls for infants to explore. Artground also organises hands-on weekly workshops such as storytelling and craft-making sessions with recycled materials.



4 Visit a farm

Mainly located in Kranji, Choa Chu Kang and Lim Chu Kang, these working farms offer children with rich learning opportunities as they learn to milk a goat, observe pet rabbits, feed fish and frogs, and learn about growing vegetables and fruits.

TIP: After the trip, make a scrapbook with photographs and drawings of the visit. With help, your child can also write about his experience.



TIP: Instead of letting your child wander around on his own, explore alongside them and extend their thinking by asking questions like "What do you think...?"

5 Be a firefighter or ship captain for a day

Give your little firefighter a first-hand experience on what it's like to ride a fire engine at the Civil Defence Heritage Gallery. Go on a Saturday morning when there is an open house where you can watch firefighters demonstrate their skills. At the Singapore Maritime Gallery, your child can take the helm as a ship captain at the Ship Bridge Simulator, and navigate different types of vessels.

TIP: Talk about the different roles of the community helpers and borrow books on occupations from your nearby library. Help him make these connections and enrich his thinking. ♥



Photo: Melissa Tan