

# Unplug

AND CONNECT

## Tip #2: Encourage creativity

Get creative with your little ones this summer. Interestingly, a child's education stretches far beyond a classroom; it extends into the environment where they live and play. So, we've devised some fun and engaging activities to spark their creativity this summer as part of our **Unplug and Connect** campaign, which is designed to disconnect kids from technology and connect with the whole family.

### Rock On

Create the perfect 'weight' to stop your picnic blanket flying away with these colourful and creative rocks. To make, wash and dry rocks and cover each with a coat of PVA glue. Before the glue dries, decorate the rocks using paint, coloured or patterned papers cut in a variety of shapes and you can even add googly eyes to create characters. To finish, paint a second coat of PVA glue over the rock and let dry.

### Nature Sun Catchers

Make beautiful flower or leaf sun catchers that can hang in any window in the home. This summer craft is perfect for getting children outside as they can explore the elements to find the perfect accompaniment for their sun catcher. Once they have found all of their resources, use a paper plate as the frame for your sun catcher and begin to place the leaves and flowers from the garden in a pattern around the plate using PVA glue. Then, hole punch two holes on either side of the top of the plate and tie with string so that it can hang freely in the home.

### The Back-and-Forth Drawing Game

A drawing game for kids or kids and adults that allows each person to build off of the previous person's drawings. This low key, yet interactive drawing game, is a fun way for you to connect with your children through creativity. Spend time with your children talking about the character you have created to encourage conversation, giving them a chance to communicate with you. It also makes a good waiting game at restaurants and doctor's offices.

### Handprint Art

Children love to get their hands covered in paint – so, let them! Messy art is important for developing creative confidence. Use washable paint and have a stack of paper handy. Better yet, roll out a long sheet of paper and make a giant handprint mural! This will really make for some memorable artwork.

### Make a Mini Magic Garden

Have your children take on a whimsical project and watch their imagination take off! All you need are a few simple ingredients... and a little creativity. Using a plant pot in the garden, layer with soil and let your children plant flower buds or seeds into the soil. Next, arrange a collection of rocks (perhaps you could use some of the decorative rocks from the above activity, 'Rock On') and a birdhouse or fairy door to personalise your own magic garden. Then, using the 'fairy dust' (it's just glitter but it is so magical) sprinkle it over and wait for some make-believe fairies to come out and play!

