

Creative Cups

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How many minutes a day do you and your family members sit in front of a screen? Too much screen time can lead to decreased physical activity, increased eating, less social interaction, sleep problems and strain on your eyes and back. For fun, try activities that use plastic disposable cups. They can be purchased in large quantities for a reasonable price and can be re-used many times. Here are a few ideas or let your own creativity be your guide.

Cup Stacking:

These ideas can be done with other people or alone. Competing with yourself or others for the fastest time or tallest structure can be fun.

- Make them into pyramids or towers by carefully stacking them with cardstock in between each cup or top to top and then bottom to bottom.
- Use two colors of cups. Put one color on the bottom of a stack of nine cups of a different color and re-stack top to bottom until the different colored cup is on top.

Art Projects:

- Use the cup to draw circles on a piece of paper to make a design.
- Dip the top of the cup into paint or dye and make a design on paper or fabric.
- Make the cup into a basket by adding a handle. Fill the basket with flowers or a snack and share with a friend.

Water Fun:

- Fill a bucket or swimming pool with water and see how many ladles of water it takes to fill the cup.
- If you have a group of people, line up in a line front to back, give each person a cup. Fill the person's cup with water then pass the water over their own head to the next person in line who tries to catch the water in their cup.
- Use a water-filled cup as the 'baton' in a relay race.

Skill Games:

- Put cups top down on a table and use a straw or air-filled balloon to blow the cup across the table.
- Place cups top down hanging just a little over the edge of a table, flip the cup over so it lands on its bottom.
- Arrange cups on the ground or table, top side up and throw small balls or objects into the cup.
- Use cups as bowling pins and bowl them over.

Check out more Family Fun on the Run Newsletters: <http://go.unl.edu/familyfun>

Sources:

1. Kirkilas, Gary, DO, FAAP, How can I help my child avoid eye and back strain from being on the computer? American Academy of Pediatrics: <https://bit.ly/35HtiM6>
2. Screen Time and Children, Medline Plus: <https://bit.ly/35HkCFH>
3. Cups, Northwestern University: <https://ei.northwestern.edu/toy/cups>

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