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## Summer Activities For Children On The Autism Spectrum

Summer is the perfect opportunity to have fun with your grandkids while helping them continue all the great skills they honed during the school year! Here is a list of ideas to help you do that while keeping sensory overload to a minimum...

- Host a character day - this is like a movie day but your grandchild dresses up like their favorite book, movie or TV character and then spend the day watching or reading about that character.
- Plan a scavenger hunt outside - [check out these sensory scavenger hunt ideas on Pinterest](#).
- Create your own sensory activities like [coloring lima beans](#).

DIY Sensory Activities for Kids

# THE PURPLE ALPHABET

# DOLLAR TREE SENSORY BINS



- Create a regular routine with specific types of activities on specific days and track everything on a calendar that everyone can see! Check out this article [82 Summer Activities for Families with Special Needs](#) that outlines ideas for Safety Sunday, Make Something Monday, Time to Read Tuesday, What's Cooking Wednesday, Thoughtful Thursday, Somewhere Fun Friday, and Social Skills Saturday.
- Set up an arts and crafts station - just line up the paint, glue, glitter, paper and see what happens or plot out some specific crafts like Balloon Paint Stamping (filling up balloons with water and tapping them into bowls of different paints to print on paper or clothing).
- You can get a free Access Pass for the National Park Service which is your ticket to more than 2,000 federal recreation sites. The pass covers entrance fees and day use fees at national parks and national wildlife refuges. It's available for U.S. citizens or permanent residents with permanent disabilities. [Download this federal recreation sites](#) and find out more on their [website here](#).



## Summer Travel Tips

- Take a picture on your phone before you leave home so if lost, it will be easier to identify your grandchild and the clothing worn that day.
- Pin identification information and your cell phone number to the back of your grandchild's shirt.
- Check the airport layout and find out how far you will have to go... and plan ahead how to accommodate to get there on time.
- Pack extra medication - pack double of anything important and keep one set in the checked bag and one set in your carry-on bag.
- Check to see what perks you have as a rewards member or cardholder to see if you can get lounge access or any other perks that will help you.
- Download your grandchild's favorite calming music or games to play while you're waiting for your flight at the airport... and on the plane.
- Let people know you are out with children with autism so they may be a little more helpful (you can do this subtly by wearing our [Grandparent Autism Network caps](#)).
- More travel tips are available on our [website](#).



## Plan a Special Event In Your Community

Spring Social Event 2018



**Social for adults with autism (ages 16 and up) and caregivers,  
Chapman University, April 29, 2018**

Every community has social opportunities for families. For example, AMC theaters schedule sensory sensitive monthly movie times. Local museums, parks and recreation departments, YMCA's and philanthropic organizations sponsor outings, fairs, and festivals. You can research from home for local restaurants or events that will entertain and provide networking opportunities for families affected by autism. Learn about how you can meet other grandparents in your community on our website [here](#) and plan an event in your community for your grandchildren.

Find out how to host a social in your area using our [Social Toolkit!](#) Contact us at [info@ganinfo.org](mailto:info@ganinfo.org) if you would like more information.

## Great Apps for Summer

### Camp Discovery



A great app from the Center for Autism and Related Disorders. Camp Discovery is broken into assessment, learning trials and mini-games that serve as a reward. The app also tracks your child's progress and allows the parent to personalize the experience. [Find out more here.](#)

### Endless Reader

Endless reader combines visual and audio learning with fun animations that allow your grandchild to read and put together the "sight words" that are so important for early reading. After the animation, your child can move the letters into the word to spell it, and as the letter is moved, the app reinforces the phonetic sound of the letter. [Find out more here.](#)

### Five Little Monkeys With Nothing To Do

Join the Five Little Monkeys in this interactive book app as they prepare the house for

Grandma Beesie's visit! Explore pictures, learn new vocabulary, and personalize the story with your own narration. [Find out more here.](#)

## Model Me Going Places

This app helps children learn appropriate behavior for various community locations. [Find out more here.](#)

## The Social Express II

Helps kids understand how others are feeling, making eye contact and developing social skills. [Find out more here.](#)

## Dollars & Cents iPad App

Helps teens and young adults learn basic money skills. [Find out more here.](#)

## Smart Fish: Frequent Flyer

Helps kids experience what it's like to fly including packing, going through security and boarding the plane. [Find out more here.](#)



## eBay Donations: Spring Cleaning

Donate to GAN's [Giving Works eBay Store](#)

Grandparents have lots of "stuff" like collectibles, unused gifts and



household goods, clothing, vintage jewelry and things in good condition that our families "do not want."

Your "stuff" can benefit other grandparents and families affected by autism. The Grandparent Autism Network welcomes donated goods.

You can drop off tax deductible items at Jay's Catering, 10581 Garden Grove Blvd., Garden Grove, CA - or send them C/O GAN at 23785 El Toro Road, #103, Lake Forest, CA 92630 (USPS flat rate boxes may lower mailing costs!)

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**Networking together,  
grandparents are a vital  
resource for autism...  
and each other!**