



# **Best Summer Ever: A Summer's Worth of Fun, Inexpensive Art & Learning Projects to Occupy Kids 6-11 at Home for Hours at a Time**

*Leila Kalmbach*

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### **The perfect book for your summer of fun**

This book is full of fun, creative, screen-free projects to help kids explore art and the world around them, and to learn new things along the way — all without leaving the house. The materials are things you probably have at home already or can buy cheaply from the grocery or crafts store, and the projects described here are ideal for kids ages six through eleven, though many of them can be modified for younger or older kids too.

The projects in this book are meant to be guided by parents or guardians, and some of them require adult help or supervision at times. However, they were all chosen because they're ones kids can work on independently or with other kids for the majority of the time with minimal supervision.

You may want to join in, though. These activities are just as fun for adults as they are for kids.

This book is for parents, grandparents, babysitters, camp counselors, and anyone else who wants to bring back a little of their childhood this summer — or who just wants the kids out of their hair for a while while they make dinner or read a book. (Only you know how much supervision your children need, however, so please decide on a case-by-case basis.)

The projects you'll read about include:

- Making ice cream without a machine (three methods with recipes!)
- Creating colored bubble foam and human-sized bubbles
- Learning to make a solar oven and bake snacks in it
- Making musical instruments from household objects
- Exchanging secret messages with friends
- Making goo, slime, play-dough, and more
- Creating your own board game
- Making puppets and putting on a puppet show
- Creating papier-mâché masks with the easiest-ever no-cook paste
- 13 ideas for making fun popsicles and drinks
- 8 games to play with water balloons
- 3 types of scavenger hunts
- 33 miscellaneous ideas for summer fun
- And much more!

With this book, a few inexpensive supplies, and a lot of free time, you can make this summer the best summer ever.

### **About the author:**

Leila Kalmbach chose the projects in this book from the best and most enjoyable ones she's done with elementary school students she tutored and mentored in AmeriCorps, her "Little" through Big Brothers Big

Sisters, children of friends, and summer campers she worked with as a camp counselor. She works as a writer and copy editor, and has more than 400 articles to her name, particularly in the areas of health and wellness, life-changing true stories, and travel.

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