Kinship Family Summer Activity Kit
1. **Dr. Seuss' Oobleck**

   **YIELD:** 4 cups

   **Ingredients:**
   - 2 cups cornstarch
   - 3 drops food coloring (you choose the color)
   - 1 cup water

   **Instructions:**
   Mix ingredients together in a medium sized bowl. (Add water slowly as it may not need entire cup!).

   [https://www.food.com/recipe/dr-seuss-oobleck-289923](https://www.food.com/recipe/dr-seuss-oobleck-289923)

2. **Homemade Finger Paint**

   **Ingredients:**
   - 3 tbsp sugar
   - 1/2 tsp salt
   - 1/2 cup corn starch
   - 2 cups water

   **Instructions:**
   Combine ingredients in small saucepan. Warm until mixture thickens. Cool & pour in containers. Add food coloring to create desired colors. Enjoy!

   [https://www.redtedart.com/how-to-finger-paint-recipe/](https://www.redtedart.com/how-to-finger-paint-recipe/)
3. Invisible Ink

How to Make Invisible Ink

**Method #1: Baking Soda**

1. Mix equal parts baking soda and water in a small bowl.
2. Get yourself a makeshift writing tool: toothpick, cotton swab, or paintbrush.
3. Using the mixture, write your secret message on a white piece of paper.
4. Wait for the ink to dry.

**Method #2: Corn Starch**

1. Heat 2 tbsp of cornstarch and 1 tbsp water in a small pan and stir until they are completely dissolved.
2. Once the mixture is cool, write your secret message on a white piece of paper.
3. Heat the paper using a light bulb (make sure you don’t touch bulb with paper).
4. Message should show up in brown!

**Method #3: Lemon Juice**

1. Squeeze lemon juice into a small bowl.
2. Write your message on a white piece of paper and wait for the paper/ink to dry.
3. Heat paper over stove top (or a light bulb) until message shows up in very light brown.

Visit for more tips: [https://thesecretumiverse.wonderhowto.com/how-to/make-invisible-ink-0133256/](https://thesecretumiverse.wonderhowto.com/how-to/make-invisible-ink-0133256/)
4. **Skittles or Starburst Jellybeans Science Experiment**

**Ingredients:**
- Skittles or Starburst jellybeans
- water
- plates

**Experiment Set Up:**
Setting up this experiment is a cinch. We decided to get a little creative and add an artistic element to our science experiment.

1. You want to empty out your candy and check out the colors.
2. Next, lay out your plates in an area where they won’t be disturbed.
3. Now’s the fun part, make patterns! It’s up to you on how you want to place your colors.
   - Make a rainbow or any sort of pattern that interests you. You can experiment with placing different colors next to each other.
4. Once you have your patterns placed, gently begin pouring water in the middle of the plate until it reaches all the candies and just barely covers them.

**Observations:**
Wait and watch to see what happens!
Give your kids a chance to ask questions, make observations, and explore. Why not test the 5 senses and encourage them to look, listen, feel, taste, and maybe hear what’s happening?
Ask open-ended questions to get kids thinking! What changes could they make to this experiment?
Could this science experiment work with another type of candy?
What would happen if you tried a different liquid and compared the results?
Learning how to be a scientist is all about asking questions, testing ideas, and finding solutions!

**The Science Behind the Experiment:**

**Facts about Skittles**
Skittles are made of ingredients that can dissolve in water. They also do it quickly, so you have neat science right away. Dissolving candy is fun to test out with a variety of liquids and candies. Find out how different candies dissolve at different rates.

**Why don’t the Skittles colors mix?**
While digging around for information, I learned about a term called **stratification**. The immediate definition of stratification is the arrangement of something into different groups which is a lot like we see with the skittle colors, but why?
Water stratification is all about how water has different masses with different properties, and this may create the barriers that you see among the colors from the skittles.
Still, other sources talk about how each skittle has the same amount of food coloring being dissolved and as the concentration of this color spreads out similarly they don’t mix when they meet up with each other.

5. How Clouds Make Rain

materials
- Clear cup
- Water
- Shaving cream
- Food coloring

predictions
- The water will turn blue
- The shaving cream will go to the bottom. Sink

procedure
1. Put water in the cup. The water represents air.
2. Put a shaving cream cloud on top. The “cloud” is water droplets.
3. Put blue food coloring on the “cloud.” This shows when the water gets heavier.
4. Wait to see what happens when the water gets heavy on the cloud.

conclusion
The food coloring (water) went through the cloud (water droplets) to make rain.

https://www.mrsjonescreationstation.com/simple-science-how-clouds-make-rain/
6. **Mail a Hug**
   Have your kids mail a hug to friends and family that they don’t see often! It’s a fun, easy way to brighten someone’s day.

   **Instructions:**
   1. Spread out a long sheet of butcher paper.
   2. Trace the child’s head, arms, and upper torso onto the paper.
   3. You can either cut it out now or decorate first and then cut. We used paint but markers or crayons would work just fine!
   4. Print or write out the message below to accompany the hug.
   5. Fold it all up, put in an envelope and mail!

   Here’s the message we included with the hug:
   
   “I miss you when you’re far away.
   I’d love to see you every day.
   But since I can’t come over to play,
   I’m mailing you a hug today.
   So although it might be quite a sight,
   wrap my arms around you tight.
   [Link to original message](https://www.theleangreenbean.com/mail-a-hug/)

7. **Shadow Drawing**

   **Materials:**
   - several toys
   - paper
   - marker

   **Tools:**
   - sunglasses
   - sunscreen
   - adult supervision

   **Instructions:**
   1. Choose a time to do this experiment. Do this in early morning or late afternoon.
   2. Put on sunscreen and wear sunglasses.
   3. Place the toys on the paper.
   4. Using the marker, trace the outline of the shadows on the paper.

   **Observation questions**
   - Do the shadow stay the same? How do they change with time?
   - Are the shadows larger, the same size or smaller than the toys?
   - When you rotate the toys, what happens to the shadows?
   [Link to original page](https://www.rookieparenting.com/shadow-drawing/)
8. DIY Family Silhouettes

Materials:

• Poster paper (white for the background, and colored for the actual cutting of the silhouettes)
• Pencil or marker
• Tape
• Scissors
• Light source big enough to cast a clear silhouette on a blank wall (example- a lamp with a shade)

Instructions:

1. Find a blank wall in your home that's big enough to project light in order to create a clear silhouette image for tracing. Have your child stand by the wall in order to gauge where you should tape your white paper. Once you decide the height, simply tape the paper to the wall securely.
2. While your child sits (or stands) in front of the paper taped to the wall, project your light onto your child in order to create a shadow on the wall. Adjust the child or light where needed until you have the silhouette you are happy with. You can use any light source around the home, no projector needed! As long as the light is bright enough to cast a clear shadow on the wall, you should be fine. We used a lamp that had an adjustable neck. Using a pencil, begin to trace the outline of the silhouette onto the paper.
3. Remove the paper from the wall and carefully cut out the silhouette using your scissors.
4. Depending on the color you would like your final silhouette to be, retrace the white image to the color of your choosing. Note: you could skip steps 4 and 5 and trace and cut one time on the paper of your choosing. But I opted for white so I could see more clearly when tracing and avoid making any mistakes.
5. Once you have your final image traced onto the paper, carefully cut one more time!
6. Tape or glue your final image to the center of your glossy white background. Should you want to frame your silhouette you may have to cut the white paper to size in order to fit the frame.

https://www.curbly.com/family-silhouette-art-in-under-an-hour
9. Bird Beak Game

https://academy.animaljam.com/posts/bird-beak-game
10. Solar Oven

https://academy.animaljam.com/posts/solar-oven
11. Paper Marbling

https://academy.animaljam.com/posts/paper-marbling
12. Chopstick Relay
You will need:
- dice
- small bowl
- set of chopsticks

Instructions:
Scatter the dice on the playing surface. Hand a player a pair of chopsticks and a bowl. He must move each die from the playing surface to his bowl using only a pair of chopsticks. To make it slightly more difficult for older kids or teens, have the playing surface and the bowl in two separate locations. The player would then need to walk each die across the room or yard in order to deposit them all into his bowl. Any player who successfully gets all the dice into his bowl receives 5 points.

13. Stack It
You will need:
- a spoon
- dice

Instructions:
Instruct each player to put the handle side of a spoon into his mouth so that the bowl of the spoon is sticking out in front of his face. The player who can stack the tallest tower of dice onto the bowl of his spoon using only one hand in one minute wins. If a player's dice topple during the play time, he can begin stacking again and continue to do so until the minute is up.

14. Full of Hot Air
You will need:
- masking tape
- a piece of tissue paper/or feather
- long playing area

Instructions:
Using the masking tape, mark a starting point and an ending point on the playing field. Place the tissue paper on the starting tape. Instruct the player to blow the paper across the playing field to the other piece of tape. To make it more difficult for older kids or teens, put other larger objects in the way so that the players must go around/over/under in order to reach the ending tape. Any player who can blow his paper across the ending point in one minute is awarded 5 points.
15. Math Scavenger Hunt

**Math Scavenger Hunt**

- Find 2 pencils and 1 blue crayon. How many items do you have now?
- Find 5 blocks and 2 pennies. How many items do you have now? Take away 3 blocks. How many items are left?
- Find 4 socks and 2 stuffed animals. How many items do you have all together?
- Find 8 crackers. Eat 4 of them. How many are left?
- Find 3 spoons, 4 books and 1 orange crayon. How many items do you have all together?
16. 5 Senses Scavenger Hunt

**5 SENSES SCAVENGER HUNT**

- Find something that makes a crunch sound.
- Find something that tastes sour.
- Find something that smells good.
- Find something smooth.
- Find 3 of the same thing.
- Find something that smells bad.
- Find something that tastes sweet.
- Find something loud.
- Find something long.
- Find something soft.
- Find something white.
- Find something quiet.
- Find something rough.
17. Neighborhood Scavenger Hunt

- Fun Mailbox
- Cool Bird House
- Pretty Flag
- Cool Treehouse
- Purple Flowers
- Yard Statue
- Outside Cat
- Yellow House
- Dog Walker
- White Fence
- Pool
- Trampoline
- Cross Walk
- Motorcycle
- Basketball Hoop
- Swingset
- Bench
- Bloomed Flower

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18. Paper Plane Target Practice

Keep your kids entertained with those paper planes you slaved over for a little longer by making a target. Simply take a few pieces of poster board taped together and cut out different sized holes. Then set them to work on improving their aim!

19. Marble Racetrack

To make the racetrack I took my pool noodle and cut it in half. I found that a serrated knife made a much cleaner cut than a regular knife. I then used toothpicks to secure each half of the noodle side by side.

We then made a starting line . . . And a finish. Don't forget to put something at the bottom of the track to catch all your marbles!