

Ways to keep kids occupied

Plan a scavenger hunt

Do a simple one with common household objects. Have this written out beforehand. You can use it over and over with children. We had made one up with compound words on index cards. Each card was placed on the next compound word object. Or make up little riddles. For example, "find this in the baby's cage" (the crib)

Play charades.

Have little slips of paper with movies, people, etc that the children can act out. If you are babysitting during the holiday times you can have them "theme" oriented. Like decorating christmas cookies, opening presents, decorating the tree, etc

Make a bubble wrap run.

Place a roll of bubble wrap down the hallway and tape to the floor. Let the children run and jump on it.

Balloon tennis

Blow up some balloons and offer some rulers or spoons to be used as paddles. Don't do this with younger children.

Make a masking tape race track

If you are watching boys, use some masking tape to create roads all over the living room floor. You can create larger squares for buildings or homes.

Make a marshmallow/spaghetti tower or gumdrop/toothpick tower

Either one of these two items connect together to create towers. If you have older ones this is an easy activity to keep them busy.