



Savor THE LAST DROPS OF Summer

School season's here, but the weather's still ripe for outdoor activities. Gather the kids and try these ideas inspired by the photos *Parents* readers submitted in our first-ever Family Vacation Photo Contest. **BY CHERYL LOCK**

Be one with **nature**

Photo of Chelsea McGowan,
1 year; Mount Prospect, Illinois.
Submitted by Laurie McGowan



Photo of
Cooper Thomas,
10 months;
Monroe,
Louisiana.
Submitted
by Lesli and
Chris Thomas



Taste something **sweet**

Feel the sand in your toes



Photo of Cole
Hardin, 1 year;
Cincinnati, Ohio.
Submitted by
Jennifer and
Neal Hardin

MORE ACTIVITIES TO TRY BEFORE THE RAYS FADE

- Visit the seashore • Ride a bike
- Sleep in a tent • Listen for the ocean in a seashell • Have a picnic
- Pick berries • Ride in a boat • Plant a garden • Lie in a hammock • Fly a kite • Blow dandelions • Catch fireflies • Run through a sprinkler
- Play in the rain • Watch fireworks
- Take in a baseball game • Throw a Frisbee • Chalk up the sidewalk
- Roast marshmallows • Jump off a diving board • Go on a hike • Make a fort • Find a rainbow • Stargaze



Photo of Charlie Levine,
4 years; Nyack, New York.
Submitted by Alanna Levine

Photo of Bailey
Rose Monroe,
9 years;
Knoxville,
Tennessee.
Submitted by
Angela Monroe



Connect with a **creature**



Photo of Angel
Burch, 1½ years;
West Des
Moines, Iowa.
Submitted by
Christie Burch

Make like a **bird**





Swing the day away



Photo of Brenna Burger, 2½ years; Clio, Michigan. Submitted by Brooke Burger

Watch the waves roll in



Take the plunge

Photo of Nicholas Johnson, 4 years; Birmingham, Alabama. Submitted by Mike Johnson

- Have a water-balloon fight
- Look for cloud formations
- Take a nap on the lawn
- Search for sea glass
- Skip rocks
- Play hide-and-seek
- Dig for worms
- Smell the flowers
- Set up a lemonade stand
- Go fishing
- Put on a play
- Cozy up to a fire
- Run barefoot
- Goof off in the park
- Make mud pies
- Tell ghost stories
- Blow bubbles

- Hold your breath under water
- Build a sand castle
- Learn to do a cartwheel
- Pick honeysuckle
- Play kickball
- Do the hula
- Pet a caterpillar
- Go on a scavenger hunt
- Build a box car
- Eat ice-cream sandwiches

Photo of Thomas Boscha, 6 years; Bozeman, Montana. Submitted by Rick Boscha



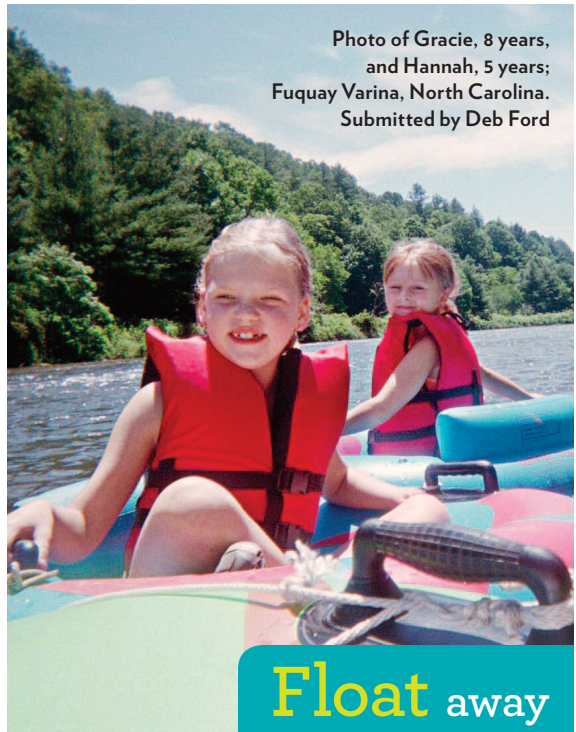
Catch a sunset

Get lost in an adventure



Photo of María José Martínez Lavín Gallo, 2 years, 8 months; Mexico City, Mexico. Submitted by Mariluz Gallo

Photo of Gracie, 8 years, and Hannah, 5 years; Fuquay Varina, North Carolina. Submitted by Deb Ford



Float away

Win a trip to Atlantis, Paradise Island!

ENTER PARENTS' FAMILY VACATION PHOTO CONTEST!

Go to parents.com/vacationphotos to enter our second-annual family vacation photo contest

with the chance to win a 6-day, 5-night stay for a family of four (including airfare and food) plus a deep-sea dolphin interaction; provided by Atlantis, Paradise Island. See page 282 for rules.