



FREE GUIDE!

# 50 Ways

to Boost

# ENGAGEMENT in Holiday Clubs



Practical ideas, creative activities and low-cost strategies to help children feel included, inspired and excited to return.



50 IDEAS INCLUDED!




**TEAM GAMES**  
Build connection and teamwork



**TEEN TIPS**  
Keep older children interested and involved



**RAINY DAY IDEAS**  
Indoor activities that still excite



**CONFIDENCE BUILDERS**  
Help children feel proud and included

Let's make every holiday amazing!

# WHY ENGAGEMENT MATTERS



GREAT EXPERIENCES CREATE LASTING IMPACT!

Keeping children engaged goes far beyond filling time. The most successful holiday clubs create experiences that build **confidence**, spark **creativity** and help children feel **part of something special**.

## ENGAGED CHILDREN DEVELOP:



### CONFIDENCE

They feel proud, capable and brave to try new things.



### CONNECTION

They build friendships and feel a sense of belonging.



### CREATIVITY

They explore ideas, solve problems and imagine more.



### INCLUSION

They feel seen, valued and included in everything.



### WELLBEING

They feel supported, happy and mentally healthy.



### PARTICIPATION

They get involved, take part and want to come back tomorrow!

## WHAT'S INSIDE?

Packed with practical ideas!

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### ENGAGEMENT IDEAS

50 fun and practical ways to engage children of all ages.

### TEEN ENGAGEMENT TIPS

Special strategies and ideas that really connect with teens.

### RAINY DAY RESCUE IDEAS

Indoor activities that keep energy high whatever the weather.

### LOW-COST ACTIVITIES

Big impact ideas that don't break the budget.

### CONFIDENCE-BUILDING STRATEGIES

Simple ways to help children feel proud and capable.

### GROUP ENERGY ACTIVITIES

Games and challenges to boost energy, teamwork and fun!



Happy kids, brighter days, better futures!

SECTION 1

# CREATING THE RIGHT ENVIRONMENT



POSITIVE SPACES HAPPY FACES!



The best experiences start with the right atmosphere. Small changes can make a **BIG** difference to engagement!



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## START WITH ENERGY

Children often arrive nervous, tired or unsure. Use upbeat music, warm smiles and positive energy from the moment they walk through the door.

### TRY THIS:

Play upbeat music, greet every child by name and create a vibrant welcome area.



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## LEARN NAMES QUICKLY

Children engage faster when they feel recognised. Using names builds trust and belonging.

### TRY THIS:

Use name games, name tags and repeat names throughout the day.



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## CREATE TEAM IDENTITY

Children love feeling part of something. Assign team names, colours, mascots and chants to build pride and unity.

### TRY THIS:

Hold a quick team vote and create a cheer or motto together!



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## USE VISUAL TIMETABLES

Children feel more settled when they know what's happening next. Use icons, colours and pictures to make it clear and easy.

### TRY THIS:

Display the day's plan using pictures or symbols in a visible place.



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## CELEBRATE PARTICIPATION, NOT PERFECTION

Confidence grows when children feel safe to try. Celebrate effort, kindness and teamwork.

### TRY THIS:

Praise effort and teamwork with genuine, specific encouragement.



## QUICK WIN!

Create a **welcome zone** with simple things that make a **BIG** impact!



SECTION 2

# ICEBREAKERS & GROUP ENERGY



Great group energy = happy kids, strong connections and amazing experiences. Break the ice, build **confidence** and get **everyone** involved!

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## HUMAN BINGO

Create bingo cards with fun prompts like “has a pet”, “loves pizza” or “plays football”. Children must talk to each other to complete their sheet.

**TIP:**

Great for building conversations and helping children learn each other's names.



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## SPEED FRIENDSHIPS

Set two-minute chats with fun questions to help children discover new things about each other.

**QUESTIONS:**

- What superpower would you choose?
- What's your dream holiday?
- If you invented something, what would it be?

**TIP:**

Keep a timer visible to keep the energy up and the chats moving!



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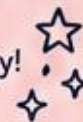


## MYSTERY CHALLENGE BOXES

Place random objects into boxes. Teams must create a game, a performance, a story or a challenge using the objects.

**TIP:**

Use everyday items for endless creativity!



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## BALLOON QUESTIONS

Write questions on balloons. Children pop them and answer the question

**TIP:**

Use different colours for different question themes!



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## GIANT GROUP DRAWING

Use large paper rolls where everyone contributes to one giant artwork. Perfect for mixed ages and big groups!

**TIP:**

Add music and watch creativity flow!





# CREATIVE ENGAGEMENT IDEAS

Creativity sparks imagination, builds confidence and helps children express themselves.

Here are **5 engaging ideas** to try!



CREATE.  
EXPLORE.  
INSPIRE!



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## DESIGN A THEME DAY

Let children help choose and plan a themed day from start to finish.

### EXAMPLES:

- Space Day • Jungle Adventure
- Time Travellers • Mini Olympics

### WHY IT WORKS:

Children feel ownership and get excited about something they helped create.



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## CREATE A CLUB NEWSPAPER

Children take on roles like reporters, cartoonists, photographers and puzzle creators to produce their own newspaper.

### WHY IT WORKS:

It builds teamwork, communication and a sense of achievement.



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## BUILD A CARDBOARD CITY

Provide boxes, tape, paint and recycled materials and watch their city come to life!

### WHY IT WORKS:

It encourages creativity, problem-solving and amazing teamwork.



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## RUN A MINI TALENT SHOW

Give children the chance to show off their talents in a fun, supportive and pressure-free environment.

### WHY IT WORKS:

It builds confidence and creates a strong sense of community.



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## PHOTO CHALLENGE WALKS

Give children themed photography prompts and challenge them to capture creative moments.

### EXAMPLE PROMPTS:

- Something tiny • Something funny
- Something colourful • A letter shape

### WHY IT WORKS:

It encourages observation, creativity and collaboration in a fun, active way.



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CREATIVITY ISN'T ABOUT BEING THE BEST. IT'S ABOUT **EXPRESSING, EXPLORING** AND ENJOYING THE JOURNEY!

### QUICK TIP

Display children's work around your club to show that their ideas matter!



# INCLUSIVE & CONFIDENCE BUILDING

When every child feels **seen**, **heard** and **valued**, they thrive. These ideas promote **inclusion**, build **confidence** and help children **shine**!



EVERY CHILD.  
EVERY VOICE.  
EVERY DAY.



CONFIDENCE GROWS WHEN CHILDREN FEEL SAFE, SUPPORTED AND CELEBRATED.

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## ALL ABOUT ME WALL

Create a space where children share things they love, feel proud of or are good at. Celebrate what makes us all unique!

### TRY THIS:

Use photos, drawings and sticky notes to build a bright and inclusive display.



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## COMPLIMENT CIRCLE

Everyone gives and receives a compliment. It builds kindness, self-esteem and a positive club culture.

### TRY THIS:

Use a soft ball: catch it, give a compliment, pass it on!



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## SAFE SPACE PROMISES

Create club promises together to make sure everyone feels safe, respected and valued.

### TRY THIS:

Display your promises somewhere visible and refer to them each day.



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## MISTAKE MONSTERS

Turn mistakes into learning! Share funny mistakes and what we learned from them.

### TRY THIS:

Create a "Mistake Monster" box and add anonymous mistake notes.



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## CELEBRATE PROGRESS

Praise effort, improvement and perseverance – not just the end result!

### TRY THIS:

Use a "Progress Wall" to celebrate small wins and big efforts.



## REMEMBER:

INCLUSION ISN'T SOMETHING WE DO, IT'S WHO WE ARE.

## CONFIDENCE BOOSTERS:

Encourage every day

Notice the small wins

Build belonging

Celebrate uniqueness

Make it fun!

## SECTION 5

# LOW-COST, HIGH-IMPACT ACTIVITIES

You don't need a big budget to create amazing experiences. It's the **ideas**, **energy** and **effort** that children remember most! 



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## DECORATE TOGETHER

Transform your space with banners, posters and artwork made by the children. It builds pride and ownership!

### TRY THIS:

Make a big welcome banner on day one and add to it throughout the club.



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## OPEN MIC TIME

Give children a chance to perform, tell jokes, sing, show a talent or share something they love.

### TRY THIS:

Create a supportive applause rule – we clap for everyone!



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## LOOSE PARTS PLAY

Provide simple, recycled materials and watch creativity come to life. Children build, imagine and innovate.

### TRY THIS:

Collect boxes, tubes, containers and fabrics. Let children lead what they create.



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## CHALLENGE OF THE DAY

Set a simple daily challenge that encourages teamwork, creativity or problem-solving.

### TRY THIS:

Share the challenge in the morning and celebrate attempts at the end of the day!



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## DANCE & MOVE BREAKS

Short movement breaks boost energy, mood and focus. Perfect for resets throughout the day!

### TRY THIS:

Play 3 songs after lunch and get everyone up, moving and smiling!



SMALL IDEAS.  
BIG IMPACT.  
HAPPY CHILDREN.

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### LOW-COST ESSENTIALS:



Recycled materials



Music & movement



Kindness & encouragement



Creativity & imagination



Teamwork & connection



It's not about what you spend, it's about what you **create** together.



# SECTION 6



# DAILY ROUTINES, STRONG HABITS, HAPPIER KIDS

Simple routines and positive habits help children feel **secure**, **focused** and ready to **learn**. Consistency today creates confident, capable kids for tomorrow!



**ROUTINES BRING CALM, HABITS BUILD FUTURES!**

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## MORNING CHECK-IN

Start the day with a greeting, a mood check and a share to set a positive tone and build connection.

### TRY THIS:

Use a mood chart or emoji cards and ask: "How are you feeling today?"



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## VISUAL SCHEDULES

Help children know what's happening next. It builds independence and reduces anxiety.

### TRY THIS:

Create a simple picture schedule for the day and review it together.



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## CALM CORNERS

Give children a safe space to take a break, reset and self-regulate.

### TRY THIS:

Create a cozy space with soft pillows, books and fidgets for quiet time.



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## KINDNESS MOMENTS

Make kindness a daily habit. Small acts create a culture of care and respect.

### TRY THIS:

End the day by sharing one kind act from yourself or someone else.



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## WRAP-UP RITUAL

End the day with reflection and celebration to leave everyone feeling proud and positive.

### TRY THIS:

Share high-fives, certificates or shout-outs and say one thing you're proud of.



**ROUTINES TODAY. CONFIDENCE TOMORROW. STRONG HABITS LAST A LIFETIME!**

## HABITS THAT HELP KIDS THRIVE:



Feel safe



Stay on track



Build independence



Grow resilience



Believe in themselves

# SECTION 7

# REFLECTION & CELEBRATION

HONOUR THE JOURNEY. CELEBRATE THE IMPACT.

Taking time to **reflect**, **celebrate** and say **thank you** helps children feel proud, appreciated and excited for what's next. Every moment matters!



**CELEBRATE PROGRESS. CHERISH MEMORIES. INSPIRE FUTURES!**

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### MEMORY JAR

Capture special moments throughout the programme and add them to a jar to look back on together.

**TRY THIS:**

Provide paper and pens all week so children can write or draw memories to add to the jar.



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### THANK YOU NOTES

Encourage children to write thank you notes to someone who made a difference during the programme.

**TRY THIS:**

Provide cards and envelopes and invite children to deliver them before the last day.



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### CELEBRATION AWARDS

Recognise effort, kindness, creativity and teamwork with fun awards that everyone can be proud of.

**TRY THIS:**

Create custom awards like "Kindness Champion" or "Creativity Star". Everyone's a winner!



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### CELEBRATION PARTY

End the programme with a fun celebration to honour everyone's hard work and amazing spirit!

**TRY THIS:**

Play games, enjoy treats, dance and celebrate everything you've achieved together.



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### LOOKING AHEAD

Help children set goals and dream about what they'll create, learn and achieve next!

**TRY THIS:**

Create a "Dream Board" or goal sheet to inspire their next adventure.



**REFLECTION HELPS CHILDREN GROW, CELEBRATION HELPS THEM SOAR!**

**REFLECTION REMINDERS:**

- Be proud of your effort
- Celebrate together
- Learn from the journey
- Share kind words
- Enjoy the moment

SECTION 8

# EASY, YET HIGH-IMPACT ACTIVITIES

BIG FUN. LITTLE COST. LASTING IMPACT.

You don't need a big budget to create amazing experiences. It's **creativity**, not **cost**, that makes the biggest difference!



CREATIVE IDEAS CAN TRANSFORM ANY DAY!

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### RECYCLABLE CREATIONS

Use boxes, bottles, paper rolls and jars to build, design and imagine. Creativity + recycling = win-win!

**TRY THIS:**

Set up a "Loose Parts Station" and challenge children to build something amazing.



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### MUSIC & MOVEMENT

YouTube-free fun! Use clapping games, action songs, rhythm challenges and dance-offs.

**TRY THIS:**

Create your own cheer, rap or dance to celebrate the group's energy.



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### STORYTELLING CIRCLES

Share stories, make up endings, or create group tales together. Builds imagination and connection.

**TRY THIS:**

Use a soft object (like a ball or teddy) to pass around and take turns adding to a story.



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### SCAVENGER HUNTS

Turn everyday spaces into adventures with fun, themed hunts. Great for focus and teamwork.

**TRY THIS:**

Make your own list around a theme like "Nature," "Shapes" or "Acts of Kindness."



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### ART WITH WHAT YOU HAVE

Paper, pencils, chalk, natural objects—art boosts wellbeing and self-expression.

**TRY THIS:**

Try "10-Minute Masterpieces" – set a timer and create something wonderful together!



### LOW-COST, HIGH-VALUE IDEAS



Use what you have



Focus on connection



Keep it simple



Get inspired by nature



Reuse, reimagine, repeat

THE BEST ACTIVITIES AREN'T EXPENSIVE—THEY'RE MEANINGFUL!



# SECTION 9

# BEHAVIOUR & POSITIVE GUIDANCE

GUIDE WITH KINDNESS. TEACH WITH RESPECT.

Positive guidance helps children feel **safe**, **understood** and **respected**. Clear boundaries and calm responses help children learn and grow.



POSITIVE GUIDANCE BUILDS CONFIDENCE, RESPECT & STRONGER RELATIONSHIPS.



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## SET CLEAR EXPECTATIONS

Children feel secure when they know the rules, routines and what is expected of them. Keep it simple and positive.

### TRY THIS:

Create 3–5 group agreements together and display them where everyone can see.



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## STAY CALM & MODEL IT

Children learn how to manage feelings by watching us. Calm adults help children stay calm. Take a breath. Reset. Respond.

### TRY THIS:

Use a calm voice, gentle body language and simple words to guide behaviour.



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## USE POSITIVE LANGUAGE

Focus on what children CAN do instead of what they can't. Positive words build confidence and encourage cooperation.

### TRY THIS:

Swap negatives for positives: "Walk" not "Don't run". "Use kind hands" not "Don't hit".



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## GIVE CHOICES

Choices help children feel in control and reduce power struggles. It encourages responsibility and decision making.

### TRY THIS:

Offer two good options: "Would you like to draw first or read first?" "Will you sit here or here?"



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## RECOGNISE POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

Catch children being good! Praise effort, kindness and improvement to build a positive culture.

### TRY THIS:

Use specific praise: "I love how you helped your friend." "You showed great patience."



POSITIVE GUIDANCE DOESN'T JUST MANAGE BEHAVIOUR. IT TEACHES LIFE SKILLS.

## POSITIVE GUIDANCE HELPS CHILDREN DEVELOP:



Emotional regulation



Self-esteem & confidence



Respect for others



Problem solving skills



Empathy & kindness



Resilience & perseverance

# SECTION 10



# PLAY, WELLBEING & EMOTIONAL RESILIENCE



HAPPY, HEALTHY KIDS ARE READY FOR LIFE.

Play is powerful. It helps children manage emotions, build resilience, reduce stress and develop the confidence to face life's challenges.

Let's make wellbeing a daily priority.



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## ACTIVE PLAY EVERY DAY

Physical activity boosts mood, improves focus and supports better sleep. Get kids moving every single day.

### TRY THIS:

Plan 20–30 minutes of active play each day – outdoor games, dance, obstacle courses or team challenges.



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## CALM MINDS, STRONG HEARTS

Help children learn simple techniques to manage big emotions and find calm in challenging moments.

### TRY THIS:

Try a 5-minute breathing exercise, guided imagery or mindfulness moment as a group.



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## TALK ABOUT FEELINGS

Give children the words to express how they feel. It builds emotional awareness, trust and stronger relationships.

### TRY THIS:

Use an emotions chart or "feelings check-in" circle at the start of the day.



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## BUILD RESILIENCE THROUGH CHALLENGES

Resilient kids don't avoid challenges – they learn how to bounce back. Encourage effort, persistence and a growth mindset.

### TRY THIS:

Celebrate effort, not just outcomes. Share stories of times you or the group overcame challenges.



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## CREATE A CULTURE OF CARE

A caring environment helps everyone feel safe, valued and included. Kindness is contagious!

### TRY THIS:

Start a "Kindness Jar" or challenge the group to complete one kind act each day.



WELLBEING ISN'T A LUXURY – IT'S A FOUNDATION FOR EVERYTHING.

### WHEN CHILDREN FEEL GOOD, THEY:



Learn better



Build stronger relationships



Handle challenges with confidence



Develop positive habits



Reach their potential

INVEST IN WELLBEING TODAY, EMPOWER TOMORROW.



# BONUS

# 5 MORE WAYS TO ENGAGE, CONNECT & INSPIRE!

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EXTRA IDEAS TO TAKE YOUR HOLIDAY CLUBS TO THE NEXT LEVEL!

5 BONUS IDEAS FOR EVEN MORE MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT!



These bonus ideas are simple to implement and make a big difference in children's confidence, happiness and sense of belonging.



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### LISTENING CIRCLES

Take turns speaking while the group listens. No interrupting, just listening. It shows respect and builds trust.

#### TRY THIS:

Use a talking object (e.g. soft ball or toy). Only the person holding it can speak.



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### EXPRESS YOURSELF

Encourage children to share their ideas, feelings and opinions in a safe, supportive environment.

#### TRY THIS:

Use sentence starters like "I feel..." or "I think..." to help children express themselves.



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### RESPECT DIFFERENCES

Celebrate different opinions and backgrounds. It helps children learn empathy and appreciate others.

#### TRY THIS:

Read a story or watch a video about kindness and diversity. Discuss what everyone can learn.



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### ASK GOOD QUESTIONS

Teach children to ask questions and show curiosity about others. It deepens understanding and builds friendships.

#### TRY THIS:

Create a "Question Jar" with fun prompts to get to know each other better.



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### SPEAK WITH KINDNESS

Kind words create a positive atmosphere. Remind children that words have power – use them to lift others up.

#### TRY THIS:

Do a "Kind Words" Challenge – how many kind things can we say in one day?



WHEN CHILDREN COMMUNICATE WELL, THEY CONNECT BETTER AND GROW TOGETHER.

### STRONG COMMUNICATION HELPS CHILDREN:



Build confidence



Develop empathy



Solve problems peacefully



Create positive relationships



Thrive in all areas of life

A LISTENER TODAY, A LEADER TOMORROW.

Listen. Speak. Respect. Connect. Grow.



# FINAL THOUGHTS



## GREAT ENGAGEMENT

doesn't require massive budgets. It comes from creating spaces where children feel **valued**, **inspired** and **involved**.



## THE MOST MEMORABLE

holiday clubs combine **creativity**, **connection**, **movement**, **encouragement** and **fun**.



## SMALL CHANGES

can create a huge impact.



## WE HOPE THIS GUIDE

gives you fresh ideas, renewed energy and practical inspiration for your next programme.



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**HAPPY, CONFIDENT**  
**CHILDREN TODAY,**  
**BRIGHTER COMMUNITIES**  
**TOMORROW.**



## ABOUT THE WONDER COMPANY

The Wonder Company creates engaging activity resources, educational content, wellbeing tools and interactive experiences for:



Our mission is to help children become **active**, **healthy**, **happy** and **confident** through meaningful engagement.



HAF PROGRAMMES



COUNCILS



SCHOOLS



HOLIDAY CLUBS



COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS



FAMILIES

## EXPLORE OUR RESOURCES



LOOKING FOR READY-MADE RESOURCES?

EXPLORE:



ACTIVITY PACKS



INTERACTIVE MAGAZINES



NUTRITION RESOURCES



WELLBEING ACTIVITIES



TEEN ENGAGEMENT CONTENT



BESPOKE PROGRAMMES

VISIT:

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**THANK YOU**  
FOR ALL THE AMAZING WORK  
YOU DO FOR CHILDREN!

TOGETHER, WE CAN CREATE  
WONDERFUL EXPERIENCES THAT LAST A LIFETIME.