

SUMMER BOREDOM BUSTERS

Summer days are here again! If you are looking for activities to keep your children entertained this summer, here's a list of ideas that will help keep your little ones busy all season long:

- Ride bikes around the neighborhood, at the park or on a bike trail
- Roller blade or roller skate
- Play basketball or baseball
- Get out the board games
- Start a scrapbook and/or organize the family photo album
- Create a family blog and keep it updated with summer adventures
- Run through the sprinklers
- Jump rope
- Create a book club for your little ones
- Make homemade play dough – visit www.marthastewart.com/article/making-play-dough-with-kids for a recipe
- Write a handwritten letter to a relative or friend
- Clean the house
- Organize bedrooms—clean under the beds, in the closets and organize drawers
- Have a movie day at home
- Write a story or poem
- Play card games
- Draw on the front walkway or driveway with sidewalk chalk
- Play catch or Frisbee
- Build a fort in the backyard
- Do brain teasers such as crossword puzzles, word searches, etc.
- Get in the kitchen and do a little cooking!
- Surprise a neighbor with a good deed
- Have a tea party
- Plant a garden
- Make homemade gift cards
- Run relay races or have a mock swim meet
- Wash the family car
- Make a collage using pictures cut from old magazines
- Plan a treasure hunt
- Have a spelling bee
- Pick flowers from your garden and create a lovely bouquet

EMERGENCY PLANNING FOR YOUR HOME STAYING SAFE IN A DISASTER

Getting yourself prepared for an emergency is something most people figure they'll get around to sooner or later. But why wait?

You want your home, and those in it, to be protected from day one. In honor of June being National Home Safety Month, here are a few items to take care of at home:

- Smoke out fire hazards. First things first – check the batteries in all the smoke detectors in the home. Change the batteries and replace any detectors that aren't working properly. THE Home Safety Council recommends placing smoke detectors on every floor of the home, including the basement and near sleeping areas. Test them monthly and change the batteries twice a year – the changing of the clocks is a good reminder. Also, keep a fire extinguisher, one that works on any type of fire, handy in the kitchen, which is the most common site for home fires. If you have more than one level of your home, or live above the main level of a condominium complex, consider purchasing a fire escape ladder. They are available at most home improvement stores and come in a variety of lengths.
- Chemical matters. Carbon monoxide (CO) is a deadly gas that we can't see or smell, so CO detectors are best positioned near bedrooms and the furnace to warn when the gas collects in high levels. A bill signed into law in May 2010 requires that all homes in California must have CO detectors installed by July 2011. If you have children in your home, find a secure place for medicines and household cleaners, and install safety locks on cabinets and drawers to keep dangerous substances out of reach.

- Road map. Create safety plans for your home and make sure every member of the family is on board. Outline escape routes from bedrooms, be sure everyone knows how to unlock doors and windows, and designate a meeting area outside of the home in case of a fire, earthquake, or other disaster. Also, familiarize yourself with your neighborhood and drive the routes to the nearest hospital, fire and police stations.
- By the numbers. Make note of how to contact the local police and fire departments, as well as poison control. Keep the numbers by the home telephone and program them into the mobile phones of each member of the household. Let everyone know your name. One of the best security systems can be found right next door. Neighbors look out for each other, and each other's homes, and can provide much-needed assistance in an emergency. If you haven't already done so, introduce yourself and your family to everyone on the block and consider swapping phone numbers. When you're in need of help, they could be at your door faster than emergency workers.

The home Safety Council, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to preventing home related injuries, offers additional safety tips and potentially dangerous items to look out for in your home. You can visit them online at www.homesafetycouncil.org

Whether you're just moving into your home or you've lived there for years, the safety of you and your family is most important. After all, the sooner you prepare yourself and your home for a disaster, the sooner you can living your home feeling safe and sound

Current Sale Pending By **Yvonne Yang**

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Please call Yvonne at 408 674 4418 for private showing and pricing

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Sale Pending

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Sale Pending



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I hope you found these tips useful.

If you are starting to think about making a real estate move in the New Year or are curious to learn what opportunities there are for you in today's market, please don't hesitate to contact me. I'd be happy to sit down with you to discuss your options.