

How To Make Your Staycation Even Better

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As a single parent, you want to be able to give your kids a fun vacation from time to time. And you've been on enough family vacations to know that some can be great, while others were probably more stressful and expensive than fun. Just finding a hotel or staying with family can make a trip more annoying than restful. But that's just how it goes with vacations, right?

Not always. In fact, many single-parent families are turning to staycations. It's a great way to bond as a family, save money, and have a great time right at home. But what is a staycation exactly?

What Is A Staycation?

Staycations are when you avoid travel and hotels to play tourist in

your hometown. Whether you live in a big city or a rural area, it's easy to forget all the wonderful things you have around you. There are no flights to endure, no expensive hotel rooms, and no getting lost in an unfamiliar city. Instead, there's more time to focus on fun and relaxation. All of which leads to more quality time with your kids.

Lifehack has a great page explaining five reasons why [staycations are great](#):

- It can refresh your mind just like a vacation.
- You can discover many hidden gems in your hometown and surrounding area.
- Time lost to traveling is minimized.
- You can take a staycation on just about any weekend.
- It's much less expensive than a traditional vacation.

A staycation also tends to be [more relaxing](#) than heading far away. You won't have to worry about packing, forgetting medicines, or worrying about a connecting flight. Instead, you get more time for fun activities that can help your family bond with each other.

Fun Activities That Won't Break Your Bank

Once you've decided to skip the stressful travel and stay home, this begs the question of what can you do? That always depends on everyone involved — no sense in going to a baseball game if no one likes the sport — but Sheknows.com has a great list of [budget-friendly ideas](#):

- Visit a site like Groupon. Not only can you save a lot of money this way, you can get ideas of what to do in your area.
- Go camping in a local park or campground and explore nature.
- Search online for any festivals in your neighborhood or nearby town.
- Set up a backyard party with barbecue and even a movie under the stars.

In general, you want to look at your hometown area with the [eye of a tourist](#). That means looking for any fun you can have, even if it's somewhere you wouldn't usually look. Chances are, you drive past a park, museum, or shopping district so often that you barely notice it anymore.

By thinking like a tourist, you can see all three as great places to visit as a family.

Keeping Your Family Safe & Healthy

No matter what you do on your staycation, you still need to be careful. The last thing you want is to remember this time as when your kids hurt themselves badly. That's why Redfin has an excellent page describing [staycation dangers](#). Although this is for summer, it also applies throughout the year.

- When driving around, always check that no one's hair or hands are outside the windows before you shut them.
- Popped or uninflated balloons are choking hazards for young people.
- If you go camping, don't set up a tent under a tree in case a limb falls off.
- Make sure any grills (camping or backyard) are clean and there are no loose parts before using them.
- Even if some water is very shallow, always keep an eye on kids playing in it.

Have A Great Family Staycation

It's not like traditional vacations need to be avoided. It's just that a family staycation has so many advantages, particularly for single parents. It costs less, can be more relaxing, and it's easier to schedule. And by keeping an eye on possible dangers, you can make sure this staycation is one of your best family experiences ever.

Image Source: [Pixabay](#)