

Grandparenting Summer Play with Our Tween Twins



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Summer is a wonderful time to spend extended quality time with our tween twin granddaughters. In previous years, our days were filled with planned outings, free-play games, and art projects. Now that the girls are shifting their focus toward friends, we are adapting by inviting their peers along for the ride. Thankfully, our car is large enough to play “chauffeur” for the whole crew!

Summer Activities and Outings

Below is a summary of our plans for a summer full of growth and adventure:

Volleyball & College Life: The girls love volleyball, so we’ve enrolled them in a skill-building camp

hosted at a local college. Beyond the sport, they'll learn about campus life from student-athletes who lead the training. Tours of the bookstore, performing arts buildings, and athletic fields offer them an early, inspiring glimpse into their potential futures.

Individual Mini-Vacations: For the first time, the twins have agreed to take separate trips with us. One will visit a bustling city, featuring a stop at a Jellycat Diner; she's already doing extra chores to save up for a collectible. The other twin has opted for a beachfront city to enjoy the surf and local attractions.

Family Thrills: We are heading to the local beach boardwalk so the twins can enjoy unlimited amusement rides with their older brother.

Daily Playdates: We'll keep the momentum going by taking the tweens and their friends to various parks, museums, and nature walks.

Games & Art: Every summer, the girls learn new games and spend hours on art projects, such as handmade greeting cards and seasonal decorations.

Academic Play: We provide opportunities for reading, journaling, and math. Grandpa even challenges them with upcoming grade-level concepts! They especially love "playing teacher" by using these skills with their younger relatives.

Future Sitters: They adore babysitting their younger cousins under our guidance. On their next birthday, they plan to become officially certified through the American Red Cross.

Digital Connection: When staying with us for several days, we ensure they have dedicated time to visit

friends online and share their adventures with their parents.

Tips for Grandparenting Tweens

Caring for tweens requires a blend of high energy and thoughtful strategy. Here are a few tips we've picked up:

Stay Flexible: Even with a plan, tweens may get tired, feel under the weather, or simply need a "day off." We only prepurchase essentials like camps and trips to keep the rest of the summer stress-free.

Balance is Key: Mix structured activities with plenty of downtime so the kids stay relaxed and excited rather than burnt out.

Sneak in Learning: Integrate literacy and math into fun tasks. Our granddaughters love recalculating recipe ingredients for dinner or tracking mileage and reading directions for road trips. Games like *Family Feud* are great for reading and score-keeping!

Share Your Roots: Tweens are often fascinated by family history. Look through old photo albums together or visit living history museums to compare modern life with the cooking utensils, appliances, and tools of the past.

Explore Science Through the Decades: Science and tech museums offer hands-on STEM education through interactive exhibits and maker labs, showing just how far we've come.

Know Your Limits: Grandparenting tweens is active work! If a roller coaster sounds too intense, bring a teen along to handle the "wild" rides while you cheer

from the sidelines.

Celebrate Individuality: When planning, consider each twin's unique interests. Dividing your time can provide that much-needed undivided attention they still crave.

Value the Journey

A summer spent with tween twins is a rewarding journey of balancing their growing independence with meaningful family traditions. By embracing their social circles and honoring their individual interests, you create an environment where they feel both respected and supported. Integrating subtle learning opportunities and family history ensures the season is as enriching as it is entertaining. Ultimately, the flexibility to pivot between high-energy excursions and quiet downtime is the secret to a stress-free experience. These shared adventures build a lasting bridge of connection that will carry your relationship forward into their teenage years.