

# BOREDOM BUSTERS



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10 ways to keep your kid entertained  
on a car journey

## 10 Boredom Busters

Car journeys whether long or short can seem like driving to the other side of the world if your kids are bored and irritable - entertainment is an absolute must to keep your little monster out of mischief!

Both safety and concentrating on the road is obviously every parents top priority when driving, however that doesn't mean you can't have a little fun with your kids on the way...

### 1 GOODIE BAG

If you have a long trip you can plan in advance - go to a dollar store and create a bag of 'goodies' - a new toy, a colouring book, a mini book, something they've never seen before (and can swap with each other if you have more than one child).

### 2 MAP READING

For an interactive ride, print out the map of the route you are taking from a site like Google Maps or MapQuest. Encourage your kids to mark off the various cities you pass and fill in the route with colored pencils or crayons as you continue your drive, or get them to draw their own map, adding scenery on the way.

### 3 CAR COLOURS

Each person picks a colour and then counts the number of cars they see in that colour - first to 10 wins (or first to 20 or 30, you decide!) Black or silver not allowed!

### 4 TOY BRIBES

An incentive for good behaviour - pick up an inexpensive toy on the highway but say you won't show them until you reach your destination and ask them to guess what it is.

### 5 SING-A-LONG'S

Buy an age appropriate CD in the kids' music section of your local store that you use only in the car so they can sing away ....and you can join in too!

### 6 ACTIVITY BOOKS/STICKER BOOKS/COLOURING BOOKS

Brilliant fun for car journeys, buy some activity pads with games, join the dots, puzzles and sticker books with their favourite characters.

### 7 ALPHABET GAME

A car game taking a long time is ideal for longer journeys. First, choose a theme - 'At the park we saw a...' or 'At daycare I played with a toy called...' Children can pick a word that begins with any alphabet letter which is repeated by the next person, who adds their own object beginning with the same letter or next letter.

## 8

## BOOKS

If your kid loves to read surprise them with a new book that will absorb their attention, or pack a few of their favourites they've not read in a while.

## 9

## GUESS THE ANIMAL (aka 20 Questions)

Most kids love animals although you could use any category — cartoon characters, famous people, dinosaurs. One person chooses an animal and everyone takes turn asking questions until someone guesses it correctly (don't limit the questions to yes/no).

## 10

## LITTLE PHOTOGRAPHERS

Buy a disposable camera (or let them use a digital one if you trust them with it) and let them take pictures of what you are driving by, clicking away will keep them busy.

IF ALL ELSE FAILS...

Try as you might you may just have to pull out the 'who can stay the quietest the longest' game! :-)

**FOR YOUNGER ONES.....**

How about;

- a soft touch peekaboo/flap book where they can explore the textures
- a new soft toy they can cuddle up to in their car seat
- a cd of lullabies/favourite nursery rhymes
- a play mobile that attaches to their car seat



Have a safe and  
happy journey!