

ISSUE NO. 1 | SUMMER 2018

The Craft Chronicles

Seasonal Recipes, Crafts, DIY Home Projects, Expert Tips

CRAFT BOX
✂️ 🎉 🍴 GIRLS

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

LYNN LILLY



Hot summer days, sizzling barbecues, melting popsicles, and cannonball splashes are the best of what summer has to offer. Summer is the season to make lasting memories with family and friends, but this summer is the best to date, as my family gets to experience the magic of the season with my daughter. From first dips in the pool to toes in the sand, we are loving every second. To our family, the magic of summer sparks from parties, delicious recipes, vibrant fashion, and home decor.

My team and I have worked hard to weave our traditions, home style, and favorite recipes into our very first CBG Craft Chronicles. This is a seasonal magazine filled with our stand-out recipes, home decorating hacks, and crafts for the whole family! Our inaugural issue is packed with interactive crafts for kids that will keep them busy all summer long, adult DIY home projects that are guaranteed to brighten space, and simple recipes for the perfect outdoor party! I hope you enjoy our passion project! Happy summer!

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SIMPLE UNICORN POPSICLES

INGREDIENTS & MATERIALS

1 cup fresh or frozen blueberries
2 cups vanilla coconut milk
2 tbsp maple syrup
12 oz white chocolate
1 tbsp coconut oil
Various pastel food colors
Sprinkles
Popsicle mold
Popsicle sticks
Toothpicks

BAKERFELUIA.CO

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**ROSALYNN
DANIELS**
CONTRIBUTOR

"I remember indulging in homemade popsicles during my summer breaks as a child. It's pretty nostalgic for me, so I came up with three kid-friendly Unicorn Popsicle recipes that any kid would enjoy."

EASY RECIPES

STEP 1: BLEND

1. Blend blueberries, coconut milk and maple syrup. Blend until blueberries are extremely fine.
2. Fill mold with blueberry mixture and add popsicle sticks. Freeze 4-5 hours.

STEP 2: COVER

1. Thirty minutes before you take popsicles out of the freezer, start working on your chocolate. Use a double burner to melt white chocolate and coconut oil. Let melted chocolate cool to room temperature.
2. Separate three tablespoons of chocolate in different containers to color individually. Use the remaining white chocolate to dip the popsicles.

STEP 3: DECORATE

Drizzle other colors of white chocolate onto popsicles. Top with sprinkles and return popsicles back to freezer for 30 minutes.



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CHICKEN AVOCADO SPRING ROLLS

INGREDIENTS

Dried rice paper
Rotisserie chicken, shredded
Avocado, thinly sliced
Red cabbage, thinly sliced
Carrots, shredded
Cilantro
Plum
3 tbsp hoisin sauce



EASY RECIPES

STEP 1: BLEND

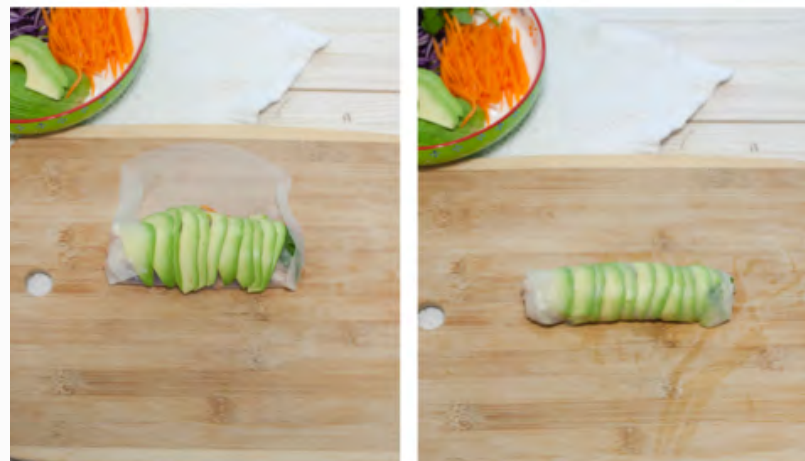
1. Peel the plum and remove the pit. Blend the plum with 3 tbsp hoison sauce and 3 tsp water. Blend until the sauce is smooth. Set aside.
2. Dip the dried rice paper in warm water and lay flat on a cutting board. Add red cabbage in the middle of the rice paper. Layer on carrots, chicken and cilantro.

STEP 2: ROLL

1. The rice paper will soften. Wrap the spring roll by folding the bottom up. Then lay on the sliced avocado. Fold in the sides for the rice paper. Roll ends.

STEP 3: DIP

Repeat steps 1-3. Slice the rolls in half at an angle. When you're ready to eat, dip the rolls in the plum hoison sauce. Add Sriracha sauce if you like a little kick to your spring roll.



3-INGREDIENT PEACH COBBLER

INGREDIENTS

1 box of yellow cake mix
3 15.25 oz cans of peaches in
syrup
Half stick of butter



CHAN VU

DIRECTOR OF CONTENT

"When summer rolls around and peaches are finally in season, they are my favorite fresh fruit to bake with. Here in Georgia, we have some of the best peaches and I wanted to incorporate a taste of home in this recipe."

EASY RECIPES

STEP 1: MIX

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees.
2. In a seasoned cast iron pan, fill with 2 cans of peaches in syrup. Spread the peaches and syrup evenly in the pan. You can use a casserole dish if you like.
3. Add yellow cake mix over the peaches.
4. Cut butter in slices and tuck it in the yellow cake mix.

STEP 2: BAKE

1. Pour the final can of peaches and syrup over the cake mix. No need for stirring.
2. Bake in the oven for 1 hour.

STEP 3: TOP

Serve with vanilla ice cream. Enjoy!



CHORIZO CHEESE BISCUIT BITES

INGREDIENTS

1 lbs chorizo, casings removed
3 cups all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons chili powder
2 teaspoon garlic powder
1 and 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon ground red pepper
1 and 1/2 cups shredded sharp
cheddar cheese
1/2 cup chopped green onions
2 large eggs
1/2 cup butter, melted and cooled



EASY RECIPES

STEP 1: MIX

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
2. In a large bowl, combine flour, chili powder, garlic powder, baking powder and salt. Add cheese, chorizo, and green onions.

STEP 2: ROLL

1. In a small bowl, whisk together eggs and melted butter. Add egg mixture to flour mixture until ingredients are moistened.
2. Shape mixture into 1-inch balls, and place 1 inch apart on prepared baking sheet. Bake for 15 minutes or until lightly brown.

STEP 3: DIP

Serve warm with southwest dipping sauce.



PRETTY IN PINK GRAPEFRUIT COCKTAIL

INGREDIENTS

- 1/4 cup grapefruit juice
- 1/2 cup sparkling water
- 1 oz tequila and adjust to your taste; vodka can be used instead
- 2-3 tablespoons of mint simple syrup; water, sugar, fresh mint
- Fresh lime; about 1/2 lime, but you can add more if desired
- Ice



**MARIA
PROVENZANO**

CONTRIBUTOR

"When it comes to cocktails, it is all about balance. I prefer a drink that has brightness and flavor rather than a drink that is extremely sweet. I have created what I like to call "Pretty in Pink Grapefruit" cocktail, because it looks so fancy you will feel pretty sipping on it.

EASY RECIPES

STEP 1: COMBINE

1. Make the simple syrup by combining the sugar and water in a sauce pan over medium heat.
2. Stir until the sugar dissolves and it comes to a simmer.
3. Stir in the fresh mint leaves.
4. Simmer on low for about 8-10 minutes; string occasionally.
5. Allow to cool and remove the mint.
6. Store this in a sealed container and refrigerate.

STEP 2: STIR

1. In a tall glass, stir together the grapefruit juice, tequila and simple syrup.
2. Add in the sparkling water and ice.

STEP 3: GARNISH

1. Squeeze in the juice of half a lime.
2. Adjust to your taste by adding more of anything you like.
3. Garnish with mint and grapefruit slices.



HEALTHY TURKEY CHILI

INGREDIENTS

- 1 lb lean turkey
- 1 zucchini squash, diced
- 1 yellow onion, diced
- 4 sweet baby bell peppers, diced
- 2 celery stalks, diced
- 1 pack of low sodium chili seasoning
- 1 cup of low sodium vegetable broth
- 1 large can of Rotel's mild diced tomatoes and green chilies



EASY RECIPES

STEP 1: COMBINE

Combine all ingredients into a slow cooker and let it set on high for 8 hours. Stir well and serve. Add salt and pepper to taste (but not too much salt).

STEP 2: TOP

Add green onions and non-fat sour cream if you like it creamy. Enjoy!



DIY OUTDOOR STORAGE OTTOMAN

MATERIALS

5 gallon bucket and lid
150 feet of 3/8 inch (98-108lb)
twisted sisal rope
Industrial outdoor glue
Scissors
Unicorn SPiT Zea Teal Gel Stain
and brush



HOME DIY

STEP 1: WRAP

1. Remove the lid from the bucket and set aside.
2. Starting at the bottom of the bucket and glue the end of the rope along the bottom edge.
3. Start wrapping the rope around and up the bucket, securing with glue as you go.

STEP 2: LID

1. Make sure you stop wrapping when you get to the top where the lid will fit. Secure the end of the rope with glue.
2. Glue and wrap the rope around the lid, spiraling inward until the entire lid is covered.

STEP 3: PAINT

Apply Unicorn SPiT Gel Stain with a brush to the bottom portion of the bucket to add a pop of color. Enjoy the amazing lavender scent of Unicorn SPiT while you paint!



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NO SEW OUTDOOR PILLOWS

MATERIALS

Outdoor tablecloth

Fabric glue

Poly-fil

Scissors

Yard stick



LYNN LILLY

FOUNDER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER

"I love bright fun patterned outdoor pillows, but they are so expensive! One pillow can range from \$30-50! Instead of blowing my whole budget on one pillow, I purchased an outdoor tablecloth and a bag of poly-fil and was able to make three 16x16 inch pillows!"

HOME DIY

STEP 1: MEASURE

1. Lay the tablecloth (if the material allows, iron or steam out wrinkles) on a flat surface.
2. Measure and cut one piece of fabric to 36 inches x 18 inches. Cut it in half.
3. Place both pieces facing each other.

STEP 2: GLUE

1. Glue along all 4 sides leaving a 6 inch opening on one side.
2. Allow glue to dry.
3. Flip the pillow inside out.

STEP 3: STUFF

1. Fill with poly-fill.
2. Fold the edges of the opening inward to match the seams and glue. Let dry.



DIY MARBLED COFFEE TABLE TRAY

MATERIALS

- 1 double-paned picture frame
- 1 white piece of paper
- Marabu Easy Marble in Aqua Green and White
- 1 wooden dowel to stir
- 1 pair of gloves
- Water
- Large, clean empty bin
- Photo or print of your choice
- Industrial glue
- 2 cabinet handles



HOME DIY

STEP 1: PREP

1. Add water to your bin, fill up enough to completely submerge glass
2. Pick two Easy Marble colors
3. Wearing gloves, shake each bottle. Add one color at a time onto the surface of the water, be generous.

STEP 2: MARBLE

1. Once the surface is completely covered with Easy Marble, lightly stir the colors using your skewer.
2. Once you're done stirring, quickly and carefully grab one glass pane holding it by its top corners and dip entire pane into the water from bottom to top.
3. While the glass is in the water, use a paper towel to remove excess ink from the surface to avoid double dip.

STEP 3: ASSEMBLE

1. Place the marbled glass on top and then attach frame backing.
2. Next flip over and glue cabinet handles to opposite ends of the frame.



DIY DOORMAT PLANTER

MATERIALS

Wooden box

Rubber doormat

Industrial craft glue

Scissors

White spray paint



HOME DIY

STEP 1: RUBBER MAT

1. Cut a piece of the rubber mat to fit the front of the box.
2. Spray paint with white to match box. Repeat coats until the mat is completely white.
3. Once the box is painted and dry, glue the mat to the box.

STEP 2: FLOWER BOX

1. If the box is not meant for the outdoors, treat with waterproof spray.
2. Drill a few holes for water drainage.
3. Spray paint the wooden box white.

STEP 3: PLANT

1. Plant your favorite plants and start decorating your porch!



DIY TASSEL JEWELRY

MATERIALS

- 1 set of embroidery floss
- 2 21mm short fishhook earwires (nickle free)
- 2 9mm round jump ring (nickle free)



SIMPLE CRAFTS

STEP 1: CUT

Cut 8 inches off of the embroidery floss. Set aside. Cut the ends of the rest of the set of embroidery floss.

STEP 2: LOOP

1. Loop cluster of floss through 9mm ring.
2. Use the 8 inch floss to loop 3 times around the top of the tassel. Tie a tight knot and trim off the excess floss.

STEP 3: ATTACH

1. Gently open the jump ring and slide the fish hoop earwire through. Press the jump ring tight and rotate the jump ring opening to hide within the tassel.
2. Repeat steps 1-4 for the second piece of the earring. Line up the earring tassels and trim off excess floss to even out the ends.



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DIY WATERMELON PIÑATA

MATERIALS

Paper plate
String
Candy
Tissue paper
Cardstock
Stapler
Glue



KIDS CRAFTS

STEP 1: BUILD

1. Fold plate around string. Staple edges together, leaving room to stuff candy.
2. Cut tissue paper layers. Glue to both sides of the plate.

STEP 2: DECORATE

Add card stock seeds on top of the tissue paper.

STEP 3: PLACE

Place watermelon piñata in a hanging position from a tree. Whack and get your candy!



CACTUS RING TOSS

MATERIALS

Painted terracotta pots

Quick grip

Embellishments

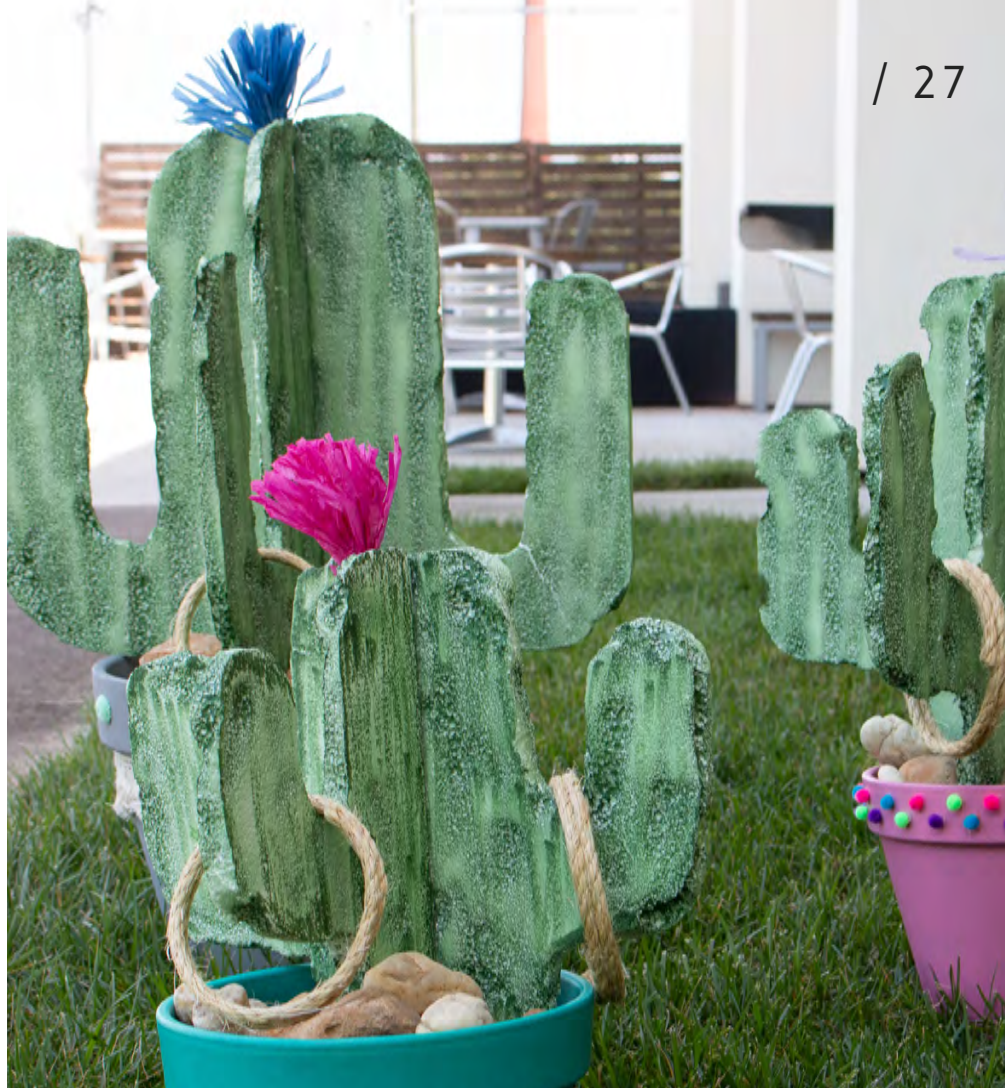
Outdoor styrofoam

Spray paint

Foam-tac

Tissue paper

Rope



MARIA GARCIA

CRAFTER

"I love spending my summers outdoors with my friends and family, so what better way to enjoy the sunshine than with a fun and simple game of cactus ring toss! This craft is easy to create and can double as outdoor decor!"

KIDS CRAFTS

STEP 1: DECORATE

Paint and embellish three or more terracotta pots. Use quick grip to attach embellishments.

STEP 2: CARVE

1. Trace and cut cactus arm shapes out of the outdoor styrofoam. Cut three to complete one cactus.
2. Repeat this step with the remaining cacti, varying the size of both.

STEP 3: TEXTURIZE

1. Spray paint each cactus and let dry.
2. Use Foam-Tac to attach cactus arms and let dry.
3. Add a tissue paper flower to each cactus for a pop of color.

STEP 4: RINGS

1. Use Quick Grip to glue rope into rings. Make several rings so everyone can play!



SUMMER MASON JARS

MATERIALS

- Mason jars
- Paint
- Marker
- Googly eyes
- Felt
- Tissue paper
- Cardstock
- Popsicle sticks



JESSICA
BERCIAN-RUIZ
CRAFTER

"Mason jars are the ultimate summer must-have. From party decor to sweet tea glasses, you can use them for practically any craft or recipe! These jars would be the perfect accessory for an outdoor party or an indoor summer flare!"

KIDS CRAFTS

STEP 1: PAINT

1. Paint mason jars until color is solid and let dry.

STEP 2: CUT

1. Cut out felt for flowers in scallion shape and roll up. Cut felt into cactus arms, koala nose and ears.
2. Cut paper shapes for koala ears and flamingo head.

STEP 3: DECORATE

1. Attach googly eyes to each mason jar.
2. Use permanent marker to add details to the mason jars.



10 MUST-HAVE SUMMER TECH GADGETS

BY SANDRA RODRIGUEZ | charmedcrownblog.com



Are you in full swing of all things summer yet? What better way to enjoy the season than with tech items that make summer just as fun and relaxing for adults as it is for kids! To be honest, grown-up gadgets have evolved a lot and they just keep getting better and better, especially in the last few years. Check out ten of the coolest tech items I could find for this summer:

1. The AMMSUN Beach Tent with sandbag anchors is not only easy to put up on a hot summer day but it comes in different colors and is light to carry wherever you go.

2. The AirPuff Inflatable Lounge Chair Outdoor for the beach or any outdoor travel. It's comfortable and the best part, it's portable. Easy to carry and inflate when you need to lounge and the best time to lounge is when you're reading your digital magazine subscription on your Kindle, which brings me to the next best tech item.

3. If you own a Kindle, Amazon makes it super easy to take your favorite magazine subscription with you without the fuss of carrying a stack of them to the beach. These digital Kindle edition subscriptions are affordable and easy to download for a good read, all while lounging on your portable, inflatable chair.

4. If you're a wine lover like me, then this is probably the best thing you've heard of yet. An on-the-go wine chiller. Yes, please! It's such a great tech item to have when you're nowhere near a refrigerator and we all know a cooler at the beach is not going to maintain your wine as chilled as you'd like. This is one of my top must have items this summer.

5. We all know that summer means friends and listening to music or watching videos together. This AmazonBasics 5-way multi headphone splitter makes it easy enough to do just that. Sharing is caring and making the best memories with friends while sharing is key!



6. Fits in your pocket. This Ancord Wireless Bluetooth speaker is perfect when you're packing to head out on your next venture because you don't have to worry about packing too much with this mini speaker. It's supposed to be loud just like a regular speaker so don't go judging it by its size.

7. This Fujifilm Instax Share smartphone printer is a must have this Summer for all those memories you'll be creating. We all know how easy it can be to forget about all the pictures we take and put off to print but with this smartphone printer right in front of us it's easy enough to print your photos the very moment you get the opportunity to do so.

8. Movies outdoors are what summer's were made for. It's not summer without having at least one outdoor movie party! This Epson PowerLite Home Cinema 500 is compatible with a big screen, HDMI, and built-in sound. I honestly need one of these asap. We usually borrow one, but having one of our own is not out of our reach anymore.

9. Now campers, this is a must-have. I'm no camping expert but I must say, this BioLite Campstove 2 Wood Burning and USB charging even impressed me. I'm actually looking forward to camping now just to put this BioLite to work.

10. I don't know about you but I tend to use my phone for just about anything these days and so I tend to use up my battery in no time. This Weikin Fast Wireless Charger is a lifesaver and saves me when I'm nowhere near home and in need to charge my phone.

Now that you have the inside scoop on the best tech items this summer, you're sure to be the life of any party and ready when you're ready to throw one. I can't tell you how excited I am for these. Summer is one of my favorite seasons for entertaining so I know these are sure to be a hit.

SANDRA RODRIGUEZ



5 TIPS FOR SUMMER ENTERTAINING

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BY JESSICA WATT | jessicawatt.com



The long, warm days of summer are the perfect time to kick back, relax and invite friends over for a night of entertaining under the stars. With a little planning and these simple tips, you can put together an evening that you, as the host, can enjoy just as much as your friends. Here are a few tips to help you throw the perfect, stress free summer get together!

A drink station is a must for any party and my absolute favorite addition to any get together. I purchased a bar cart that I use to transition through seasons and holidays. It is totally functional and gives you another fun area to decorate. You can never have too many kinds of drinks during the summer so I like to keep my bar cart stocked full of flavored waters, lemonade, iced tea and fruity sangria. To keep our drinks bug-free, I place a cute cupcake liner over the cups and stick a paper straw through the middle of the liner. Orange slices work, too. Add a burst of color to your drink station! I like to keep my kiddos happy too with a wagon full of ice and juice boxes that they can grab as needed.



Nothing will make your guests run inside faster than an evening filled with mosquitos. They can totally ruin a good time, so having a basket filled with bug spray will help your party stay bug and itch free. I like to keep mine, along with sunscreen (if you are entertaining during the day), in a cute basket where all of my guests can see it and feel free to use as needed. Citronella candles also help keep those party crashers away, while adding some fun ambiance to your party.

Serving food in large apothecary jars not only looks beautiful on your table, but they also keep your foods bug-free. Apothecary jars are perfect for fruit salads, pasta salads and green salads. Attach a cute label to let guests know what is in each jar. Filling mason jars for individual servings is another fun way for guests to grab their food easily, kick their flip flops off and relax. Who doesn't love eating out of a mason jar?

One of best parts of summer is being outside, so meals that don't keep you away from your guests are best and summer is all about grilling anyway! Small kabobs of chicken in your favorite marinade and grilled colorful veggies are the perfect entree in addition to your salads. Your guests can just grab a skewer or two along with their salads and you can spend more time enjoying their company instead of worrying about being in the kitchen. Yummy food and enjoying your guests is a win-win!

Friends circled around a campfire is the perfect way to end the day and you cannot have a campfire without s'mores. Don't have a fire pit? Sterno canned heat does the job just as well. Fill a large tray with your favorite s'more must-haves. Marshmallows already skewered, chocolate bars, crackers, chocolate chip cookies, peanut butter cups, caramels, and whatever else you like on your s'more! Having everything out of its packaging will let your guests serve themselves easily. Make sure you have paper towels and wipes nearby for sticky fingers!

Relaxing and making memories is what summer is all about. Surround yourself with friends, cold drinks, a good meal and enjoy the moment!

JESSICA WATT



5 TRAVEL HACKS FOR FAMILIES / 35

BY ELLEN LAFLECHE-CHRISTIAN | confessionsofanover-workedmom.com



These travel hacks will make all the difference on your next family vacation! Summer is the time for family travel. But, getting from point A to point B with the kids isn't as easy as you think. Here are a few of my favorite travel hacks for families that will make the travel part of your vacation a little bit easier.

1. Stay organized with a shoe organizer.

Did you think that shoe organizers were just for shoes? They make a great way to organize your child's toys, sippy cup, crayons, snacks, wet wipes, and pacifiers. They hang easily over the back seat in a car, airplane, or train. Just unroll it once you board and keep everything within arms reach. Choose a clear shoe organizer to make it easier to see.

2. Dress everyone in layers

You never what the temperature will be like when you land. And, to make travel even more complicated, you never know who will get cold on the airplane. If you dress everyone in layers, you can take off or add layers when temperatures change rather than changing your entire outfit. Or, if you're traveling with small children and they make a mess on their shirt, it's easy to just take off a layer to reveal the clean shirt underneath.



3. Keep cords and chargers handy.

Don't lose your charging cords, chargers, and earbuds in the bottom of your bag or carryon. Store everyone's tech cords in an eyeglass case. This will keep the cords from getting tangled and make them much easier to find.

4. Keep dirty shoes away from clothes.

If you need to pack your shoes back in your suitcase but are worrying about the dirty soles making a mess, no problem. Just place your shoes in a clear shower cap sole side down. The cap will keep your shoes from making a mess in your suitcase.

5. DIY I Spy Game.

Nothing is worse than children that are bored. You can make your own I Spy Game with an empty plastic soda bottle, Epsom salt, and a variety of plastic toys, trinkets, beads, and charms. Just seal the top with duct tape so they cannot get it off and make a mess.

ELLEN LAFLECHE- CHRISTIAN



10 THINGS EVERY MOM SHOULD DO FOR BACK-TO-SCHOOL

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BY JESSICA LITMAN | theorganizedmama.com

Back to school can be stressful with all the last-minute to-do's. But when you get organized before school starts, everything has a way of becoming less stressful. As a professional organizer, I have some tried and true methods for 10 things every mom should do for back to school!

1. Establish Routines

As the summer winds down, start getting ready for back to school by establishing routines for both morning and night. Get the kids internal clocks back on track so they can wake up earlier than they have during the summer. This means going to bed earlier!

2. Set Up A Drop Zone

So the kids are going to be barreling through the door at the end of the day and dropping all the stuff all over the house. Why not create a designated drop zone so they don't have to leave a trail? I have created drop zones using oversized baskets, clear containers, cubbies, or something as simple as a mat!

3. Create A Command Center

Look at all the papers coming in, then create a specific location for each category of paper. They could be school, activities, medical, health, or important documents. Find an effective location for those papers to be filed. Clipboards, hanging file folders, or magnetic boards can easily be used to create an effective command center that holds all the documents you need!

4. Meal Prep

Once school starts, your day will fly by, so thinking about dinner can be challenging! Start your week by meal prepping. I like to try one new recipe a week and keep the rest simple/familiar. Plus I do the new recipe toward the beginning of the week, as I am more willing to actually cook dinner!



JESSICA LITMAN

5. Organize Closets and Drawers

Before school starts, go through all the kiddos' closets and drawers. Create an organized system for them to find exactly what they need. I love to give each drawer a specific category. This will help streamline where the child needs to look to find clothing in the morning.

6. Keep Things Low Key

Sometimes we forget that back to school can be stressful for the kids as well as us. So give yourself and the kids some downtime. Take the afternoon to go on a bike ride, or play in the pool. By keeping things low-key, are you creating a stress-free back to school for everyone!

7. Get Supplies And Fill Out Forms

Make sure you get all the necessary school forms completed and turned in before school starts. Plus grab those school supplies; teachers appreciate this, too!

8. Schedule All The Appointments

Don't forget to get those doctors appointments scheduled during that downtime between camp and school. We schedule the doctor, eye doctor, and dentist in August so we are prepared for school.

9. Pictures

Once you take your first-day pictures, create a folder in your picture app on your phone. Add the first-day pictures, along with any other pictures that you take of your child throughout the year. You can turn that into a book or a collage once the year is done.

10. Mom Time

Finally, don't forget to schedule in some mom time! Back to school can be stressful so make sure you allow for some time for yourself. Schedule that haircut you have put off or that manicure you wanted to do. It gives you something to look forward to once school starts!





**JOIN LYNN LILLY
EVERY TUESDAY @ 1PM ET**

FACEBOOK.COM/CRAFTBOXGIRLS



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