

## Weekly Inspiration – Summer

The school year is winding down and our group classes are soon ending. Summer is in the air and children are excited for it to arrive. Some children may be travelling to foreign vacation spots and will use English to communicate this summer. Many enjoy staying in sunny Sweden, in cottages near the water or forests. Wherever your summer destination may take you, we hope to provide inspiration to make English a natural part of your summer agenda; fostering language development in playful, fun and active way.

### Popsicle (isglass) Memory

Make a memory game, using summer vocabulary words. Gather these supplies: Colored paper, writing paper, used popsicle sticks (these are available as “wooden craft sticks” from craft stores like Panduro); crayons, colored pencils or markers; scissors, glue; attached popsicle template. Follow these instructions and discuss as you create:



- Ask your child: What words mean “summer” to you? Make a list of the words that come to mind and write these down (if the child is able, have him/her write them).
- Depending on the child’s age, level and ability, decide how many popsicles you want to make, (you will need to make two popsicles for every word).
- Use the template to print blank popsicles, or create these on your own. Cut out the shapes.
- Depending on ability, write (or have the child write) one summer word on each paper popsicle. Draw or cut out shapes to create a picture to represent each word.
- Glue the popsicle stick onto the back of the “word and picture” popsicle. Position a second paper popsicle over the stick and glue this in place.
- Repeat for the same word and continue onto other words. Make two popsicles for every word!
- If you don't want play this as a Memory game, you can make one popsicle for every word and use these as “flashcards.” On one side, you can have the English word, on the opposite side, write the Swedish word or draw a picture of the word, depending on age and ability.

## Summer vocabulary

Sun, sunscreen, sunglasses, shorts, t-shirt, sandals, bathing suit, swimming trunks, swimming, goggles, beach ball, strawberry, watermelon, ice-cream, popsicle, barbeque, grill.

Swedish flowers and nature: Clover (klöver), timothy (timotej), yarrow (kaiback/röllika), cottongrass (ängsull), forget-me-not (förgätmigej), harebell (blålockor), violet (viol), wood anemone (vitsippa), yellow wood anemone (gulsippa), colt's foot (tussilago); tree, ash, beech, birch, elm, oak, maple, blueberry, raspberry, wild strawberry, water, lake, ocean, beach, shell, stone, sand, mountain, rock, cliff, path.

Summer sports: Hiking, climbing, diving, sailing, boating, running, jogging, walking, biking, football, soccer, tennis, badminton, volleyball, frisbee, horseback riding.

## Keep a summer journal

Children of all ages can create some type of journal during the summer. Depending on age and ability, use colored paper for a cover and blank or lined paper for the inside of the book. There are many notebooks, linen-covered books and similar "diaries" that can also be purchased. Present writing and recording in the book as a special time for the children. Make a goal to write in the book (in English) in suitable amounts for the child's level, ability and ambition. For the youngest child, this could mean that s/he draws a picture of what s/he has done once a week; you can discuss the picture and write English words on the picture. Older children can write a paragraph per week, or one sentence every day that describes what they have done. You can also use the journal to collect pictures, postcards and other items from summer excursions and experiences. This will create a book of summer memories.

## Make the library an adventure

Most Swedish libraries are open regular or extended hours during the summer. They usually have an English section of books for children. Obtaining a library card, checking out new books and returning them on a regular basis is exciting for children. Many libraries also have story times, song and art programs geared for the entire family. For example, see KulturHuset's "Rum för Barn:" <http://kulturhuset.stockholm.se/-/Kalender/?kategori=8> (Check your local library's home page for similar information.)

Wishing you a summer filled with sun, fun, exciting adventures, as well lazy days – and hopefully, a bit of English!

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