

**planning**  
with kids



**SCHOOL**

**HOLIDAY**

**GUIDE**

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School holidays, you may love them or the thought of them may send you into a state of mild panic. Whatever the reaction, they happen multiple times every year. I do love school holidays but for myself and the kids to enjoy them I put in a little preparation and planning.

This e-guide will take you through the process I take and includes ideas for activities to keep the kids entertained, tips on dealing with those chaotic moments and a checklist for what you need to do before the school holidays ends. Happy school holidays!

## Preparing for the school holidays

Of course it is possible to have a great school holidays without doing a bit of preparation before hand, but as I work from home and often need to still do some work during the holidays, I need to make sure we have a an organised base going into school holidays.

### *The Home and Away Plan*

	Activity	Notes
Wed 1 Jan		
Thu 2 Jan		
Fri 3 Jan	Birthday party	10am at Bounce
Sat 4 Jan		
Sun 5 Jan	Friends to play	
Mon 6 Jan	Cooking day at home	
Tue 7 Jan	Movies	9.30am
Wed 8 Jan		
Thu 9 Jan	Local pool	
Fri 10 Jan	Puzzle day	
Sat 11 Jan		
Sun 12 Jan		

Prior to the holidays starting as a family we will create our school holiday plan. The emphasis is on having a mix of days at home and days outside of the house. To create it we follow these steps:

- Mum and dad enter work commitments
- Enter any other known commitments
- Block out a couple of days for no plans and unstructured activities at the start and end of the school holidays
- Ask each child to choose a free/low cost activity they would like to do and one paid activity they would like to do. Schedule in where appropriate.
- Add a couple of family activities if it is the longer school holidays. These can be simple things like going out for dinner locally, going for a bushwalk together, catching up with family friends etc.

Date	Activity		Activity
Thu 18 Dec	Finish school	Thu 1 Jan	
Fri 19 Dec	Home day	Fri 2 Jan	
Sat 20 Dec	Home day	Sat 3 Jan	
Sun 21 Dec		Sun 4 Jan	
Mon 22 Dec		Mon 5 Jan	
Tue 23 Dec		Tue 6 Jan	
Wed 24 Dec		Wed 7 Jan	
Thu 25 Dec	Christmas day	Thu 8 Jan	
Fri 26 Dec		Fri 9 Jan	
Sat 27 Dec		Sat 10 Jan	
Sun 28 Dec		Sun 11 Jan	
Mon 29 Dec		Mon 12 Jan	
Tue 30 Dec		Tue 13 Jan	
Wed 31 Dec	New year's eve	Wed 14 Jan	
		Thu 15 Jan	
		Fri 16 Jan	
		Sat 17 Jan	
		Sun 18 Jan	
		Mon 19 Jan	
		Tue 20 Jan	
		Wed 21 Jan	
		Thu 22 Jan	
		Fri 23 Jan	
		Sat 24 Jan	
		Sun 25 Jan	Australia day
		Mon 26 Jan	Home day
		Tue 27 Jan	Home day
		Wed 28 Jan	
		Thu 29 Jan	

Once we have our base plan, I print it out and stick it on the fridge. It is great to have it where the kids can see it, so they can find out for themselves what is coming up and I don't have to answer the "when are we going to....." questions 100s of times.

The plan is always completely flexible. Opportunities come up, weather changes, moods change, but the base gives some gentle structure so we can all enjoy the school holidays.

### ***Stock up on cooking supplies***

These tips are aimed at having things organised around the house, so that there are only minimal trips to the shops required and that we have supplies on hand for kids to choose activities on their own to keep themselves occupied.

Stocking up the pantry has two purposes, firstly with all of the kids home and visitors coming, we tend to go through a lot more food and secondly my kids love to cook as an activity during the school holidays. I like to make sure that I have plenty of:

- |                      |                      |  |
|----------------------|----------------------|--|
| ○ Self raising flour | ○ Coconut Oil        | ○ Rice cakes*  |
| ○ Plain flour        | ○ Chocolate Chips    | ○ Dates  |
| ○ Coconut flour      | ○ Rolled Oats*       | ○ Nuts and seeds*  |
| ○ Almond flour       | ○ Rice malt Syrup*   | ○ Coconut cream  |
| ○ Caster Sugar       | ○ Maple syrup*       | ○ CocoQuench*  |
| ○ Brown Sugar        | ○ Honey*             | * I use the organic products from blog sponsor <a href="#">Pureharvest</a> . |
| ○ Baking Powder      | ○ Tahini*            |  |
| ○ Vanilla Extract    | ○ Cacao powder       |  |
| ○ Butter             | ○ Desiccated Coconut |  |

This means that depending on what the kids want to make we can have:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| ○ <a href="#">Butter Cake</a>                               | ○ <a href="#">Healthy chocolate clusters</a>    |
| ○ <a href="#">One bowl banana cake</a>                      | ○ <a href="#">Froyo pops</a>                    |
| ○ <a href="#">One bowl chocolate cake</a>                   | ○ <a href="#">Sweet and salty popcorn</a>       |
| ○ <a href="#">Choc Chip Muffins</a>                         | ○ <a href="#">Gluten free honey cupcakes</a>    |
| ○ <a href="#">Banana and Oat Muffins</a>                    | ○ <a href="#">Gluten free choc chip cookies</a> |
| ○ <a href="#">Chocolate coconut cake pops (gluten free)</a> | ○ <a href="#">English muffins (gluten free)</a> |
| ○ <a href="#">Nut seed clusters</a>                         | ○ <a href="#">Gluten free banana pancakes</a>   |
|   | ○ <a href="#">Rice cake slice</a>               |

## ***Stock up on lunch and morning tea ingredients***

During the school holidays it can sometime seem like all I do is prepare food and tidy up afterwards! The last couple of school holidays though I have started having the kids become responsible for doing more of this themselves.

Each day one child is responsible for making the morning tea and I will alternate lunch times with a combination of me making them and the kids making it themselves. To make this easy for the younger children I also like to make sure that I have food supplies on hand that make the morning tea and lunch process simple like:

- Lots of fruit and vegetables
- Nuts, seeds and dried fruit
- Frozen berries
- Corn kernels
- Rice cakes
- Corn chips
- Dips
- Home baked treats (see above!)
- Puff pastry
- Cheese
- Eggs
- Bacon
- Mince
- Chipolatas
- Yogurt
- Rice paper sheets
- Wraps

This means that kids can help make their own lunch like:

- [Eggs In The Basket](#)
- [Egg Muffins \(Gluten free\)](#)
- [Vegemite Scrolls](#)
- [Traffic Light Sandwiches](#)
- [Quick Egg and Bacon Tarts](#)
- [Homemade pita chips](#)[Oven baked meatballs](#)
- [Healthy hot dogs](#)
- [Smoothies](#)
- [Rice paper rolls](#)

If you are after ideas for morning and afternoon tea you can see some simple examples in this post – [After School Snacks](#)

## Stocking Up On Craft and Art Supplies



This doesn't need to be expensive, it can be as simple as keeping all boxes, cartons etc instead of putting them in the recycling bin so you have a range of materials for the kids to create with or if your kids like painting making sure you have a good range of colours for them to use. Craft and Art Supplies that I like to make sure I have on hand are:

- Drawing paper
- Recycled boxes
- Straws
- Paper plates and cups
- Masking Tape
- Envelopes
- String
- Cardboard
- Staples
- Glue – glue sticks, craft glue and refills for the hot glue gun
- Chalk
- String
- Beads
- Blu Tak
- Pegs

You can see one of our favourite places to buy some fun and different craft supplies here –[Reverse Art Truck](#).











### Creating the “I’m bored” lists

Some kids just find it harder to occupy themselves than others. A couple of our kids occasionally say they are bored. They will wander around the house at a loose end, not sure what to do with themselves. Both of them however once they find something to do will stick at it and keep themselves amused for long period of times.

One school holidays I worked with each child to create an activity list. It was a simple collation of all activities they liked to do at home, which they could do independently or with a sibling and provided a mix of sedentary and physical entertainment.

The following are the lists we created.

Activity ideas for 9 year old	✓	Activity ideas for 9 year old	✓
Wrestling		Playing at the park next door	
Soccer games (outside)		LEGO construction	
Kicking ball against the wall		Construction with glue gun	
Going for a run		Board games (mastermind, scrabble, boggle, monopoly)	
Balloon games inside (balloon volleyball)		Writing a story/letter/email	
Listening to audio book		Experiments / Potions	
Playing chess		Gardening	
Reading a book		Jigsaw puzzles	
Riding a bike/scooter		Practice batting with the cricket wiz.	
Climbing trees		Building a fort (outside)	
Play with the dog		Building a cubby (inside)	
Make a movie		Play hangman	
Create a word find		Card games – Solitaire, 21, snap	

Activity ideas for 4 year old	✓	Activity ideas for 4 year old	✓
 <p data-bbox="150 712 403 745">Noughts and crosses</p>		 <p data-bbox="759 618 1062 651">Playing on the trampoline</p>	
 <p data-bbox="150 1003 312 1037">Build a cubby</p>		 <p data-bbox="759 1003 999 1037">Playing with the dog</p>	
 <p data-bbox="150 1301 225 1335">LEGO</p>		 <p data-bbox="759 1317 1050 1350">Pavement chalk drawing</p>	
 <p data-bbox="150 1666 209 1700">Cars</p>		 <p data-bbox="759 1659 935 1693">Water painting</p>	

### 31 school holiday activities to do at home

Water play - buckets, funnels,  
watering cans, spray bottles

Cooking

Making lemonade / juice

Musical statues

Make paper planes

Creating photo albums

Paper mach

Create a collage

Make a sundial

Play dough

Tower construction from paper  
cups

Setting up a corner store/shop

Scavenger hunt

Make your own playing cards

Make ribbon sticks

Fly a kite

Create a worm farm

Have a movie day

Have a karaoke or dance  
competition

Have each child invite a friend  
to play

Create an obstacle course in  
the garden

Colour in mandalas

Draw up hopscotch with  
masking tape inside or chalk  
outside

Egg and spoon races

Practice using skipping ropes

Practice using hula-hoops

Play down ball

Camp in the back yard

Hide and seek

Rearrange the bedrooms

Write letters to friends and  
family

### Keeping the house tidy during school holidays

Firstly notice that the heading of this post says “Keeping The House Tidy”. It doesn’t say perfect or spotless! To be honest I don’t think it is possible to do that when you have kids home, nor do I really want it to be that like.

What I do want though, is the house in state that doesn’t drive me crazy. I like it to be tidy, but in a way that the kids can still feel free to create, play and relax and enjoy their holidays.

Here are some things we do to try and achieve this balance:

#### *Adjust my standards*

I simply need to accept that with 5 kids home full time, the house will not be as tidy as it is during the school term. It will only be that tidy if I spend almost every waking moment working on it to be that way. That is not how I want to spend the school holidays.

### ***Dust pan and brush***

By accepting that there will be more mess, there are also some tools I can use to make sure the kids clean up after themselves. Having a child sized dust pan and brush easily accessible, so they can clean up after themselves works really well.

### ***Wipe up cloths***

The mess kids make are not always dry, so having small cloths available as well is important. I have a stash of square cloths in a drawer that the kids can all access.

### ***Start fresh each day***

During school holidays we still stick to most of night time routine. Having a clean slate each day is better for my piece of mind and also reinforces to the kids that this is the way the house should look.

### ***Rotate morning/afternoon tea duties including clean up***

During the holidays, we share the responsibility for making and cleaning up after morning and afternoon tea. It is shared amongst myself and all school aged children. This is a great thing to do for a number of reasons – fine motor skills on cutting and preparing food, independence skills and it makes the kids realise the work that goes into preparing food for them to eat.

### ***Eat outside when possible***

Food make mess – there is no doubt about that. So when possible, we eat outside. Sometimes it is just morning tea or a picnic lunch in the backyard. All of these help reduce the crumb mess inside the house.

### ***Tidy up before quiet time***

Our almost three year old still has an afternoon nap. We use this as our technology time. It helps to keep the house quiet the littlest one sleeps and it allows me to have a moment to myself!

While I read a story to the youngest, the other kids know it is time to tidy up, inside and out. Technology time cannot start until all main living rooms and the main area outside are tidy. This requires team work, as not everyone will have made the mess.

### ***Usual bedroom routines***

The younger children need to make their beds and tidy their room each morning before school. The older boys have to completely tidy their room on Wednesday and Sunday. These routines stand even in school holidays. I do find though, that without the usual time checks of school routines, it is very easy for this tidy up not to be completed. I need to be more proactive in making sure these tasks are done during the holidays.

### ***Enforce pack up first before next activity***

I do try to always enforce the pack up first before next activity, but it can get away from me. School holidays however can turn to utter mess if I don't, so I make sure I am more vigilant with keeping an eye on what the kids are pulling out of the cupboards.

### ***Take turns vacuuming***

For our kids 8 and up, I think it is appropriate that they have a turn at vacuuming the main living areas of the house during the school holidays. I think this helps them work out that the things they drop on the floor, the crumbs they make, while they may not seem like much to them, when you times that by 5, it can end up making a lot of work!

## **Managing sibling fighting**

In the scheme of things, our five kids get along pretty well. They do however fight, drive each other crazy and as a consequence sometimes drive me crazy!

### ***Why are they fighting?***

Sibling fighting is just as much a part of family life as the fun parts are. Too much fighting however to me is a sign that something isn't right. Our family goes through times when I think there is too much fighting. When it gets to this point, I find the most important thing I can do is to spend sometime analysing why this is happening. Here are some questions I consider in looking at why the fighting is happening:

- Is it happening at a similar time each day?
- What is the pace of family life like?
- How well and rested are the children?
- Is it connected to a particular activity?
- How much outside time have the kids had?
- How much time have I been spending playing/bonding with the kids?
- How much time have the kids had apart recently?
- Are any of the kids going through a challenging stage (eg 3.5 year old etc )?
- Have I been asking too much of the older children?
- Have I been too lenient on the younger kids?
- What has my tone and attitude been like?

### ***Long term solutions***

More often than not, I will find a root cause to the fighting in my answers. This does not excuse their behaviour, but it allows me to implement strategies to reduce the fighting. It can be as simple as:

- **If it is happening at the same time each day** - tweak the routine. The teenager has hit the stage of life where getting up in the morning is hard. We have expected the kids from upper primary and secondary to get themselves up in the morning. The teenager however was getting up too late, then would be in a bad mood rushing and causing issues with all the other kids. For the time being now, if he isn't up by a certain time, I will wake him up to prevent the impact he has on the house when he is grumpy.
- **If family life has been too busy** - setting aside a weekend with minimal activities outside of the house so the kids can have more rest and spend time just pottering and doing the things they want to do.
- **If the kids have cabin fever** - do something together outside of the home. Generally an activity that gets everyone moving. It doesn't have to be fancy, just provide a change of scenery. One activity that works well for us is to take the dog to a dog park with a nature trail.
- **If it is connected to a particular activity** - I find the behaviour of a couple of the kids deteriorates after longer sessions on technology at certain times. When this is happening, I will ensure that they have something specific to do once the technology session is up. For example, before starting I will let them know as soon as they finish they need to walk the dog or do the vacuuming.
- **If I haven't been spending enough time playing with the kids** - it is always evident when I haven't been engaging closely with the kids in activities they like. They are far more whiney and needy and seem to get on each others' nerve much more easily. Once I notice this, I will instigate 20 minute sessions with the kids (you can read more about this and why it works here) and it makes a huge difference to family harmony.
- **If the kids haven't had time apart recently** - orchestrate it so there is more space for time apart. For example I might take the older two out shopping and dad might work out in the garden with the younger three. Sometimes this happens naturally, but other times you need to organise it so they aren't all together all of the time.
- **If one of the kids is going through a challenging stage** - I will spend some time chatting and explaining this to the kids and give them strategies to deal with their behaviour. For example the 5.5 year old is prone to bursting into tears when things aren't going the way he wants. Instead of getting frustrated at him, I encourage the kids to ask him to tell them what the problem is without crying. If they can't work out what the problem is from what he is saying, they should come and get me.
- **If I have been asking too much of the older children** - back off. Don't say to them that as they are older, I expect more of them when there is a fight between a younger and older child. This inflames their sense of injustice and creates more animosity.
- **If I have been too lenient on the younger kids** - sometimes it is easier to ask the older kids to conceded to keep the peace. This can work as a once off strategy, but long term like the above, it creates animosity amongst the kids and causes more fights. I need to remember to stay consistent.

- **If my tone and attitude has been off** - stop it! Improve it and set the example I want to see in the kids, that is more patience and tolerance, raising issues but doing so in a respectful manner and work on being a good person to be around.

### **Quick fix solutions**

The above solutions are aimed at preventing systemic fighting amongst the kids. Even if you have all of that going pretty well, the kids will still fight so having strategies to solve the problems at the time up your sleeve is very helpful.

Please remember that I am not a psychologist or counsellor or child behaviour expert. What I have listed below are some strategies that have worked for us:

- **Work on a mutual solution** - guide them through the process on creating a solution that works for both children.
- **Ask a child for a solution** - if one child is having a particularly difficult day, ask them for a solution in how we can change the way things are going. Acknowledge that they seem to be having a tough day and ask if there is anything I can do to help. Often they won't give much in response, but the acknowledgment in a kind and caring manner can help them feel not like they are in trouble, but that you really want to help them. Often this can be enough to change their behaviour.
- **Intervene before it explodes** - sometimes I can sense the tension is rising and there is disharmony amongst the kids. I will try and create a circuit breaker/distraction of sorts to prevent it from escalating any further. This could be putting on an audio book, putting on their favourite music, starting a game or making it morning tea time!
- **Separation by activity** - if there has been a number of flare ups, I will direct kids to different areas of the house and different activities.
- **Act of violence job** - my kids will unfortunately hit and physically hurt each other on occasion. We have talked in depth and frequently about how this is an unacceptable way to solve a problem, but it still happens. The child who hits is given a household task which will take up about 15 minutes or so of their time like folding the washing. This does two things - makes them work and think about what they have done and it separates them from their siblings.
- **Last man in rule** - just like in ice hockey, the kids know if I see someone hurting another child, even if it is retaliation, that person will have to undertake the act of violence job. I really want the kids to understand that violence is not acceptable at all. If they have been hit, they can come to me to deal with, rather than use violence to stop violence.
- **Provocation job** - if one child is deliberately and significantly provoking other children to get a response (like provoking them to hit them so they have to do an aforementioned act of violence job) they will be given a household task to complete. This is a smaller task than act of violence, something like emptying the dishwasher or tidying up the lounge room.



- **Get them active** - if one child is being particularly challenging I will get them to take the dog for a walk, come for a run with me or go on a run on their own - literally to run off some of their steam!
- **Encourage them to stay with me** - again if one child appears to causing most of the grief, I will encourage them to hang out with me and do whatever I am doing and engage them in conversation. This is different to the tasks I set them in the above examples. This is more about creating a point of reconnection with the child and attempting to alter their current mood.
- **Remove the ball/bat/book etc** - if the arguments are over an item. I will take it and let them know when they can play with it without argument they can come and get it from me.

## 10 things to do before the school holidays end

It takes only a small amount of preparation to give yourself the best chance of a smooth start to the new school year. Here is a list of the basics that I like to make sure I do before the school holidays end.

### *(1). Check all uniforms for sizing and do some stain removal.*

By the end of term 4 last year, we were so busy that the uniforms were just washed, ironed and put away. I know that there are stains on some of the shirts that will come out with a good soaking or scrub.

### *(2). Check shoes for sizing and polish them.*

It is amazing how much feet can grow in six weeks! This goes for socks as well – also checking that they are all paired up correctly and that there are enough.

### *(3). Check that we have all the required stationery.*

We order most things through the school supplier, but we had to get a couple of extra items (see shopping expedition last week). The All for Women website has compiled a great list of stores back to school specials and references for lunch box ideas.

### *(4). Check all lunch boxes and drink bottles are accounted for and in working order.*

### *(5). Ease our way back into our standard bed times and morning routines.*

I love the freedom and flexibility that school holidays allows with later nights and then later mornings. However these are not particular helpful in getting us all out the door happily and on time for school.

### *(6). Label all books, pencils etc.*

This is something I like the school kids to do themselves. I can have them with me in the study while I am on the laptop, and they can work away at this task and I can assist were necessary.



### ***(7). Make play dough.***

Our school requires each child to take a container of play dough to school that is used for rainy days. I prefer to make it myself for two reasons, firstly it is cheaper and secondly the kids like to help and we make a new batch for home. I use the recipe on the packet from McKenzies cream of tartar which can be found on their website in the cooking tips section.

### ***(8). Paper work.***

Each year there are new forms to complete and send back with the kids. Completing them a week or so prior means there is no last minute rush.

### ***(9). Restock the grocery and baking cupboards.***

We tend to have different morning and afternoon tea snacks, than what the children would necessarily take as snacks in their lunch boxes. I also tend to bake more during school terms, so I need to make sure I have all the essential ingredients on hand.

### ***(10). Spend a day just hanging with the kids.***

I like to have a whole day where I follow the lead of the kids, don't look at the clock, don't go on the computer and don't answer the phone (until they are in bed!). It is a nice way to end the holidays.

## **5 tips for working from home during school holidays**

I love working from home and I love school holidays, however loving the two at the same time does require some planning and strategic management.

As I work for myself at home in a part time capacity, I have much greater flexibility than most. Where possible, I will reduce my workload during the school holidays – not accept meetings or offsite consultations during this time for example. But with that said, I still have external deadlines and commitments that I must meet. This is how I try to best manage working with the kids home during school holidays:

### ***Have a plan***

I have written a post on how I prepare for school holidays, with an activity plan for each of the days being an integral part of it. You can read more about that [here](#).

With the exception of days where we have pre-purchased tickets to events, the plan is flexible if other activities or work commitments arise and we can adapt to do what suits us best. But I find there is generally only minor changes to what we do or it might mean I have one less or one more child as play dates occur.

Having the plan works well for both me and the kids. On days where we are at home, I can take the opportunity when they are happily occupied to do some work during the day. It works well for the kids

because they have had input into the plan and know that activities they wanted to do will happen over the holiday period. With the plan printed out and hung on the fridge, this prevents a lot of questions and badgering too!

### ***Create and stick to boundaries***

Once I have our plan for the school holidays, I work out where my work hours will fit in across the week. Each day will be different depending on what we are doing, but by planning out where to fit the work in advance it means that it doesn't get to 9pm at night and I realise I have yet to start work on a commissioned article due the next day.

Sticking to the plan means I need to work it both ways too. If I am with the kids I need to make sure that I don't just jump online for a quick minute to check something (it is always many more minutes that I think!). I make sure both family time and work time have their boundaries and everyone in the family is aware of them.

### ***Work in with another family***

This school holidays it is my sister's family that I am working in with. They have their own business and this is the busiest time of the year for them.

I happily look after my niece and nephew with my brood while she works and then she will look after my kids with hers at other times, so I can work. We then have time when we are all together as well. It works brilliantly for us.

When in Melbourne I have worked with other families in a similar fashion. I will organise with another mum who works or needs a day without the kids and have them over for a play from about 10am – 5pm. My friend will then do the same another day in the following week. This involves only taking the younger 2 -3 kids as the older kids can happily occupy themselves and I can work some solid blocks of time without guilt.

### ***Use technology wisely***

During the school term the primary school kids do not have any technology or TV (except for what they need to complete their homework) from Monday to Thursday. You can read more about how we manage technology in our house in this post – [Managing technology with kids](#).

During the school holidays this changes and they can have 1.5 hours a day. When they have the time will depend on what we do for the day and what my work commitments are. While they are watching TV, playing on the computers or iPads, I will work for the 1.5 hours. It is amazing how much you can get done when you have [limited uninterrupted time](#)!

### ***Give the kids independence and responsibility***

This is much easier for me to do now all of my children are school age. During the school holidays the kids are expected to:

- still contribute with their usual jobs to keeping the house tidy and clean (you can see what they do in our [family contribution schedule here](#))
- tidy up any mess they make
- take turns in making morning and afternoon tea
- for the older kids, walk to the bakery/shops to get ingredients for lunch
- take the dog for walks (no school walks, so need to build in walking time for her)

But during school holidays they also can:

- have access to more technology / TV time as discussed above
- sleep on the floor, in different rooms or in cubby houses they make in their rooms
- have access to art and craft and other activities that we don't use very often
- make requests for fun lunches and have lunch indoors/outdoors in different locations
- select school holiday activities to do
- have pyjama days
- for the older kids, meet up with friends and I assist with transporting them where required

The combination of the kids helping keep things organised around the house and making the usual daily activities a little different builds up a greater sense of fun and harmony across the week. When I then explain to them that I need them to give me 30 minutes so I can take a work call, it usually works!

The reality of school holidays means that even with all of the above, I do have to work more at night when all the kids are in bed, so I can keep on top of my workload. But I am happy with that, as it enables me to spend more of my time during the day enjoying the company of my kids.

## Further reading

You may also like these posts on the blog

- [Back To School – 11 Parent Resources](#): A list of useful resources and articles to help you get into the swing of the school year.
- [Back To School Routines](#): Simple Back to school routines that will help make life easier.
- [10 School Holiday Activities To Do At Home](#)
- [Staycation Ideas For Kids](#)