

## Tips:

- Encourage your family to make their own fun!
  - Play games together
  - Take up a family hobby

In the words of one young mother:

“There’s lots of free fun, like taking a drive in the country. Popcorn is cheap. Card games are **free**.”

- For more ideas, including 4-H youth activities in your county contact your UW-Extension office.
- If you would like help planning family spending, call your local UW-Extension Family Living staff.

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Family Living Programs

MM07: Fun for Less Money



Afford Healthy Food Choices with DOLLAR SENSE

## How much of our money goes for entertainment or fun each month?

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Cable TV

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Movies and Entertainment

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Video Rentals

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Sports Events (bowling, ballgames)

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Lotteries, Bingo, Casino

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Magazines

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Vacations

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Lessons

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Other:

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Other:

\_\_\_\_\_

\$\_\_\_\_\_ **Total**

When more is spent on **wants**, such as entertainment, it sometimes means there is not enough money for what the family **needs**, such as food, housing and utilities.

## How can I keep costs down but still let our family have fun?

Plan your spending

- Put money for fun in an envelope and only spend that much.

Look for **free** or low cost community fun

- hiking
- museums, zoos
- youth activities – 4H, scouts, church
- borrow books and videotapes from the library
- free concerts
- walking tours
- team sports

Set limits on what you spend

- If you have cable TV, the basic plan is the cheapest.
- If you choose to gamble or play games of chance, figure out how much you can afford to lose. Take **only** that much money with you.

Join with other families to keep costs down

- Pot luck meals or progressive dinners
- Swap videos, books, magazines
- Share games