ITEMS NEEDED:

- Banana, strawberries, vanilla yogurt
- Sponges, scissors, string or fishing line
- Plastic squeeze bottles, bowl and measuring cup, flour, water, dish soap, washable paint

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION:

Summer vacation is here! Listen to the book The Berenstain Bears and Too Much Vacation by Stan and Jan Berenstain. You can find this book being read online at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kx9uNe4fpdo.

After reading The Berenstain Bears and Too Much Vacation ask your child the following questions:

- What did Papa Bear imagine vacation would be like?
- What happened on the Bear family vacation?
- What did the Bear family take pictures of on their vacation?
- Share your favorite vacation memories.

The Bear family was happy to arrive home from vacation. Did you know that you can have an awesome vacation from your own home? Maybe the Bear family can have a vacation redo at their lovely tree house! Try out these fun summer vacation activities at home. Don’t forget to take pictures!

Help your child make puffy sidewalk paint. First, measure 1 cup of flour and 1 cup of water. Then, add a tablespoon of dish soap and mix well. Stir in washable paint to color the mixture and then pour it into plastic squeeze bottles. As a family, paint pictures of your favorite things to do on summer vacation.

Playing in water is a favorite summertime activity. Help your child make sponge balls for endless fun in the sun. First, cut sponges into six strips and then stack three layers of three sponge strips as pictured below. Tightly tie string or fishing line around the middle of the sponge strips to create a ball. Soak the sponge balls in a bucket of water and you are ready to beat the heat! Encourage your child to invent a water game to play with family members. What other items could be used in the game?

Everyone loves a cool treat on a warm summer day. End your fun in the sun with Berry Banana Popsicles. You can find the recipe at Spend Smart. Eat Smart.® by ISU Extension and Outreach, https://spendsmart.extension.iastate.edu/recipe/berry-banana-popsicles/. Enjoy!