There are 93 days of summer. Make the most of every single one with our tips for family fun. (Psst, some are educational—one your kid will never know!)

1. Get the best seat on a roller coaster
   Tip: So which is it: front or back? For the best view, the front’s the way to go. For the fastest feeling cresting over a hill, though, sit in the back!

2. Take a perfect family photo
   Tip: Capture everyone’s best smile (with no shadows or squinting!) at the golden evening hour: two hours before sunset.

3. Defeat the claw machine (finally!)
   Tip: Focus on a prize that’s close to the chute and sticking out from the pile, not beside the glass. Look for three-pronged claw machines over two!

4. Make your ice cream the yummiest ice cream
   Tip: If you want to savor the flavor, eat ice cream from a cone rather than a spoon—the warmth directly from your tongue enhances its taste, a New Zealand study confirms.

5. Build the best sand castle
   Tip: Mix equal parts sand and water in a bucket for the most moldable sand. When in doubt, add extra water.

6. Make summer reading more fun
   Tip: Research shows that reading just six books over the summer can keep summertime readers from regressing. Make it fun by going to the library together to pick out new titles, reading together, or making a family movie night after you’ve read the book. (Hello, Diary of a Wimpy Kid and Captain Underpants!)

7. Be prepared for a rainy day
   Tip: Have art supplies on hand for when their screen time expires and before the “I’m bored”s begin—unveil a box of crayons, colored pens, and markers, and let them go to town.

8. Master a cartwheel
   Tip: The secret? Practice kicking to a handstand first to build arm strength. Then practice (and practice) on a soft mat, with sticky tape for where hands should go.

9. Ride a wave
   Tip: When you see a good wave, turn and start paddling quickly toward shore. Kick and paddle at the top of the wave as far as you can.