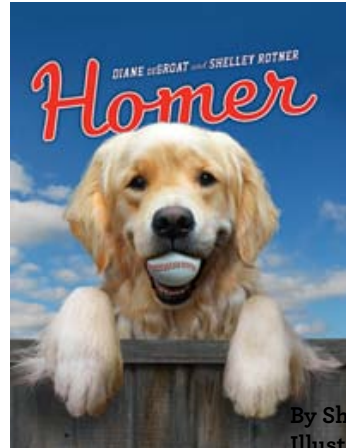


Homer's Top Ten Outdoor Activities

Hi there—it's me, Homer! You may not know this, but my dog friends and I like to sneak out of our houses to play baseball! Playing outside is fun, whether you're a kid or a dog. Here are some of my favorite outdoor activities:



By Shelley Rotner,
Illustrated by Diane deGroat

- 1. Racing:** Before I learned to steal home plate, I had to practice running. From relay to three-legged races, there are lots of ways for kids to test their running skills!
- 2. Hide and Seek:** Kids can't track down their friends by their scent like I can, but I'll bet they're still clever enough to find all of their buddies' hiding places.
- 3. Frisbee®:** I love to jump up and snatch a flying disc out of the air. You can toss one back and forth, or make it into a game!
- 4. Going to the Park:** I love the dog run, but kids get to have fun on the swings, on the jungle gyms, or just chasing each other around!
- 5. Hiking:** There's nothing more satisfying than climbing a hill or following a stream to its source. Look for a hiking trail near you, or explore your own backyard!
- 6. Water Play:** This is a favorite of mine. If you don't have access to a pool, set up the sprinkler in your backyard, and go wild!
- 7. Having a Picnic:** Fill a bag or basket with a large blanket, and goodies like sandwiches, fruit, and any other snack foods you like. Head to your nearest park, or set up the spread in your own backyard.
- 8. Jumping Rope:** Push your energy to its limits by seeing how many times you can jump a rope—all by yourself or teaming up with your friends for double-dutch.
- 9. Catch:** Before I could be an infielder, I had to learn how to throw and catch. Start with a tennis ball and work your way up to my favorite activity of all, #10!
- 10. Baseball:** If you can't find an official baseball diamond, you can make your own bases. Get some equipment and start your trek to the major league!

