

Lisa Ciao, Owner Maid For You

School's Out and Summer Is Just Getting Into Full Swing

The rhythm of summer is one that shifts from alarms going off, lunches being packed, homework checked, carpool lane, rushing out the door, running everyone around to their various activities to sleeping in, days at the pool, packing up for vacation, going to the shore, picnics, barbeques, and time to eat popsicles and ice

cream cones. While summer can be just as busy as the school year, it's a different kind of busy. One that is busy being fun.

Maybe it's the years we ourselves spent as children with the summers off that has conditioned us to feel like summer is more laid back even though the workload of our day job may not change for many of us. Or maybe it is those vacation days finally being used. Or perhaps it is the time spent playing in the water and indulging in summer treats that evokes a feeling of play. Whatever it is, summer has us conditioned for carefree enjoyment!

No matter how you're spending your summer, even if you still find your days spent inside an airconditioned office with the fun reserved for evenings and weekends, it's time to make that transition.

So what does that look like? I'm glad you asked. To bring in that summer transition and be ready for some fun at a moment's notice, a little planning is definitely in order.

The first thing I like to do is move all the backpacks, sports equipment, and lunch boxes out. No one needs the reminder of school when it's play time! So hang them up in closets or put them in a "school year" bin in the garage or the basement. Make the swap with a "summer fun bag" as well as a larger "summer fun bin" and place it near the door.

What should go in these? Great question! While of course age and activities will dictate this, I like to have some staples. For the bag, this can take the place of your everyday purse or it can live in your car. Throw in

staples such as bug spray, bug bite cream, sunscreen, and hats for those impromptu visits that find you soaking up some sun at the park, a splash pad, a fair or festival and on the boardwalk.

Don't forget the wet wipes and stain sticks for the inevitable ice cream spills and popsicle drips. And speaking of ice cream, if you're in Warminster, be sure to check out Uncle Mike's Ice Cream, the best ice cream shop in town. You'll be able to keep those laidback summer chill vibes going when you've got the essentials that make a spill no big deal.

Lastly, throw in any community guides, access passes, and coupon books that can provide you with fun activities and even some savings.

For your larger summer fun bin at home, find a plastic tote or even a large cooler that you keep by the door or in the car. Toss in sunscreen, beach towels, swimsuits, flip flops, water bottles, nonperishable snacks that won't melt, a frisbee, and a good book or magazine.

When you're out and about with the kids, the spouse, or even solo, you can squeeze in a little fun by the water even for just 30 minutes or an hour to play in the river, at the ocean, or on a splash pad when you've got the essentials ready. It makes the no-fuss, gowith-the-flow vibes, well, flow.

If your budget allows, have two sets of beach towels and swimwear for everyone so that, when one is in the wash, the other is in the bin ready to go—and swap them out as soon as you use them.

While you're planning your summer fun, don't forget to include Dad! Gifts can be great, and stopping into local businesses to find Dad something fun for one of his hobbies is a good way to support local businesses. But why not consider giving him something intangible like an outing? Life is short, and most of us look back going, "Oh I wish I would have done more..." (golfing, spending time with the kids, fishing etc.) or "I always wanted to try..." (fly fishing, archery etc.).

Maybe the gift is lessons of some kind; perhaps it's brunch, lunch, or dinner at a cool new restaurant; maybe a fun experience like an

escape room, beer tasting, or lunch from his favorite restaurant and a picnic at the beach.

Maybe Dad needs the gift of time and a maid? If so, we'd love to help! We'll give him back his time and leave him with a clean sanitary house with our weekly, biweekly and every-4-week cleaning options.

When shopping for a gift for Father's Day, why not consider supporting companies that employ individuals with Intellectual disABILITIES by purchasing gift cards for a car wash at Classic Rock Auto located in Richboro or, for those with a sweet tooth, Uncle Mike's Ice Cream in Warminster or Bake Abilities in Holicong.

At Maid For You, we're big on giving people their precious time back so they can spend their it on more important things than cleaning. So, this Father's Day, I encourage you to give Dad the gift of time. Time to do something, try something, or kick back and have some good old-fashioned quality time making memories.





