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# The Down And Dirty Guide To Camping With Kids: How To Plan Memorable Family Adventures And Connect Kids To Nature



## Synopsis

Plan your family camping adventure! Whether you're a first-time camper or a veteran backpacker befuddled by the challenges of carting a brood and all the requisite gear into the great outdoors, here you'll find all the tips and tools you need to plan the perfect nature adventure with your family. Humorous and irreverent, yet always authoritative, this guide to camping with kids, from babies through pre-teens, is filled with checklists, smart tips, recipes, games, activities, and art projects. Helen Olsson, a seasoned camper and mother of three, shares lessons learned over the years of nature outings with her own family. Learn the basics of family camping, from choosing a destination and packing gear to setting up a campsite and keeping little ones safe. Create the perfect camp menu with simple and tasty recipe ideas. Discover foolproof tips and tactics for keeping kids happy and entertained while hiking. Explore nature through clever and creative camp arts and craft projects. This guide is your game plan to unplugging from the digital world and connecting your kids to nature. Whether it's roasting marshmallows around a crackling campfire or stretching out on a camp mat to gaze at the stars, the memories you'll be making will last a lifetime.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I've read or skimmed other books providing advice on camping with kids over the last decade, and most are either boring or just don't add anything to the mix. They seem to offer nothing to anyone who has slept in a tent for more than a night or two. I started off camping with my parents in diapers, and have been car camping and backpacking most of my life. Once we had children 10 years ago, I

started doing it with my kids. Our first couple of trips, despite what I thought was my abundant wealth of knowledge and experience, were nothing short of disasters! Where was this book then?! The book by Olsson is fun, funny and helpful. I now know way more than I did 10 years ago about camping with kids (having learned the painful way), but there is much in here I did not know and everything in here is what I wish I HAD known. It is that good. The book included humorous stories from her camping days as a kid and with her own family (and who doesn't enjoy a good camping disaster story!). My favorite was the one about the sister who used poison ivy to wipe her backside after a pit stop in the woods. I have vague recollections of a similar error. Mixed in with the entertaining anecdotes is plenty of solid advice. The poison ivy story is followed up with guidelines for avoiding poison ivy, for treating a poison ivy rash, and for getting the oil out of your clothes. The author isn't afraid to let us learn from her mistakes. Isn't that the best way to learn something - from someone else's mishaps? It's a refreshing take on camping with kids. The book is packed with the basics on gear, planning, and food (great recipes for a new kind of s'more), but there's also beefy chapters on arts and crafts and games and activities to keep the kids entertained at the campsite.

I've read a few books on camping with kids over the years, but none emphasizes the importance or explores the full landscape of preparedness more than this new one I picked up the other day. Olsson is a list maker, and there is perhaps no better trait you want in someone who's planning or helping you plan a trip. As I've mentioned before, the motto we lived by in my scout troop was "A prepared scout is a happy scout." This is true in for all campers. In this book, Olsson answers all your questions about camping with kids. There are sections that deal with having all the right gear, from boots to tents. Later she gets you prepped and ready to camp with her signature lists--Little Tykes Gear Checklist, Software Checklist (that's clothing), Camp Kitchen Cleanup Checklist--before explaining in the next section how to setting up camp, prepare meals, keep the site clean, etc. The third section is my favorite. Anyone who has planned a camping trip knows the risk of over planning the sleeping and eating to the neglect of the other 14 or so hours in the day. You have to have something planned, be it hiking, rafting, fishing, throwing horseshoes, collecting flowers... something, or your family will go nuts and take you with them to the funny farm. Olsson's final section has you covered enough games, activities, and crafts to keep your brood happy for a month in the woods. But that's not all (trying hard not to sound like an infomercial), there's a lot of sound advice here. Smart Tips are scattered to nearly every page with sage guidance that will make your trip as smooth as a well-swept tent floor (she has advice on that too): Save some cash by buying kids' hiking boots used. (They're going to outgrow them before they outwear them.

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