

Section 3: Driving Tips

- When going on road trips, always pack snacks and drinks in a small cooler. This will help everyone during the trip to have snacks and prevent having to stop at more rest stops than necessary.
- Music selection during a road trip is often a touchy subject. Consider allowing everyone in the family to select a few of their favorite songs and then compile a family CD to listen to during the drive.
- It is also a good idea to prepare some ideas for games to play in the car, to keep kids entertained and well-behaved. Here are 15 fun travel game ideas:
 1. Maps for the Kids: Show them how far you have come, how much further there is to go and let them mark it with a crayon. Include landmarks you will see along the way. Every time they ask “How much further?” have them take out their map and see for themselves. You could ask for these maps from your local CVB as well.
 2. Mystery Writing: One person holds out their hand and closes their eyes while the other person “writes” on his hand with their finger. The first person has to guess what the second person is writing without looking.
 3. Bubble Gum Blowing Contest: At the next gas station stop pick out a unique flavor of gum and have a bubble gum blowing contest.
 4. License Plate Game: Spot a license plate and call out the letters on it. Then everyone tries to come up with a different phrase using the letters in the order they appear on the license plate as the first letter of each word. For example, TES could be “ten elephants swimming.” When you can’t think of any more look for another license plate.
 5. Play Cards: Teach your kids to play “Old Maid” or “Go Fish” or any other card game.
 6. Tell jokes: Take turns telling silly jokes like knock-knock jokes or riddles. If you need help getting started, rent a joke book at your local library, or find jokes for kids online.
 7. Counting: This game could be altered to count any one specific object from cows, blue vans, red cars, police cars, billboards or people.
 8. Scavenger Hunt: Give each person a list of items to watch for while driving. The list can be made up ahead of time and adjusted for the scenery.
 9. Alphabet Game: Start with the letter “A” and find one on a sign, truck, billboard or license plate. Say the word and then move on to the next letter. Work your way through to the letter “Z.”
 10. Read: Take turns reading a book out loud.
 11. Sing: Sing songs together that everyone in the car can enjoy.
 12. Spelling Bee: See who can spell the most words correctly. You might like to bring a small dictionary for word ideas and definitions.
 13. Lines and Dots: Make a grid of dots on a sheet of paper. Each player takes turns drawing a line between two dots. The lines can only be horizontal or vertical. If a player makes a complete square, they get to mark the square with their initials in the center of it, and they get another turn. The player with the most squares when all the dots are connected wins.
 14. Twenty Questions: Think of an object, it can be anything as long as it is general. The players can then ask anything they want about the object as long as you are able to answer “yes” or “no” to their question. If they can guess the object in less than 20 questions, they win.
 15. Play Favorites: Go around the car and ask each person their favorite color. Then continue the conversation by having everyone talk about their different “favorites” such as movie, flavor of ice cream, song, game, toy, animal, etc.