

2017 Summer Manifesto

1. I WILL NOT SUMMER ALONE.

Trying to plan every activity, every day, on your own is exhausting. You are going to run out of ideas fast if you don't find some friends to team up with.

2. I WILL PLAN ACTIVITIES THAT WILL NOT CAUSE ME TO SLIP INTO A MIND-NUMBING COMA.

What is it you love to do? Remember, you are not a hired entertainer for the summer - make it a time you will enjoy as well.

3. WORK IS GOOD.

If your summer is anything like mine, it's still busy, but the appointments are a little less critical. One of the key factors in surviving summer is this one secret that no one tells you: Your kids can experience as much joy mixing up some home-made pancake mix for the whole family as they will doing an art project.

4. I WILL NOT PICK A PROJECT BASED ON HOW THE PICTURES WILL TURN OUT ON PINTEREST

(or my blog, or Facebook, or Instagram.) Talk about setting yourself up for failure. Don't put that pressure on yourself.

5. I WILL NOT VIEW BLANK TIME ON THE CALENDAR AS SLACKING OFF.

Every family has their own summer rhythm, and it's not your job to keep up with any other mom. Figure out where you and your kids fall on that scale and plan accordingly.

6. I WILL PLAN SOME "SPACE" FOR MY KIDS.

Kids who are constantly entertained by media will never enjoy the simple pleasures of the library or building a fort out of pillows or a refrigerator box. Make sure your family has time unplugged.