

Three FUN items FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

A couple of years ago we splashed out on 3 items that have proved absolutely priceless for our young family (three youngsters now aged 3, 5, and 7).

The 3 items in question all cost less than £100, will last for many years to come, and have already given hours of fun to the kids. Read on to find out more...

The Instant Swimming Pool

Back in the swelteringly hot summer of 2006, we found this fabulous bargain on Ebay for less than £50. Brand new, still in its box, was an instant 'pop-up' swimming pool that came complete with a filtration system and cover. This particular one is an American brand but you can buy similar pools easily over here – essentially it's just a massive inflatable swimming pool. By the time you've added chlorine, anti-algae chemicals, filters and a ladder the overall cost has climbed a fair bit, but nonetheless this pool has proved to be an absolute winner in the 'fun per pound' stakes. It's big enough for adults too and it helped our 2 eldest children learn to swim – they're both members of the local swimming team now. This summer we're expecting the youngest to follow suit.

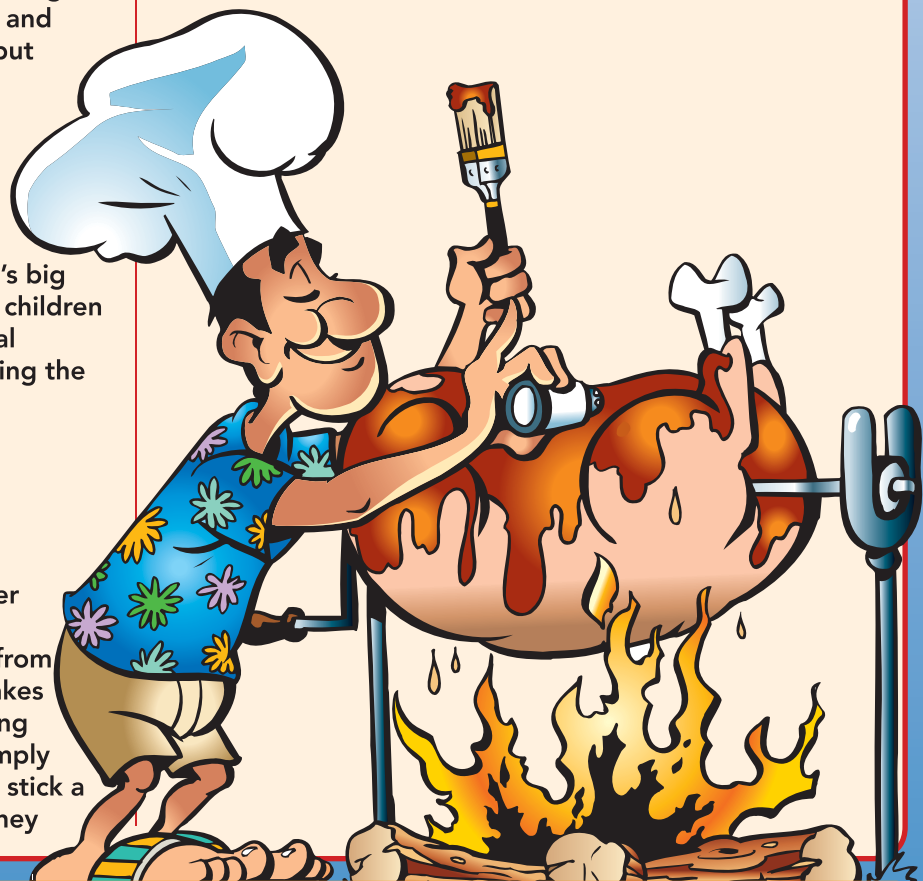
The Portable Twin-Screen DVD Player

Another Ebay bargain, costing just under £60. Very simple and robust, it's a portable DVD player with 2 separate screens. It can run off the mains but also comes with an adaptor so it can be run from the cigarette lighter socket in the car – which makes it an absolute must for longer car journeys. Saving loads of bickering and 'I'm bored' misery, you simply attach the screens to the back of the front seats, stick a nice Disney DVD on, and enjoy a stress-free journey

The Portable Gas Barbecue

This little beauty cost just £40 from a local garden centre. A portable gas BBQ which folds up into a handy carry-bag with wheels. You still need to buy a gas canister for it, but it's small enough to throw into the boot of the car when you're heading off on holiday. It takes just 5 minutes to warm up, works every time, and is perfect for picnics or the beach. It's also easy to clean.

So there you have it. Three relatively low cost items that will more than pay for themselves in terms of fun for the kids... and maybe make parents' lives a bit easier at the same time...



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