Creating your own Summer Olympic Games



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*The* [*London 2012 Summer Olympics*](http://www.london2012.com/) *start at the end of this month and there are so many ways to use the games to your parental advantage to get your kids' blood pumping with some physical activity and their minds strong with some education.*

*We will be following the 2012 Summer Olympics and sharing with you all kinds ideas to keep your kids interested in this historical international event. So, whether your kids are hard core athletes or just play sports for fun, our series will be offering ideas to improve their health, enrich their education and encourage them to get out there and be more active.*

**Backyard Olympics**

Unlike any event in the world, the Summer Olympics Games and its athletes from around the world are inspirations to kids across the planet. This is the perfect opportunity to get kids more involved and active!

The 2012 Summer Olympics start on July 27th and you can benefit from your children’s excitement by creating your own Olympic games by mixing knowledge and ability games with competition and sports. By using what you have in your home you can create your own mind challenging games the kids will enjoy, while learning, without spending an arm and a leg.

As we have written about [before](http://blog.k12.com/search/node/summer%20learning), research has shown that over the course of their summer break, our kids are losing some of the critical skills they have previously learned. Creating a few educational Olympic activities can help to keep your child’s learning alive over their break. Invite the neighborhood kids, friends from school, and their parents to join in as you all create your very own 2012 Summer Olympic Backyard Games.

There are many websites available offering ideas for games, and competitions like spelling bees and even some that offer activities that will have your kids creating their own rackets to use in a tennis tournament!

Don't forget that Olympic Games would not be complete without gold, silver, and bronze metals, so why not make or buy some to reward the kids for their effort and make them feel extra special!

Below are sites to help you begin your create the perfect Summer Olympic Backyard Games:

* Education World: [Create Your Own Classroom Olympic Games](http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/02/lp250-03.shtml)
* Livestrong.com: [Summer Olympic Games for Kids](http://http:/www.livestrong.com/article/365297-summer-olympic-games-for-kids/)
* Scholastic: [Medal Winning Games](http://http:/www.scholastic.com/resources/article/medal-winning-games)
* eHow mom: [How to Organize Backyard Olympics for Children](http://www.ehow.com/how_2156861_organize-backyard-olympics-children.html)
* Education.com: [Olympic Games for Kids](http://www.education.com/activity/article/backyardolympics_first/)
* Parenthood.com: [Backyard Olympics](http://www.parenthood.com/article-topics/backyard_olympics.html/page/5)