

# AN INVITATION FROM YOUR LAWN



“ I love when you play tag or some silly game, and I tickle the bottoms of your feet as you run over me. I feel good when I keep your children cool and safe. So let me cushion your falls and give your pet room to play. And when you need some quiet, or a place to get away, I'll be right outside your door. ”

*Love, Your Lawn*

## *Backyard Picnic:*

- ☀ Picnics in the park are fun, but you can get the same experience without driving anywhere! Make some snacks with your family, grab a blanket, and head out to the backyard.

## *Stargazing:*

- ☀ Let your kids stay up later than usual on a clear summer evening. Bring a blanket, lie on your backs, and search for the Big Dipper. Add to the fun with an astronomy book, a flashlight, and a light snack.

## *Listen Up:*

- ☀ Lie in the grass beside your child, or back-to-back, and close your eyes. Concentrate on listening to all the sounds around you. Can you hear bees buzzing? Wind blowing? Are there any soft sounds? High sounds? Take turns sharing which sounds you can hear.

## *Neighborhood Art Fair:*

- ☀ Invite neighborhood families to bring their artwork to an afternoon show in your backyard. Use a clothesline and pin the artwork up with clothespins. Serve snacks and step back to enjoy the talent of the young artists in your neighborhood.

## *Nature Hunt:*

- ☀ Give each player a bag and a list of natural objects (a bird's feather, a leaf, a smooth rock, a pine cone, a wildflower, etc.) to collect. If more than one child is playing, make different lists. Challenge the players to find all the objects on their list in a set amount of time.

## *Backyard Bowling:*

- ☀ Find household items that will tumble over easily, such as empty cereal boxes, or empty soda cans, and line them in a row like bowling pins. Then, using a small ball, have children roll the ball. They score a point for each “pin” they knock down.

