

8 Date Night Ideas For Every Budget

At-home Dates (no babysitter needed!)

Games night:

Pull out the board games or buy a new 2-player game to try (there are lots of fun ones out there - we like Code Names and Sequence). Or, mix it up and invite some friends over to join you.

Dollar store challenge:

We're both a little competitive, so this was fun. I bought a bunch of things from the Dollar Store - a couple puzzles, bingo game, Sudoku book, etc. and we faced off against each other. The winner of each challenge got a small prize (I used a coupon book I found with things like "make the other person the dinner of their choice" and "foot massage").

Reading together:

I'm still not sure why, but AJ loves when I read to him. So, every so often, we'll pick a book and I'll read out loud, a couple chapters at a time until we finish the book. It's very relaxing because we don't often get a lot of time just to sit and read.

Out and About on the Cheap

Waterfront or Neighborhood walk:

We've got a beautiful waterfront near us and in the warmer weather, we always enjoy a nice long walk, holding hands, chatting or just enjoying the scenery. There's a floating dock at one end of the path and once we sat there talking so long, we actually missed a dinner with my parents (oops!)

Test-drive:

This was a suggestion from a church in Atlanta. Our "date card" said to go and test drive a car you would never buy - a Hummer or convertible or something. You have to put up with a bit of a sales pitch, but it ended up being a lot of fun.

Out and About (With Some Money)

Blue Jays game/Sporting Event/Concert:

This one may not be for everyone, but both AJ and I are big baseball fans and going to a Jays game is a mainstay in our summer plans. We watch, we talk, we enjoy some over-priced food and just have a great time. It's on our bucket list as

a couple to eventually visit every MLB stadium - I think we're at about 12/30 at this point.

Dinner and Mini-Golf challenge:

Did I mention we're competitive? We have been to almost every mini golf course within 30km of our home and there's always some sort of bet to make things interesting. Once I had to make AJ breakfast (eggs over-easy which was a big stretch for me as a non-egg eater). Another time, AJ had to wear a pair of my underwear to work the next day!

Year of Dates:

This was one of the most fun gifts for both of us. And the cool thing about it is you can make it as cheap or expensive as you like. Basically, you put together a year's worth of dates (surprise surprise) - it includes 12 date ideas and everything you need to make those dates happen - tickets, cash, gift cards, prizes, etc. Crystal made up separate envelopes for each month with a date card for each and AJ got to open each one a month before so we could schedule the date. Crystal had a blast coming up with ideas and preparing it and, really, it was a gift for both of us.