

## 5 Romantic Date Ideas for Parents

These romantic date nights might be just what the parenting experts ordered!

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After a long day of meeting work deadlines and driving your kid to dance class, the last thing on your mind is brainstorming romantic date ideas for you and your partner. Maintaining and growing a healthy marriage is not easy when you have children, but alone time is so important if you want to have a healthy relationship -- and romance can help you feel that spark from your earlier days, before kids. Tina B. Tessina (<https://twitter.com/tinatessina>), a psychotherapist and author of "Money, Sex and Kids" ([http://www.amazon.com/Money-Sex-Kids-Fighting-Marriage/dp/1598693255/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1422132002&sr=8-1&keywords=Money%2C+Sex+and+Kids%3A+Stop+Fighting+about+the+Three+Things+That+Can+Ruin+Your+Marriage&pe](http://www.amazon.com/Money-Sex-Kids-Fighting-Marriage/dp/1598693255/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1422132002&sr=8-1&keywords=Money%2C+Sex+and+Kids%3A+Stop+Fighting+about+the+Three+Things+That+Can+Ruin+Your+Marriage&pe)) says that, the first step to finding that romantic spark again is to find time alone. "To keep your couple relationship warm and connected, try to organize your schedule so that you have some time together, without having to do chores or work," she says. "Setting aside time to just be a couple and be alone together keeps the core of your marriage solid -- the health of your whole family depends on the health of your relationship."

While spur-of-the-moment romance is fantastic, as a parent it's unlikely to happen. April Masini, writer of the critically acclaimed "Ask April" (<http://askapril.com/>) relationship advice column, says planning a date is smarter than waiting for the opportunity to be spontaneous. "Unless you schedule in the time to date your spouse and prioritize that date, you're going to lose out," she says. "Spontaneity is awesome, but when you're a tired parent, it's hard to come by." Plus, you always have to book a sitter.

If you're committed to finding time for romance with your partner, here are five romantic date ideas that break the mold and can help keep the spark alive. And here's some great babysitter resources (<https://www.care.com/babysitters>) to help you get your plans in motion.

### 1. Have Your Own Scavenger Hunt

While it's typically only children who play this game with enthusiasm, it's not made just for them! Turn this fan-favorite child game into a romantic date by choosing a local park, or even your house if the kids are with a caregiver for the night. You can easily turn this game into a romantic adventure by including some special twists that suit your relationship. Hide a clue by the tree where you had your first kiss or leave little clues to your hiding place that only your partner would know. This is a great way

to rediscover some old memories.

### 2. **Relax With a Couple's Massage**

Do something romantic by booking a few hours at a local spa. "This isn't just therapeutic," Masini says. "It's a wonderful way to bond, reduce stress and ease the tensions that tired parents cultivate." Want something different? Maybe skip the typical spa and seek an audience with a love guru -- a specialist who can help you feel more connected and intimate with your partner. You can learn new ways to communicate your needs and desires, and you'll leave feeling closer than ever.

### 3. **Visit a Fortune-Teller**

Even if you don't believe in the powers of fortune-tellers or card readers, you'll probably learn something new, or at the very least, have a great laugh together and conversation for later.

### 4. **Watch the Sunrise or Sunset Together**

For once, don't wake up early on account of the kids. Instead, get an early start on romance! Pack a breakfast picnic complete with gourmet coffee, fresh croissants and a warm blanket, and watch the sunrise in your own backyard. Later, when the kids go down for their afternoon nap, take the opportunity to get a rest in yourself. If waking up early isn't your thing, make it a point to catch the sunset. Get your kids a sitter, pack a basket with cheese and crackers and sit on the hood of your car while the sun sets slowly into the horizon.

### 5. **Listen to Live Music or Visit a Comedy Club**

Whether it's at an outdoor concert or a local bar, listening to live music is the perfect date. Look online to see if your favorite artist is playing nearby, or (if you're feeling adventurous) choose a band or musician you haven't heard before. If you and your partner believe laughter is music, check out the local comedy clubs in your area -- or put your hat in the ring on amateur night!

Interested in more date night plans? Check out these 101 Cheap Date Ideas (<https://www.care.com/a/101-cheap-date-ideas-1401081453>).

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