



Wondertime

Instant Journal

As a kid, you think summer will last forever. As a grown-up, you know all too well that it won't—so stop and take note before the year's longest days fly by.

Ask your child to describe what it feels like to walk barefoot in grass, on sand, in water, or in mud. (Or describe in your own words what your preverbal child did the first time she touched grass, sand, water, mud.)

Tell the story of choosing your child's name. How long did it take? Whom did you tell? Did anyone have the gall to object?

Make a list of your child's favorite:

times of day

nursery rhymes or songs

smells

snacks

Make It Now

Have your child draw a self-portrait. For a younger child, sketch the picture yourself, asking her for input (for example, "What color should I make your hair? What about your eyes?"). If you started collecting these journal pages last year, this will be her second self-portrait—if you do it each year you'll see a progression in your child's drawing style and self-image, and you'll amass an irreplaceable collection.