

# pocket play

Short on time? Here you'll find creative ideas to make the most of your pocket pages. BY LISA WILLIAMS VARSHINE

**M**y approach to pocket page spreads may have evolved over the years, but my joy in both creating them and looking through my albums has remained the same. For me, pocket page scrapbooking is a unique form of documenting that can be as simple or as elaborate as you'd like. There are days that I want to spend hours playing with embellishments and getting a spread "just right." Conversely, there are days where the words and photos along with a few pretty pieces are all I need to make a spread perfect. Like many of you, I am in a season of very little free time, but I continue to prioritize this hobby. That creative flexibility is one of the reasons that pocket page spreads remain my favourite form of memory keeping.



## TIPS

### POCKET TIP #1: Paint a complete picture of a day.

Use a variety of photo compositions. In this layout I have group shots of my people, close up/portrait-type shots, long shots that include scenery and a few action shots, too. The combination of these different pieces helps create a more complete story of the day.

### POCKET TIP #2: Show action with several photos.

Including multiple photos of my niece's perfect back flip really makes you feel like you are a part of the action. This is also a fun trick when you are taking photos of kids who will often cycle through a variety of weird faces before they finally smile.

**Make your own rules.** Many people who use pocket pages follow a weekly or monthly format. For a long time, I considered this to be the "rule." Recently, I released myself from that constraint, and it has helped me have more fun with my documenting. Sometimes I haven't taken photos for a week, but I have a special school event with tons of photos. We are allowed to tell the stories and to make the pages that fit our lives.

## adventure

**supplies** PATTERNED PAPER, CHIPBOARD, JOURNALING CARDS, VELLUM PHRASE: Ali Edwards; VELLUM: Strathmore; FONT: Rough Typewriter; ADHESIVE: 3M; OTHER: Canvas banner



**TIPS**

**POCKET TIP #1: Use typewritten journaling for longer stories.**

When you have lots of details to include or minimal space, typed journaling is the way to go. One of my favourite components of this layout is the timeline. For me, photography tends to be the focus of my pages and typing my journaling leaves more real estate for photos, while still including the story.

**POCKET TIP #2: Less can be more.** Don't be afraid to leave a photo naked. I often look at my spreads and wonder if they are too plain. I try to remind myself that I make these pages for myself. If I'm happy with my pages, that's all that matters.

**Use a timeline.** Epic family trips are bound to be discussed and remembered for years. But what about when the details get a little foggy? I used this one layout to briefly tell about our week of adventures in Arizona.

**PHOTO TIP: Use photos that incorporate open space.** The composition of the big photo is perfect for an inset shot. Don't be afraid to move your camera to offset the subject of your photo.

**not all classrooms have walls around them**

**supplies** PHOTO PAPER: Epson; BADGE: Ali Edwards; STAPLER: Ranger; FONTS: Merchanto, Rough Typewriter; ADHESIVE: 3M

Visit Lisa on Instagram for more of her inspiring pocket pages, fantastic photography, and other creative things! @frecklepickle