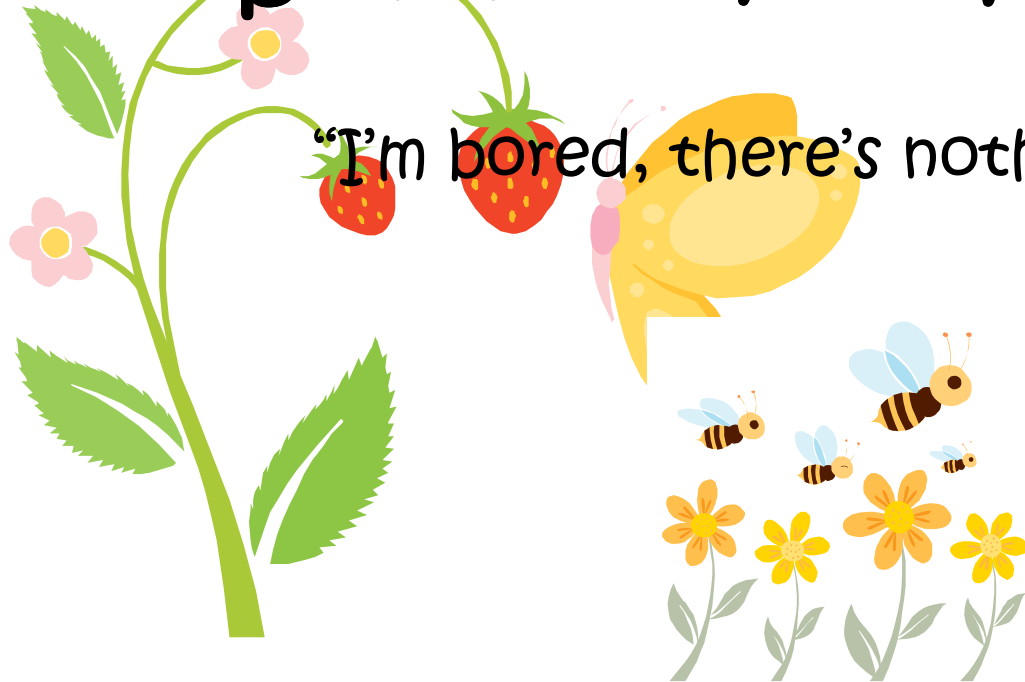




Parent's Guide to Summer Fun

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Summer Fun for Kids



"I'm bored, there's nothing to do!"

Start planning now for a summer of fun.
Let your kids be part of the planning...keeping kids entertained costs a pretty penny...you might even begin with a budget and go from there.

Family Activities

- Summer Camps (lots to choose from depending on cost)—day camps and extended camps
 - CFB-ISD After the Bell (structured program for grades K-the end of 5th grade) \$120.00 per week
 - City of Farmers Branch—Summer Funshine 2009 (\$475.00)
 - Exploration Academy/SAGE/Amateur Naturalist
Kent, Outdoor Learning Center
Dates: June 9 - July 1st
 - Sports Camp (many area colleges provide camps that focus on different sports)
 - Music Camp (again, check out area colleges for music camps)
 - Leadership Camp
 - Science Camp

Recreation Centers Farmers Branch/Carrollton

- The REC Scene—Farmers Branch
www.fbreccenter.com 972-247-4607 for Info
- The Crosby Recreation Center will be undergoing a major renovation...the facility is expected to be closed for one year.
- Rosemeade Recreation Center—972-466-9800
Annual memberships
Seasonal Pass
Daily Passes

Continued City Services

- Aquatics—972-466-9894
 - Rosemeade Rainforest Aquatic Complex 972-466-6399
 - W.J. Thomas Park Pool 972-466-6376
 - Don Showman Swimming Pool (Farmers Branch)
- Oak Creek Tennis Center— 972-466-6389
- Northrup Gymnastics...in association with the City of Carrollton PARD
contact info...Tony Northup at 972-898-6390 or anorth2@netscape.com for information
- Elm Fork Nature Preserve—972-466-9813
- Indian Creek Golf Club—972-466-9850

Family Freebies

- Farmers Branch Manske Library

The Manske Library is located at the corner of Webb Chapel and

Golfing Green at: 13613 Webb Chapel, Farmers Branch, Texas

Phone: 972.247.2511

- City of Carrollton Libraries (opened at different times, so call)

Hebron & Josey Ln., Carrollton

Josey Ranch Lake (1700 Keller Springs, Carrollton)

Read, Read and Read!!!

More freebies continued...

- VBS—don't forget about the many churches in our area that offer Vacation Bible School for free (ex: www.prestonwood.org) June 8-12, 2009.
- Water, Water Everywhere (Lake Lewisville; Lake Texoma, Denison; Lake Ray Hubbard, Rockwall; Hidden Cove Park (Canoeing), Lake Lewisville, Frisco, 972-294-1155 (Operated by The Lake Parks Division of The Colony.)
- Backyard Water Blast (fill water balloons and play a game of catch; hook up the sprinklers for a cool game of tag; load up the squirt guns, etc...you get the idea!)
- Many restaurants will let kids eat free on certain days...check out your favorites!

Water Parks in Dallas Area

- Great Wolf Lodge—the poshest water park in Dallas
- Hurricane Harbor (Arlington) season passes
- Six flags—(Arlington) season passes
- Hawaiian Falls (The Colony) great season passes available
- Surf 'n Swim, Garland—972-205-3993
- Denton Water Works (admission costs \$2-12, depending on age and residency status.
- Burger's Lake (one acre spring-fed swimming hole inside Loop 820 in Ft. Worth.)
- Sandy Lake Amusement Park, Carrollton—972-242-7449

Dallas/Ft. Worth Museums

- **Dallas Fair Park** (Fair Park Passport is valid for 90 days from the date of purchase and is available for \$11.99 per child and \$19.99 per adult)
 - African American Museum
 - The Women's Museum: An Institute for the Future
 - The Hall of State at Fair Park
 - Museum of the American Railroad
 - Museum of Nature & Science
 - Dallas Aquarium at Fair Park
 - Texas Discovery Gardens
- **The Dallas Museum of Art** ("Late Nights" the third Friday of every month with art projects, storytellers, yoga, etc...)
- **Latino Cultural Center** (June features a special Styrofoam art workshop, you will also learn some true Texas tales.)
- **Farmers Branch Historical Park**
- **Dallas Children's Museum** (located at Valley View Center)

Other Places of Interest

- The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza
- Dallas Arboretum—214-327-8263
- The Nasher Sculpture Center Tuesday – Sunday 11am to 5pm, Thurs evenings until 9pm, First Saturdays of each month free admission from 10am until 2pm. Family tours at 10:15, 11:15, and 12:15...yoga in the garden, story time, artist demonstrations, an art activity from 10am-12pm, and a live performance at 1pm/
- Dallas Zoo
- Fort Worth Zoo

Info on the Dallas Zoo

- The Dallas Zoo's summer hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., seven days a week. Admission is \$10.00 for ages 12+ and \$7.00 for ages 3-11 (2 and under get in free). Parking is \$5.00 per car.
- Dollar Day is scheduled for Thursday, July 2 – all admissions for ages 3 and above are just \$1.00.
- We will also be hosting Target Summer Zoofari from August 1 – August 9. Admission will be ½-price during this promotion. We'll also be featuring “cool zone” activities, special animal training demonstrations, celebrity story hours, and more!
- Our newest exhibit, Ghosts from the Bayou, opens in mid-April and will feature a 9-foot white alligator plus two smaller white alligators, along with other swamp creatures. We recently have added two young giraffes, a cheetah family, and a number of other new animals to the collection.
- The Lacerte Family Children's Zoo offers a wonderful opportunity for fun play during a family's visit. Don't forget to bring a towel and a change of clothes so the kids can play in the stream!
- One of the best ways to enjoy the Dallas Zoo is with a membership. Prices start at just \$79.00 for a family, and lasts for a full year. In addition to free Zoo admission and free parking, members receive invitations to exclusive family events, free ride coupons for the Monorail Safari tour or the Endangered Species Carousel, discounts at our gift and food service locations, and reciprocal free or discounted admission to over 150 zoos and aquariums nation-wide. It's the best family entertainment value in town! Higher levels of membership offer additional benefits, including guest privileges, invitations to exclusive VIP events, and more

Summer Concert Series

- Cool Thursdays at the Dallas Arboretum
- Plano Community Band Summer Concert Series
- Sounds of Lewisville
- Addison's Summer Concerts
- Dallas Summer Musicals
- And don't forget to celebrate July 4th for a great concert in the park!

Fun in the Sun Ideas (all from Kaboose.com)

- Easy Ways to Keep the Kids Entert

Go for a hike

Get Buggy

Have a scavenger hunt

Toss rocks

Take a bird tour

Run relay races

Silly jumps

Create an obstacle course

Play wacky golf

Play Frisbee

(These great ideas from Gretchen Biery)

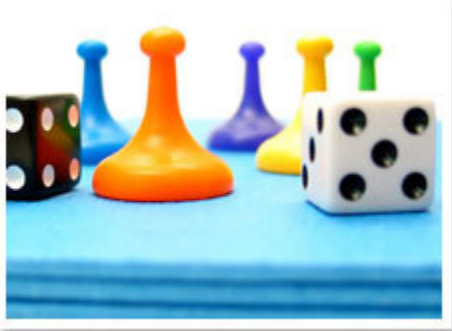
Play date...swap once a week

Organize a garage sale...if they clean out their room, they get a portion of the sales!!!

“Extreme Bedroom Makeover”...maybe rearranging, painting, reorganizing.

***Great books at the library on these ideas!





Plan a Game Night

Games allow you to compete, show off skills, and learn sportsmanship. They also encourage family communication.

Classics The advantage to these is that everyone knows them, or almost -- and they've stood the test of time. Check age gradings, but some suggestions are: Monopoly, Clue, Sorry, Othello, Battleship, Boggle, Parcheesi, Operation, Chutes and Ladders, Candyland, Trouble, Sorry, Pictionary, Trivial Pursuit. Many of these have special interest editions now.



Movie Night

Animated:

- Monsters, Inc. (PG)
- Toy Story and Toy Story 2 (G)
- Ice Age (PG)
- Shrek and Shrek 2 (PG)
- Shark Tale (PG)
- The Incredibles (PG)
- Finding Nemo (G)
- The Lion King (G)
- Brother Bear (G)
- The Aristocats (G)

Classics:

- Mary Poppins (G)
- The Sound of Music (G)
- The Apple Dumpling Gang (G)
- The Love Bug series (G)
- That Darn Cat - 1965 (G)
- The Shaggy Dog - 1959 (G)
- The Absent-Minded Professor (G)
- The Parent Trap - 1961 (G)

Action & Intrigue:

- The Harry Potter Series (PG)
- Star Wars/The Empire Strikes Back/Return of the Jedi (PG)
- Back to the Future (PG)
- E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial (PG)
- National Treasure (PG)

Heart-Warmers:

- The Rookie (G)
- The Princess Diaries I and II (G)
- Stuart Little and Stuart Little 2 (PG)
- Cheaper By the Dozen - 2003 (PG)
- Daddy Day Care (PG)
- Because of Winn-Dixie (PG)
- Babe (G)

- And don't forget the Popcorn!

Plan Ahead

- Kids often think summer is a time to be lazy! While we all enjoy being a little lazy from time to time, 2 ½ months is too much time to waste...good planning, time management, and organization will insure you and your kids will have a great summer!!!

Parents' Guide to Summer... Summer Websites



http://hebagt.org/sum_programs.htm (this is awesome...be sure and check it out!)

DallasChild.com

Kaboose.com

DallasNews.com

**Guidelive.com (Family events throughout the summer)

AmazingMoms.com (Great ideas for family fun!)

Dallas.about.com (Family Activities in the Dallas Area)

www.cityofcarrollton.com; www.cityoffarmersbranch.com;

Commonsense.org

Hebagt.org/sum_programs