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**6 Things Kids Learn
From Collections**



FILM review By Jack Kyser
Cruella

Read online at: www.austinfamily.com/films



Six-year-old Stella graces the cover this month. She is a Cover Kid Winner who loves dancing as well as playing with her brother and her puppy. Cover photo by Jordan Ashley Photography.



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EDITOR'S NOTE

ANNETTE LUCKSINGER

Lucksinger is a mom of two and author of the guidebook and app Exploring Austin with Kids.

Growing up, I loved the last day of school. Lessons gave way to end-of-school parties, extended recess and a general tidying up. Excitement filled the air as we cleaned the clutter from our desks, stripped the brown paper bags from our textbooks – covered in doodles and friends' signatures – and turned them in, marking a finality to the school year.

When the last bell rang, I would head to the bus with a spring in my step, despite a backpack loaded with old supplies and completed projects – but no homework! There was a sense of

liberation on that last ride home, knowing that I was now officially finished with that grade. That I wouldn't have to get up early the next morning. That long, lazy, summer days lie ahead.

Ah, summertime!

This year feels a bit muted with fewer buses running, fewer kids in the classrooms and a sense of summertime slowly coming round to "normal." But the happy anticipation of summer is not easily stifled! This issue celebrates the days to come, filled with hobbies, playtimes, projects, fun and family.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy, fun-filled start to your summer!

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Play it product recalls **SAFE**

Government Recalls Alarms, Rattles and Inclined Sleeper Accessories



Kidde is recalling about 226,000 **smoke and combination smoke/carbon monoxide alarms** because the alarm can fail to alert consumers to a fire. The recalled units include Kidde TruSense Smoke Alarms Model Series 2040, 2050, 2060 as well as the 2070 Smoke and Combination

Smoke/Carbon Monoxide alarms. Only alarms with the TruSense logo or "AMBER=FAULT" printed on the front of the alarm are included in this recall. The alarms were sold at Walmart, Home Depot, Menards and other department, home and hardware stores and electrical distributors nationwide. They were also sold at amazon.com, shopkidde.com and other online retailers from May 2019 through September 2020 for between \$10 and \$70. Consumers should immediately contact Kidde for a free replacement.



Playgro has issued a recall for about 18,000 **activity rattles** because the ring on the horse's back can dislodge and release the item's small beads, posing a choking hazard to small children. The rattles were sold at Walmart stores nationwide and online at walmart.com from November 2020 through January

2021 for about \$5. Consumers should immediately take the recalled rattles away from children and contact Playgro for a free replacement.



Kolcraft has issued a recall of about 51,000 **inclined sleeper accessories** that allow infants to roll from their back to their stomach or side, which can lead to infant fatalities. The recall applies to the accessory included with Kolcraft Cuddle

'n Care 2-in-1 Bassinet & Incline Sleepers and Preferred Position 2-in-1 Bassinet & Incline Sleepers. The items were sold at Juvenile product stores and mass merchandisers nationwide from March 2011 through December 2017 for about \$140. Consumers should immediately stop using the recalled accessory and contact Kolcraft for a voucher or refund.

The US Consumer Products Safety Commission works to protect the public from unreasonable risks of serious injury or death from more than 15,000 types of consumer products.

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AROUND

Austin

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Camp Doublecreek, located in Round Rock, has been offering Austin area children a memorable day camp experience since 1971. The first summer brought 36 campers through the gates and since then, over 50,000 campers have experienced the joy of camp. This summer, Camp Doublecreek celebrates 50 years of providing a variety of classic and exciting outdoor activities to campers ages 4-14.



Voted "Best Day Camp" by various publications, including Austin Family Magazine and 'Round the Rock, Camp Doublecreek offers over 30 outdoor activities that include horseback riding, swimming, rock wall climbing, team sports, interactive camp games, high and low ropes challenge courses and arts and crafts, as well as free transportation for families at various locations throughout the greater Austin area.

Since 1971, the mission has remained the same: "that every camper leaves at the end of the day knowing someone believes in them."



NYOS Charter School will open doors to its new facility this fall.

NYOS Opens New Campus

NYOS (Not Your Ordinary School), a tuition-free, public charter school, is completing construction of its new campus facility that will open for the 2021-2022 school year. Located in North Austin, the new 76,300 square foot campus will allow more than 370 additional students to enter its doors this August.

Since its establishment in 1998, NYOS Charter School has grown from just over 100 students to more than 1,000 students in pre-K to 12th grade. The school has seen steady growth over the years and has drawn in families due to initiatives like a year-round calendar, individualized student learning opportunities and small class sizes of just 18 students per class.

The brand new campus facility will include a new elementary building, a new middle school building, a practice field, a gym and performing arts space. Additionally, NYOS Charter School's current Lamar Campus will be renovated to exclusively serve its high school students.

by the numbers



90% of millennial and Gen X dads say parenting is their greatest joy
Source: zerotothree.org



#1 Chocolate's ranking in America's favorite ice cream flavors
Source: theguardian.com



45 Number of city pools and splash pads in Austin, Texas
source: austintexas.gov

Local Art Contest Winner

Twelve budding artists, selected from thousands of applicants across the country, were recently named winners in a national art contest that fosters homeschool students' creative expression and imagination. The contest was sponsored by Time4Learning, an online homeschooling curriculum.



San Marcos student wins national art contest for her design. Photo courtesy Time4Learning.

Students submitted drawings for the chance to see their design come to life as a custom-made stuffed creation. Nearly 4,000 entries were received, with 12 designs selected to become personalized plush toys. Little Mushroom Man, designed by Trinity Brown from San Marcos, won the category for ages 13 to 18.

Books for Summer Reading

Austinite Meghan P. Browne's debut picture book biography, *Indelible Ann: The Larger-than-Life Story of Governor Ann Richards*, comes out June 22. The book received a starred review from Kirkus.

Indelible Ann has a fun folksy feel to it. Illustrator Carlynn Whitt is also a native Texan who captures Ann beautifully in her illustrations.

Meghan was in elementary school when Gov. Richards ran the state, and she was hugely influenced by having a woman in this prominent position: "Because of Ann, I never questioned that I couldn't be the next female governor of Texas." Her legacy is long-lasting and young readers, especially girls, will be inspired by her story.

Local author Cliff Burke's middle grade debut, *An Occasionally Happy Family*, is equal parts hilarious and moving. Just released, this story of a family road trip gone wrong makes it a perfect pick for summer reading.

Burke takes a deft approach to exploring familial grief, parental loss and embracing change as he describes the family's first vacation since Theo's Mom passed away. When his father's secret new girlfriend appears, Theo must face his grief and talk to his dad before his family is forever changed.



New biography for kids tells the story of Gov. Ann Richards.



Austin author publishes the middle grade novel *An Occasionally Happy Family*.

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6 Things Kids Learn From Collections

BY SARAH LYONS

My children love to collect everything from rocks to stickers. They bring my kids joy and entertainment, but they also seem to take up space and collect dust. I must admit that I have wondered: are there benefits to encouraging kids to collect items?

While these treasures may sometimes seem like trash, I have found that they can be a great opportunity for kids to research and learn about things that interest them. As a result, they gain a better understanding of the world around them.

Here are some great reasons to encourage your child's collection.

1. Teaches Responsibility

Kids who collect items will need to learn to be responsible for them. They will sort, care for and find creative ways to display the things that interest them. They will need to make sure they are well cared for and stored

correctly so they don't get lost or broken. This will help them learn responsibility and organization.



2. Allows Kids To Experience the World Around Them

Collectors like to spend time reading about, sorting and discussing their collections. As kids study their collections, their curiosity will lead them to gain a better understanding of the world around them. While collecting rocks, kids will learn about science. While researching stamps or coins, they will learn about history. A leaf or shell collection will teach them about nature, and a baseball card collection teaches them about sports and math as they analyze and compare statistics.

3. Builds Friendships Through Shared Experiences

Collections can allow children to more easily bond with others who share similar interests. This connection can help form friendships built on common ground. There may even be conventions or classes that kids can attend to delve deeper and meet others who are interested in the same collector's items that they are. This will help them build social skills as they meet new people and build relationships.



LOCAL RESOURCE

If you know a young collector of nature items, send them to the **AUSTIN NATURE AND SCIENCE CENTER'S TRADE COUNTER** where items can be exchanged for points. Those points can be used to trade for other cool, new items for their collections. Until the center reopens to the public, you can sign up to make a virtual exchange at <https://bit.ly/3bhgwHp>.



4. Encourages Storytelling

Collections can also inspire stories. As children look through the items in their collections, they recall where they found them – whether at a family trip to the zoo or on a hike with a friend. They can remember, share the experience and learn to tell a story about how they acquired, prepared or learned more about the item.

5. Offers Lessons in Budgeting

Kids who collect items that need to be purchased will have the opportunity to learn budgeting skills. They will need to research

how much the item costs, find a way to earn money and save until they can purchase it. This may provide the opportunity to research, compare items and compromise for what they can afford. If the item can be traded, they will need to practice their negotiation skills as they bargain with their friends.



6. Brings joy

It seems to be human nature to want to gather items and learn more about them. When I really think about it, I have my own collections that bring me delight. A stack of books by my nightstand, my grandmother's china, more lipsticks and nail polish than I truly need, and

enough kitchen gadgets to fill two kitchens. I don't need these things, but I have collected them over the years because they bring me a sense of joy. Your child's collection brings them a similar happiness, and it is important to remember this.

Children's treasured collections may seem like a mess of odds and ends to a parent, but try to foster their interests and encourage activities that are important to them. Provide a shelf to display items or a special box to store their collections. Many valuable lessons can be learned from collecting items.

Sarah Lyons is a mom of six children, including 6-year-old triplets. She tries to allow her kids to collect items they view as important, even though she may not always agree with the value of their "treasures."



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Downtown Austin

www.mexic-artemuseum.org

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UT Austin area

www.nchmuseum.org

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www.texasmilitaryforcesmuseum.org

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Downtown Austin

www.umlauptsculpture.org

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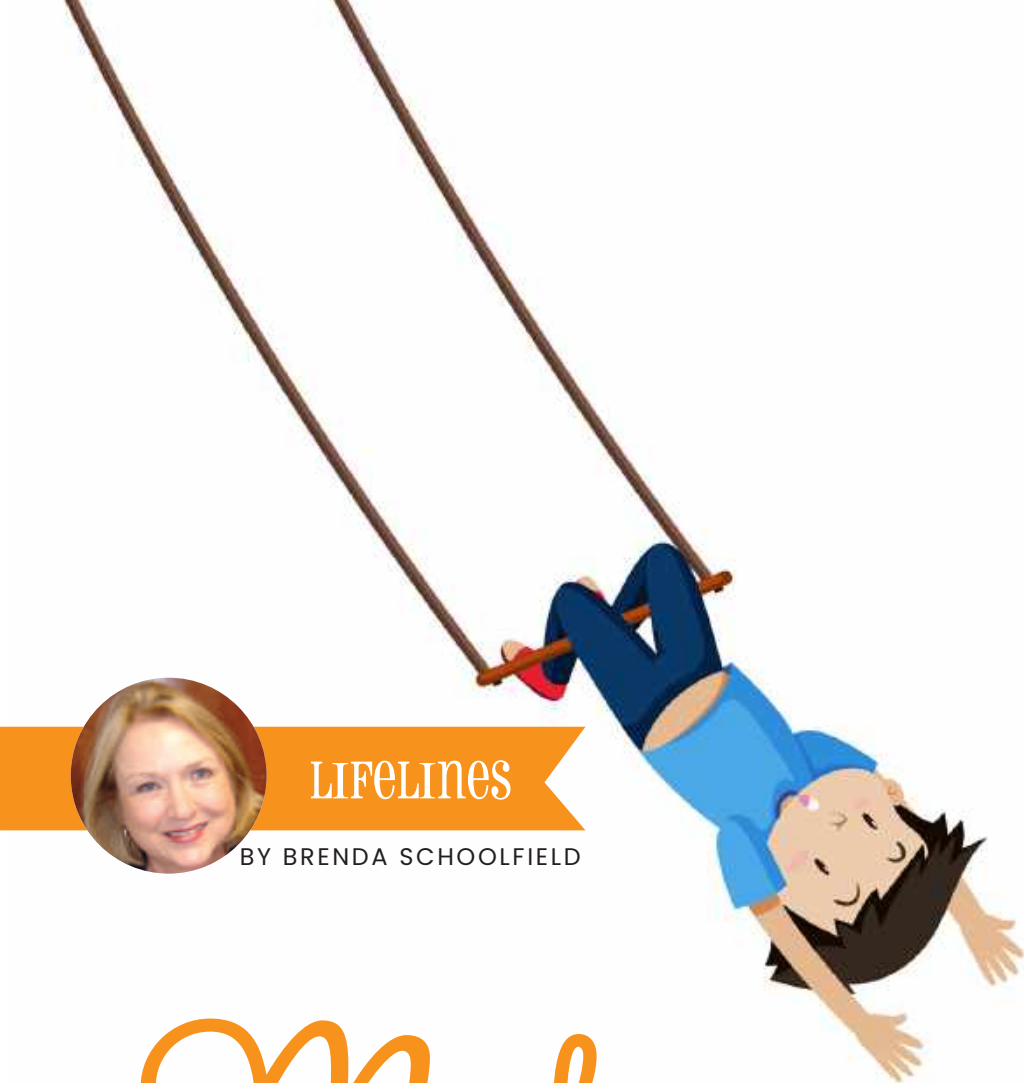
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LIFELINES

BY BRENDA SCHOOLFIELD

Make Time for Play a Priority

As you plan your family's summer activities, be sure your child has time each day for play. Play is important to a child's mental and physical health. It helps children manage stress, develop self-regulation skills and make social connection. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that pediatricians even write prescriptions for "play." It's that critical to a child's health and well-being.

Try to incorporate the following types of play into your child's day on a regular basis:

ONE-ON-ONE PARENT/CHILD PLAYTIME

One-on-one parent/child playtime is sometimes called "Special Playtime." It is nurturing and stress relieving for both parent and child. This type of playtime works well for children younger than about 8 years old but can be adapted for older children. Here's how to conduct Special Playtime:

- Set aside 5 to 20 minutes per day, every day, to engage in this activity. Set a timer. End the session when the timer goes off.
- Make plans for keeping other children in the household occupied so Special Playtime will not be disturbed. Turn your phone off or put it in another room.
- Ask your child to choose an activity for Special Playtime. Start with Legos, blocks or an art project, such as drawing. Allow your child to direct the activity. Don't make suggestions or give instructions.
- Play along with your child. Imitate her actions. For example, if she builds a pyramid with Legos, you build a pyramid too.
- Focus on your child. Give him your undivided attention.
- Communication during Special Playtime is very targeted. Give



- Make this a special time you enjoy with your child.

UNSTRUCTURED OUTDOOR PLAY

Try to schedule time for unstructured outdoor play as often as possible. Spending time outdoors is good for the whole family. Some experts recommend that children get at least 3 hours of outdoor play each day.

UNSTRUCTURED OUTDOOR PLAY HAS MANY BENEFITS:

- Running around outside gives children much needed physical activity. Childhood obesity rates are rising because of sedentary lifestyles. Going outdoors gets your child off the sofa and into action.
- Spending time outdoors decreases the time your child spends staring at a screen. The more time outdoors, the less time is available for watching TV or playing video games.
- Being in nature engages all of the senses. Children love to pick up rocks, leaves and sticks. They have a chance to watch birds and look for bugs. Focusing on the natural world reduces stress. It helps us appreciate nature and develop respect for the environment.
- Playing outside helps children sleep better because of increased physical activity. After a good night's sleep, children are more rested, are in a better mood and have improved concentration.

PHYSICAL PLAY WITH OTHER CHILDREN

Physical play develops both motor and social skills. On the playground, children learn to negotiate with each other to take turns. They build confidence by pushing their boundaries in a safe environment. The thrill of going down a tall slide for the very first time is a memory that lasts a lifetime. Pickup neighborhood games, such as basketball or soccer, can teach sportsmanship and empathy for others. Of course, physical play

gives children the exercise that they need to be healthy too.

CREATIVE PLAY

Creative play can take many forms. Children love to play "pretend" and try out different social roles. They play mommy to their dolls or pretend to be a fireman while watering the flowerbed. Keep a "dress up box" of old Halloween costumes, evening wear, fake fur accessories and the like. These are great props for a play or parade around the house.

Creative play can foster interest in the arts. Provide simple instruments so children can make music. Stock an "art corner" with paper, crayons, markers, glue, tape and child scissors. Suggest making art for a hallway "exhibition" or to give to an elderly neighbor. Play music or dance videos and encourage your child to move with the music.

Schoolfield is a freelance medical writer based in Austin.



specific praise, such as "You are very creative in the colors you choose." Describe what your child is doing. "You are building that tower very tall." Repeat what your child says so he knows you are listening. If he says, "I need the yellow color for my flower," you might simply note, "You are coloring your flower yellow." Avoid other types of conversation during Special Playtime.

- Don't ask questions or give suggestions. If your child asks you what to do, reply, "What do you think?" Don't give commands, such as "Let's play with something else."
- Avoid critical comments. Don't disapprove of your child's behavior or put your child down. If your child misbehaves, end the session. Say, "Special Playtime is over for today. We'll do it again tomorrow."



THE Learning Curve

ALISON BOGLE

Alison Bogle is a writer living in Austin with her husband and three children. A former fourth grade teacher, she now enjoys writing about children and education.

Exploring Your Child's Passions: Inspiring a Childhood Hobby

It has been interesting to watch my children during this strange school year of hybrid learning with its mixture of Zoom and in-person classes. The first weeks of school were spent finding our rhythm, and those early days required a not insignificant amount of my time — checking in to see if the kids were on task, helping them to navigate Google classroom, and stopping my son from turning in blank digital worksheets just to be done sooner.

After that, though, my help was no longer quite so necessary and their breaks were no longer gaping holes in the school day that I had to fill. My kids' imaginations kicked in and they came up with a slew of new games, activities and non-tuition-based hobbies. Other than missing real-life friends, in many ways they were thriving, which I see as a real testament to how important hobbies can be for children.

BENEFITS OF HOBBIES

Kids who regularly engage in a hobby benefit from a reduction in stress

and an increase in self-esteem. Hobbies require discipline, patience and perseverance, all character traits which are hard to develop in today's online, immediate-gratification world. Depending on your child's chosen hobby, he might also benefit from a boost in physical activity, coordination, and gross and fine motor skills.

Hobbies also productively channel children's free time, keeping them from potentially destructive or unhealthy habits. This becomes especially important as children get older and have more freedom to make choices about how, and with whom, they spend their time.

If your child hasn't naturally picked up a hobby, don't worry. There are many things you can do to encourage her to get involved with something on a deeper level.

ENCOURAGING A CHILDHOOD HOBBY

- **Play the role of interviewer.** The first step is to talk to your child about her interests, likes and

dislikes. Just talking these things out might spark an idea.

- **Take baby steps.** If your child is uncertain as to whether he will like something or not, don't invest in expensive supplies and go all in. Sign up for a summer camp, after school class or a weekend intensive, so your child can see if the hobby is something he'd like to continue.

"Hobbies require discipline, patience and perseverance, all character traits which are hard to develop in today's online, immediate-gratification world."

- **Don't live vicariously.** This is the time to be careful to keep your thoughts, opinions and interests to yourself. Just because you loved dance as a child doesn't mean your daughter will too.

Until your child has a firm sense of what she'd like to do, keep your excitement about specific activities out of your discussions so you don't inadvertently apply pressure.

- **Join with friends.** Having a buddy doing the same thing as your child ramps up the fun while decreasing the stress level. If your child is struggling to come up with a hobby, find out what his friends are doing and ask if he'd like to give one of those activities a try.

HOBBIES TO CONSIDER

Collecting items such as fossils, rocks, stamps, trading cards, shells or coins helps children work on their focus, research and observational skills. Building a sizeable collection also takes perseverance.

Outdoor hobbies such as hiking, fishing, camping, geocaching, rock climbing, archery and astronomy provide opportunities for healthy physical activity. Participation costs tend to be reasonably priced and outdoor hobbies offer the added benefit of connecting children with nature.

Performing arts such as dance, theater, singing, playing a musical instrument or performing magic offer the opportunity to build confidence. All performing arts also require practice, which helps children to become more disciplined.

Sports offer exercise and health benefits in addition to the opportunity to learn endurance, resilience, dedication, hard work and how to operate as a team. Consider the time and financial requirements of organized sports before joining, but don't let them scare you away from sports altogether. Kids can find enjoyment in playing, even if they are not part of an organized program.

Technology-related hobbies such as coding, programming, website design and gaming are great for teaching problem solving, logical thinking, persistence, and both independence and collaboration.

Visual arts such as painting, drawing, pottery, sculpting, photography, filmmaking and drawing are wonderful for developing creativity. Many also help to develop fine motor skills.

The main thing to remember is that hobbies are meant to be fun. Your child's choice of hobby should be inspired by interest and passion and should offer the opportunity to become immersed in joyful activity, leaving

the world of homework and childhood worries behind. You may even find that joining your child in her new hobby not only provides a wonderful opportunity for bonding, but has you leaving your cares behind as well.



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Badgerdog Creative Writing Camps offer an immersive writing experience for youth in grades 3-12. Badgerdog summer camp workshops are led by professional writers and explore the arts of poetry, fiction and nonfiction. A virtual camp, with additional in-person camp locations to be added.
512-542-0076

www.austinlibrary.org/creative-writing-camps
Ages 3rd-12th grade

CAMP DOUBLECREEK

Camp Doublecreek, an Austin Family magazine Readers' Poll Favorite, has been an activity-based day camp for children aged 4-14 since 1971. Offering 30+ exciting outdoor activities that include horseback riding, swimming, a giant water slide, climbing wall, ropes challenge course, archery, sports, arts & crafts and innovative playground games, there is something for everyone!
Check website for updates and safety protocols pertaining to COVID-19.
Summer Camp: June 1-Aug. 13
800 Doublecreek Dr., Round Rock
512-255-3661
www.campdoublecreek.com
Ages 4-14

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High Five! Let sight, sound, taste, texture and smell bring your writing to life! A sensory based exploration of creative writing. Stimulate the senses, then explore genres: poetry, short stories, script writing, memoirs,

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www.TexasHorseCamps.com

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 512-245-3680
www.education.txstate.edu/ci/ctwp/youth-programs
 Ages K-12th grade

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 Unlock a creative adventure for your kids this summer! We offer small class sizes and half- or full-day camps with exciting themes and new ventures each day. Extended care is available. Enroll today!
 Summer Camp Dates: June 1-Aug. 20
 Virtual
 Georgetown 512-275-4040
 Round Rock 512-275-4040
 Cedar Park 512-284-9874
 SW Austin 512-531-9353
 NW Austin 512-300-1200
www.cordovanartschool.com
 Ages 5-16



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 6900 Escarpment Blvd., Austin 512-288-8220
 13120 U.S. Hwy. 183 N., Austin 512-331-1441
www.countryhomelearningcenter.com
 Ages 5-13

DANCE DISCOVERY
 In-person camps with strict COVID-19 protocols run Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Virtual camps happen Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. Themes include Rainbow Unicorn, Frozen, Descendants and Swan Lake.
 Allandale 512-419-7611
 Avery Ranch 512-658-2996
www.dancediscovery.com
 Ages 3-18

GEORGETOWN PALACE THEATRE SUMMER CAMPS
 When school is out, our curtain goes up! From June through August, kids can take part in our camps in musical theatre, dance, acting, improv and more. All camps end with a fully-produced show!
 Doug Smith Performance Center 206 W. Second St., Georgetown 512-763-4532
www.georgetownpalace.com/camps
 Ages 1st-12th grade


HEARTSONG MUSIC
 This music camp offers natural, family-style learning through early childhood music and movement programming. Spring and summer Music Together classes are being offered virtually for both children and their caregivers.
 Virtual
 512-371-9506
www.heartsongmusic.net
 Ages Newborn-9

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Ages 4-18 ★ kidsActingStudio.com ★ 15 Locations plus Virtual

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Idea Lab Kids has an excellent lineup of summer camps for 2021! We have brand new programming as well as some of our classic STEM Camps! We have partnered with amazing coding curriculum to round out our Technology Camps.
8620 Burnet Rd., Austin
512-710-9654
www.austin.idealabkids.com
Ages 5-13

JUMP! GYMNASTICS

Voted Austin Family magazine's Most Fun Camp four times. Come find out why! Jump! Gymnastics is following all CDC guidelines for COVID-19, including screening upon arrival, social distancing small pods, hand washing regularly, sanitizing surfaces and requiring masks for children 6 years and older. Campers must be potty trained.
2117 W. Anderson Ln., Austin
6800 West Gate Blvd., Austin
512-705-9659
www.jump-austin.com
Ages 3-10

KIDSACTING SUMMER CAMPS

Austin's favorite theater camp for kids is ready to see you in person or virtually this summer. Imagination takes the stage this year and you are the STAR! Each camp ends with a fabulous show for family and friends. 15+ locations throughout Austin, plus virtual
512-836-5437
www.kidsactingstudio.com
Ages 4-18

LEARN A GIFT

We provide both outdoor and indoor camp experiences where kids have daily opportunities to have fun, develop friendships, challenge themselves, learn new skills, gain a sense of community and create

something new to feel like true artists!
6708 Taomina Dr., Austin
917-790-3683
www.learnagift.com
Ages 9-12

MAD SCIENCE & IMAGINE ARTS ACADEMY OF AUSTIN

Mad Science & Imagine Arts Academy are on a mission to spark the imagination and curiosity of children with fun, hands-on and educational activities. With sixteen themes, every child will find a favorite camp! Programs available year-round. Virtual and multiple locations in Austin metro area
512-892-1143
www.austin.madscience.org
www.imagineartsacademy.com
Ages 5-12

MAGIC BASKETBALL SHOT DOC AND HOF CAMPS

Training by the best coaches focused on building fundamental and advanced skills. Austin Sports Center, 1420 Toro Grande Blvd., Cedar Park
San Gabriel's Catholic School, 2500 Wimberly Ln., Austin
WAYA, 1314 Exposition Blvd., Austin
512-791-9464
www.magicbasketballclub.com
Ages 1st-12th grade

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Our program runs all year round, which provides an opportunity for your child to begin at any time. Younger ones develop listening and motor skills to enter society with confidence and enthusiasm. Kids develop the strength, confidence and self-mastery skills to deal effectively with the challenges, choices and complexities of life. They will have fun!

UT RADIO-TELEVISION-FILM SUMMER MEDIA CAMPS

rtf.utexas.edu/camps

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South Austin Campus: Phone: 512-299-5731
North Austin Campus: Phone: 512-299-5732

www.AustinBilingualSchool.com
info@AustinBilingualSchool.com

CAMP REDBIRD

A bereavement camp for children ages 6-12 that have experienced the death of a close loved one.

www.austingrief.org/campredbird
512.472.7878

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For more information:
adventures@newktennis.com
830.625.9105
www.newktennis.com

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6611 Airport Blvd., Austin
512-879-7553
www.mastergohring.com
Ages 4 and up

RIO VISTA FARM

At Austin's originator of English riding camps, daily lessons are taught by professional trainers, and campers enjoy lots of horse time and care. Camps also include arts and crafts plus swimming on hotter afternoons. Friday shows are performed for parents.
13013 Fallwell Ln., Del Valle
512-247-2303
www.riovistafarm.net
Ages 7-16

ROCK ABOUT CLIMBING

Campers visit natural climbing walls, including Enchanted Rock, Reimer's Ranch and the Barton Creek Greenbelt, with a climb each morning followed by lunch and a swim in a natural creek or pool.
3755 S. Capital of TX Hwy., Austin
512-415-0804
www.rock-about.com
Ages 9-18

STEPPING STONE SCHOOLS

This summer at The Brainery™, The World Awaits for Stepping Stone School students. Campers will be exploring the different landscapes and elements that make our world unique, such as mountains and volcanoes, oceans, forests and rainforests, frozen worlds and freshwater. Students will also embark on virtual field journeys each week! Join us for the most exciting summer camp yet!
19 locations in Austin metro
512-459-0258
www.steppingstoneschool.com
Ages 5-13

SYNERGY DANCE

Dance camps include ballet, tap, jazz and hip-hop. Also included are tumbling, theater, crafts and performances on Fridays.
2314 Bee Cave Rd., Austin
512-327-4130
www.synergydance.com
Ages 2 and up

UTEACH

UTeach-College of Natural Sciences at UT Austin hosts summer camps to help students stay engaged, make connections and get excited about learning. Students may participate in STEM Academy courses.
Virtual
512-471-4992
https://outreach.uteach.utexas.edu/camps
Ages 3rd-11th grade

UT RADIO TV AND FILM MEDIA CAMPS

Explore, collaborate, create! The Radio-Television-Film department at The University of Texas at Austin offers media production camps for youth of various ages, including filmmaking, screenwriting, animation, video game development, making music with Garageband and cinematography.
UT Campus
http://rtf.utexas.edu/camps
512-471-6617
Ages 6-18 (plus adult workshops)

YMCA OF AUSTIN SUMMER DAY CAMP

We offer safe, enriching and FUN summer day camps. Enjoy field trips, swimming, games and more in a character-building environment with the YMCA of Austin. Financial Assistance available.
Locations in Austin, Hays, Manor and Round Rock
512-236-9622
www.austinyymca.org
Ages 4-13

ZACH SUMMER CAMPS

For over 30 years, ZACH has been offering performing arts classes and camps teaching life skills through theatre skills and training. Each camp gives students a chance to express themselves creatively, build confidence, and develop collaborative skills, while having fun as they learn.
Weekly in-person camps Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (unless noted).
1510 Toomey Rd., Austin
14010 U.S. Hwy. 183, Suite 540, Austin
512-476-0594 x236
www.zachtheatre.org/education/camps-classes
Ages K-12 grade

OVERNIGHT CAMPS

NEWK'S ADVENTURE CAMP

Join us for an action packed, exciting week of fun and adventurous challenges! Areas of personal growth will include communication and leadership skills, trust building, goal setting, perseverance and decision-making skills.
New Braunfels, Texas
800-444-6204
www.newkennis.com/texas-adventure-camp/
Coed 8-17 years

SUGAR & SPICE RANCH CAMP

We help bond mothers and daughters through horses. Campers "own" horses and do everything together as a team. All-inclusive sessions, a great way to reconnect.
884 Rikki Dr., Bandera
830-460-8487
www.texas-horsecamps.com
Ages 5 and up

SPECIAL NEEDS CAMP REDBIRD

This bereavement summer day camp serves children who have experienced the death of a close loved one.
Virtual
512-472-7878
www.austingrief.com/campredbird
Ages 6-12

RED ARENA

An inclusive summer horse camp for kids of all ability levels, including disabilities. Camp runs each week, Monday-Thursday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and includes horseback riding, crafts, gross and fine motor activities.
2435 W. Fitzhugh Rd., Dripping Springs
1708 Centerpoint Rd., San Marcos
512-807-6505
www.redarena.org
Ages 5-12

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FAMILY MATTERS

BETTY RICHARDSON

Richardson, PhD, RN, CS, LPC, LMFT, is an Austin-based psychotherapist.

Celebrating the Special Attributes of Dads

Q My husband and I parent very differently. He is laid back, lives in the moment and has fun with our kids by doing simple things at home or in the neighborhood. On the other hand, I am more structured with our kids. I'm a planner and a doer who likes to stay busy and coordinate activities for our children that get them out doing things. I wonder if our differences are good for our young kids, or if it's confusing to them. Would it be better for them if we were more consistent in our parenting styles?

A It possibly would help the children if you and your husband were a little closer together in your style of parenting instead of being exact opposites, but depending on your children's personalities, your differences could be meeting their different needs. It's also important to acknowledge that the different parenting styles of fathers and mothers complement each other.

Dads contribute many positive attributes to the family, attributes different from those of mom. In this month when we celebrate Father's Day, we can take a look at what fathers tend to offer their children:

1. Fathers usually have a slower response to a young child who is

showing signs of frustration. This slower response has the effect of promoting problem solving in the child. Especially as children get older, Dad (and Mom, too) can ask: "How would you solve this problem?" rather than solving problems for their children.

2. Dads usually play rougher than moms and encourage risk taking in children. Because of risk taking, children become more self-confident and have higher self-esteem.

3. Children learn skills from fathers, such as how to change a car tire or how to use tools to build projects. Teaching is one of the most important things a father does.

4. Fathers tend to encourage competition. They promote acceptable behavior around losing as well as winning.

5. Research finds that a key factor in developing empathy in kids is the involvement of their father. When Dad spends time alone with his children, they are likely to become empathetic adults.

6. Fathers provide the male role model and influence children's future relationships with others. Children typically value qualities their father

has. Girls usually look for these qualities when deciding on a mate. Boys have dad to provide a glimpse into the male world and what a man values.

7. Children often look to dad for rules and a sense of security that comes from knowing the rules. Mom and Dad need to agree on rules and to enforce them equally. Rules that dads often enforce have to do with values such as honesty and respect. The best dads I know insist that the children show respect to their mother as well as to others.

I find that most dads today want to be nurturing parents. They tend to want to be better parents than their own dads. They want to raise kids who are better than they are.

In your situation, it could be helpful for you and your husband to discuss each of your roles and contributions as parents. Then, you'll find your way to strike a good balance that uniquely benefits the entire family.

June 2021

calendar

AFM welcomes back the Family Fun Calendar. As more events are announced and businesses reopen, we will continue to make daily updates to our online calendar.

Area libraries are offering virtual storytimes, which can be found on the AFM homepage at austinfamily.com. Check back often for weekly updates.

TUE 1

Drive-By-A-Truck. Check out an awesome lineup of fire trucks, police vehicles and more. 9-10 a.m. Cedar Park Public Library, 550 Discovery Blvd. FREE. cedarparktexas.gov or 512-401-5600.

June Storytime Craft Kits Available.

June Storytime Craft Kits are available to pick up at the library beginning June 1. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Pflugerville Public Library, 1008 W. Pfluger St. library.pflugervilletx.gov.

Kids Book Giveaway. Parents register kids ages 4 to 7 to receive two paperback books and some library swag. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Pflugerville Public Library, 1008 W. Pfluger Street. library.pflugervilletx.gov.

Pfarmers Market. The Pfarmers Market brings fresh, locally grown and prepared foods to the Pflugerville community. 3-7 p.m. Pflugerville First United Methodist Church, 500 E. Pecan St. parks.pflugervilletx.gov.

Summer Reading Club Begins. Cedar Park Public Library, 550 Discovery Blvd. cedarparktexas.gov or 512-401-5600.

THU 3

Round Rock Express vs El Paso. 7:05 p.m. Dell Diamond, 3400 E. Palm Valley Blvd. milb.com/round-rock.

FRI 4

CONTINUED: Round Rock Express vs El Paso. See Thur 3.

SAT 5

National Trails Day. Morning cardio dance class under the trees near the Rabb house. Free snacks, water and National Trails Day t-shirt. 7:30-9:30 a.m. Rabb House. 151 N. A. E. Grimes Blvd.,

Round Rock. FREE. www.roundrocktexas.gov/event/national-trails-day-2021

Market in the Park. Spend your Saturday exploring this outdoor market in the park along Buda's Historical Downtown Greenbelt. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Across the street from Summer Moon Cafe. budachambertx.com.

Family Storytime. All ages are invited to a storytime followed by a variety of interactive activities! 10:30 a.m. Lake Travis Community Library, 1938 Lohman's Crossing. FREE. laketravislibrary.org or 512-263-2885.

Old Town Street Festival. The Old Town Street Festival is a fun, family-friendly festival held in downtown Leander's charming Old Town District. The event features artisan creations, bands, food and drink. 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Old Town Leander, 100 North Brushy St. Free general admission, fees for concerts. oldtownstreetfestival.com.

Bat Fest 2021. Come learn about area bats from local experts and enjoy a full range of bat-themed activities. Noon to 2 p.m. Community Park Brushy Creek, 16318 Great Oaks Dr., Round Rock. FREE. bcmud.org.

Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory. Roald Dahl wasn't your typical children's author, and no film adaptation has captured his perspective quite as well as this beloved musical. 1 p.m. Paramount Summer Film Series, 713 Congress Ave., \$11. austintheatre.org.

Aloha Pool Party. Kick off summer with games, dances, photo ops, snow cones and more. 5-8 p.m. Lakeway Swim Center, 3103 Lakeway Blvd. \$8 for non-season pass holders. lakeway-tx.gov/1835/aloha-pool-party.

Maker Pfest. Kick off the summer with Maker Pfest at home. Pflugerville Public Library, 1008 W. Pfluger St. library.pflugervilletx.gov.

CONTINUED: Round Rock Express vs El Paso. See Thur 3.

SUN 6

Community Night. Thinkery's expanded summer schedule includes the return of weekly Community Night hours. 3-5 p.m. Thinkery, 1830 Simond Ave. FREE, donations welcomed. thinkeryaustin.org.

CONTINUED: Round Rock Express vs El Paso. See Thur 3.

MON 7

CONTINUED: Round Rock Express vs El Paso. See Thur 3.

June Summer Family Craft Night. This program is sponsored by Friends of the Pflugerville Library for kids ages infant to 8 years old. Families with children ages 5 and up can register in advance for a packet with supplies to make four craft projects during the month of June. Pflugerville Public Library, 1008 W. Pfluger St. library.pflugervilletx.gov.

Submit Your Event

Visit austinfamily.com and click "Submit your event." The deadline is the 5th of the month preceding the month of the event. If your event charges more than \$15, send details to kaye2003@austinfamily.com for approval.

TUE 8

CONTINUED: Pfarmers Market. 3-7 p.m. See Tue 1; Round Rock Express vs El Paso. See Thu 3.

SAT 12

It's My Park Day. Austin Parks Foundation will be hosting limited, in-person volunteer events in parks all over Austin. Projects for all ages include mulching, painting, clean-ups and much-needed park maintenance. In-person events will be limited in capacity, so early registration is encouraged. 8 a.m. to noon. City of Austin Parks. austinparks.org/IMP.D.

Kyle Market Days. The Kyle Parks and Recreation Department hosts Market Days on the second Saturday of the month. 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Gregg Clarke Park, 1231 W. Center St. cityofkyle.com.

Touch a Truck. Fire up those sirens! This family-friendly event allows kids the opportunity to safely see, touch and explore trucks and machinery. We'll have emergency vehicles, military vehicles, construction equipment and more. 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Wolf Ranch parking lot near Ross Dress for Less. FREE. wolfranchtowncenter.com/events-news.

Second Saturdays Are for Families.

Drop in and create with us. This month's theme is Ships Ahoy! 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Laguna Gloria, 3809 W. 35th St. FREE. thecontemporaryaustin.org or 512-458-8191.

Austin SOL vs Dallas Roughnecks.

Cheer on Austin's ultimate frisbee team! 7 p.m. Chaparral Stadium, 4100 Westbank Dr. Tickets start at \$10. atxsol.com/collections/tickets.

SUN 13

Cardboard Boat Regatta. Join Lakeway Parks & Recreation for a splashing good time! 6 p.m. FREE. Lakeway Swim Center, 3103 Lakeway Blvd. lakeway-tx.gov.

CONTINUED: Community Night. 3-5 p.m. See Sun 6.

MON 14

CONTINUED: June Summer Family Craft Night. See Mon 7.

TUE 15

CONTINUED: Pfarmers Market. 3-7 p.m. See Tue 1.

WED 16

Crafty Kids. Library-led crafting fun for ages 5-10. 4 p.m. Kyle Public Library. Kyle Public Library, 500 Scott St. cityofkyle.com/library/crafty-kids-age-5-10.

THU 17

Round Rock Express vs Okla. City. 7:05 p.m. Dell Diamond, 3400 E. Palm Valley Blvd. milb.com/round-rock.

FRI 18

TGIF Movie with Popcorn. Family-friendly classic movie with popcorn. Bring a drink! 1-3:30 p.m. Elgin Public Library, 404 N. Main St. elgintx.com.

Lego Club. Do you love Legos? Join us for a free play session. 4 p.m. Lake Travis Community Library, 1938 Lohman's Crossing. FREE. laketravislibrary.org or 512-263-2885.

Juneteenth Rhythm and Ribs Festival. Free family-friendly event features music and vendors. 4-11:30 p.m. Lakeview Pavillion in Old Settlers Park. 3300 Palm Valley Rd., Round Rock. roundrocktexas.gov/event.



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Skate Night. Get the family out together for music, lights, concessions and a fun skating environment. Bring your own skates. Registration and adult chaperones required. 6-8:30 p.m. Gregg Clarke Park Ash Pavilion, 1231 W. Center St., Kyle. \$5-\$6. cityofkyle.com/recreation/ash-pavilion-skate-nights.

Round Rock Express vs Okla. City. 7:05 p.m. Dell Diamond, 3400 E. Palm Valley Blvd. milb.com/round-rock.

Austin FC vs San Jose Earthquakes. Watch Austin's Major League Soccer team play their inaugural home game. 7 p.m. Q2 Stadium, 1835-A Kramer Ln. austinfo.com.

Round Rock Express vs Okla. City. 7:05 p.m. Dell Diamond, 3400 E. Palm Valley Blvd. milb.com/round-rock.

**SUN 20
FATHER'S DAY**

Round Rock Express vs Okla. City. 6:05 p.m. Dell Diamond, 3400 E. Palm Valley Blvd. milb.com/round-rock.

CONTINUED: Community Night. 3-5 p.m. See Sun 6.

**MON 21
CONTINUED:** June Summer Family Craft Night. See Mon 7; Round Rock Express vs Okla. City. 6:05 p.m. See Sun 20.

**TUE 22
Summer Sing Along Series.** Sing along with your friends and neighbors at our newest family event. 10-11 a.m. Wolf Ranch. wolfranchtowncenter.com/events-news/event/2021/06/22/default-calendar/summer-sing-along-series.

CONTINUED: Round Rock Express vs Okla. City. 6:05 p.m. See Mon 20. Pfarmers Market. See Tue 1.

**SAT 26
Western Days.** The Grand Finale Day of Western Days is filled with fun for the whole family including a parade, carnival, tournaments, arts and craft vendors, live music, plus food galore! Memorial Park, 1127 N. Main St., Elgin. FREE. elgintxchamber.com/western_days_festival.html.

Dads and Donuts Storytime. Join us for a storytime, craft and snacks. All caregivers are invited! 10:30 a.m. Lake Travis Community Library, 1938 Lohman's

Crossing. laketravislibrary.org or 512-263-2885.

Sunset Music Series. Each month, musicians showcase their talent at the Robin Bledsoe Park Amphitheater. 6 p.m. Leander Public Library, 1011 S. Bagdad. leandertx.gov.

**SUN 27
Austin FC vs Columbus SC.** 7 p.m. Q2 Stadium, 1835-A Kramer Ln. austinfo.com.

CONTINUED: Community Night. 3-5 p.m. See Sun 6.

**MON 28
CONTINUED:** June Summer Family Craft Night. See Mon 7.

**TUE 29
CONTINUED:** Pfarmers Market. 3-7 p.m. See Tue 1.



SCREEN TIME BEST FRIENDS

One of the most compelling aspects of working in children's media is observing when a young person embraces a character – that character doesn't just become someone interesting to watch but becomes a part of that child's beloved circle of friends. You see that character show up in creative play, you hear the character's name in the river of speech that children use to narrate their worlds, and at times, you can see a child trying on aspects of that character as part of her own personality. These characters matter profoundly in the formation of, well, character.

There's a ton of fun things you can do with your children off-screen when you see they've made a new on-screen best friend. Sprinkle bedtime stories with guest appearances. Nearly all shows have companion books that can provide a compelling inroad into reading. Ask your child to tell his own adventures, and don't worry if he's just rehashing plots from shows. That kind of retelling is an important feature of memory and sense-making. And when you and your child encounter problems in the real world, ask how his friend would make things right. Hint: In very few instances does "Hulk smash!" serve a useful purpose, but if you find such a moment, seize it!

Technology provides another option for expanded storytelling. Two PBS KIDS shows now having accompanying podcasts, perfect for car trips and other shared listening experiences. The Molly of Denali and Pinkalicious & Peterrific podcasts combine new storylines with favorite elements of the shows.

Para leer este artículo en español, visite la sección en español de austinfo.com.

Benjamin Kramer, PhD, is the director of education for Austin PBS.





Fairy Gardens

BY ANNETTE LUCKSINGER

Fairy gardens can be hard to find, not only because they're tiny and usually housed in secret spots – but they're also quite rare! This month, we've got some tips for how to find them as well as how to build your own. They can inspire creativity and get kids excited about the secrets that the outdoors can hold.

and see how many you can spot amidst the beautiful gardens and wooded pathways. Treat it like a scavenger hunt, or vote for your favorites. The event will run until August. (Tip: beware the dinosaurs you might happen upon in the Prehistoric Garden!)

Plastic lids become stools, tabletops and ponds. Popsicle sticks from your art drawer can become rooftops, rafts, bridges or beds. Collect small dollhouse pieces or action figures to help furnish or populate your dwellings.



Crowe's Nest Farm

A short jaunt from Austin, this farm features farm animals, themed gardens, milking demonstrations, hay rides and ... fairy gardens!

You'll find them along Birdwood Trail that winds through storybook-themed gardens. Kids will recognize many familiar characters and scenes along the pathways. The fairy area invites kids in through a small break in the hedge, past fairy houses, to the other side where a wee village lies. Quaint houses, natural materials and miniature statues combine with the landscaping to create unique settings.

Look for the trailhead between the red barn and the milking barn.

Address: 10300 Taylor Lane, Manor
Website: www.crowesnestfarm.org

Zilker Botanical Garden Woodland Faerie Trail

The Woodland Faerie Trail at Zilker Botanical Garden has returned this summer! This collection of creative, fun fairy houses made from naturally occurring materials is designed and built by the public. Wander the trails

Address: 2220 Barton Springs Rd.
Website: <https://zilker garden.org>



Fashion Your Own Fairy Garden

Once you've been inspired, use your imagination to build your very own fairy garden:

1. Gather supplies! Garden stores, craft shops and dollar stores will often carry small pieces, pots and figurines. You can also check the aquarium section of pet shops for castles, tiny treasure boxes and vibrant rocks to define spaces.

For a cheaper, more creative option, simply raid your toy boxes or recycling bins at home! Yogurt containers can be transformed into cozy fairy houses.

2. Then select a site for your fairy habitat, and collect natural items to help it blend into the landscape. Plop down pebbles or small stones for walkways. Carpet the rooms with leaves and grass. Forests can spring up from sticks and tall flowers. Nestle your houses against trees or under bushes, bamboo or branches. Get as fancy as you'd like!

Annette Lucksinger is a mom of two who loves seeking out Austin's secret spots. She is author of the local family guidebook, *Exploring Austin with Kids*.

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JUST FOR GRINS

CATE BERRY

Berry is an Austin-based children's book author and mother of two. She also teaches writing workshops for young people at cateberry.com.



Dad Makeovers

I used to stroll around Target with two babies born thirteen months apart. What mom doesn't kill a day with air-conditioned zombie-walking, mainlining Starbucks like a boss?

I'd pass the little boy's department, well-stocked with graphic tees. My eldest was a serial vomiter, so extra shirts were always a good idea. They were catchy, those labels: *Lil Slugger*, *Future Rock Star*, *Touchdown Tackler*. There was even a snappy Bass Fisherman-in-Training with red gill font that made me pause. But, I'd muse, what if my son wants to be a potter? Or a yoga teacher? Or a judge?

Where was the *Lil Landscaper* graphic tee?

Working for NASA, my dad was often labeled. And yes, he legit wore a pocket protector and black plastic glasses. With his government job,

he was a port of security, and yet he traded stocks like a Vegas shark after retiring. As a boy, my husband actually did contemplate becoming a potter after a field trip to Vermont, and he's an actual rock star (well, to me, and many acoustic fanboys). And my son wouldn't budge from his car seat on his first day of soccer no matter how many *Bend it Like Baby!* tees we smacked on him at birth.

I guess what I'm thinking is we need a Dad Makeover tee, for all the dads-in-training. Out with one-sided sports mottos, in with crying like Ted Lasso. Let's shelve *Lil Slugger* and roll out *Lil Multi-Careerist*. Don't get me wrong. I love a great game. But let's widen the outfield for our future dads.

Let's print *Lil Revisionist* on a few newborn onesies and see what happens.

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