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Issue

- Raising global kids who care
- Pay it forward with Earth Day parties
- City kids slim down with veggies



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Family April 2014



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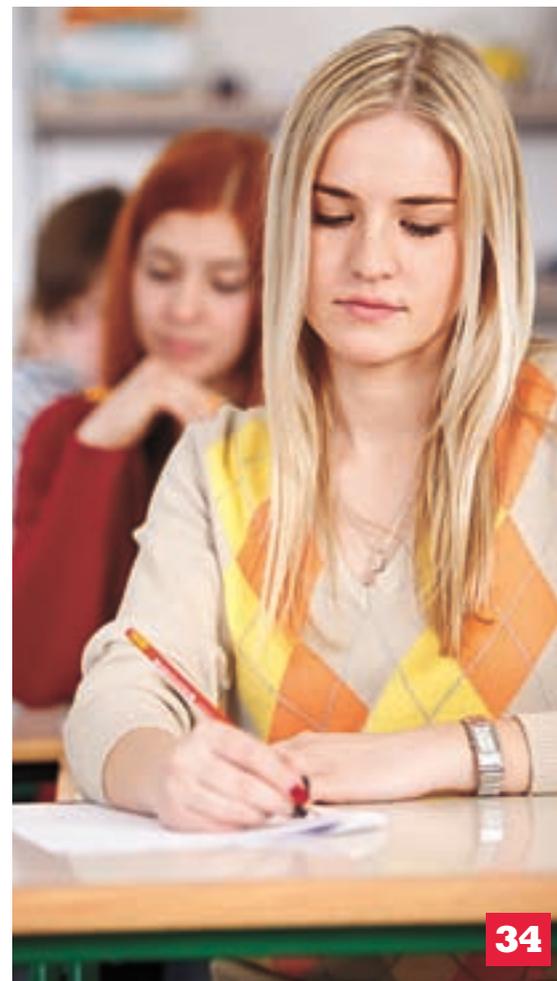
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Letter from the publisher

Loving the Earth

Every year we at *New York Parenting* join in the annual celebration of our planet and we encourage all the families in our communities to do so as well.

In this issue author Christina Katz has eleven ways to help us

raise global citizens. In addition Dr. Heidi Smith Luedtke gives us ideas for five Earth Day parties to reinforce the idea of going green.

We can't emphasize this enough for our children, that is, the importance of this being a priority for their future and the future of their children. Oscar Hammerstein, the great librettist and humanist, said it so eloquently, "You have to be carefully taught." We must carefully and pur-



posefully teach our children by example most of all, how to nurture our world/their world.

We must bend down and pick up the discarded trash and papers, even if someone else did it. We must form cleanup committees and get block efforts going in beautifying our communities. We must not only recycle but we should compost. We must make less waste and value longevity in the items we possess. Too much trash, too much new stuff is the mantra of our times and it was really great to remember a time when things sold themselves by the advertisement "made to last a lifetime."

We're getting better although as I go around the city I'm still seeing

plastic bags in the trees and cigarette butts all over the sidewalks. What makes a person who is otherwise a solid citizen throw their refuse out of their car windows and/or on to the sidewalk? What kind of carelessness is this? I see it as the "I couldn't care less" mode of thinking and acting. Shameful stuff.

I would like to challenge all my neighbors to bend down and pick it up and get your children in the plan too. Next time you go shopping make sure you have your own bags with you and eliminate the need to have them pack your things in plastic. Other cities have banned them entirely. We should be on that wavelength too.

Having your own cup will eliminate the need for all these discarded cups. Have your own and let them fill your coffee or tea or whatever in a

cup that you will take home or to the workplace and wash out. Save the earth! Save the unnecessary trash that we produce and the clutter that it brings to our surroundings. If everyone did something we could make a huge dent in the present horror of contemporary waste.

I know I'm not alone and that if we work together and we get our families in on the plan that we can make a striking change that will launch around our globe. Everyone has a part to play. Everyone counts.

Thanks for reading.

Susan Weiss-Voskidis,
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Raising global citizens

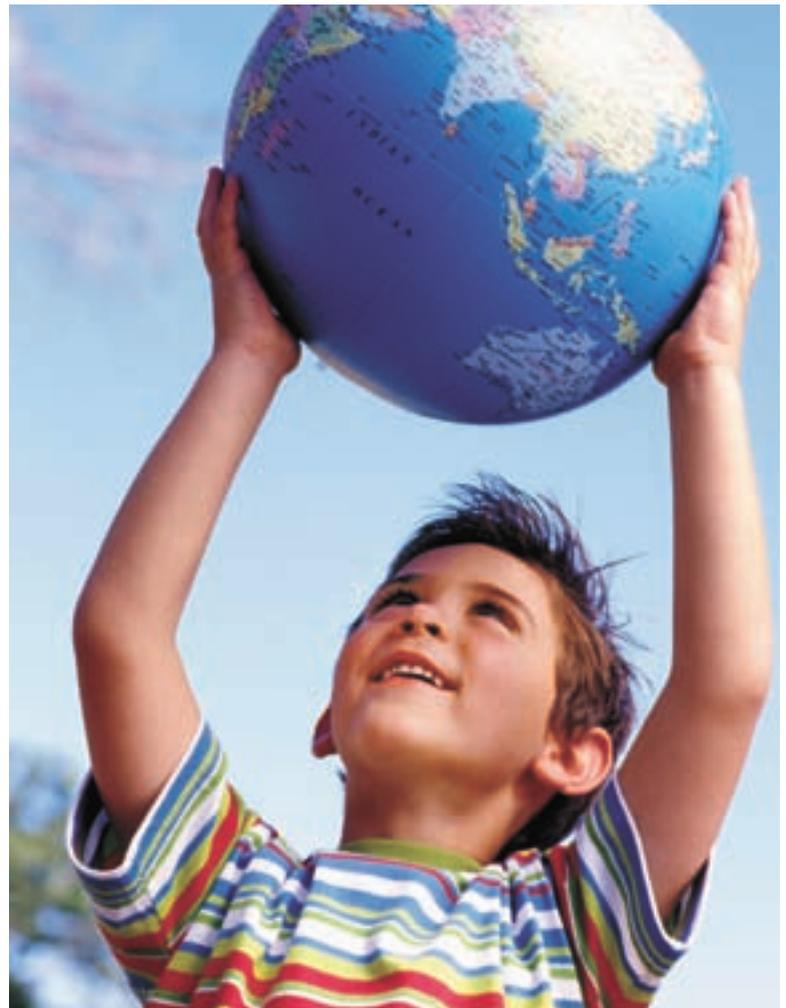
Eleven ways
to remind
kids we all
share planet
earth

BY CHRISTINA KATZ

Every April 22, we celebrate Earth Day all over the globe. But this Earth Day, before you remind your kids about the importance of conservation, planting trees, and recycling, why not remind them of a few profound truths about what it means to be a human being living on planet earth? If you can instill a healthy amount of awe in your kids about living on earth, you likely won't have to work as hard to get them to consume less, dig in the dirt more, and sort their trash.

According to worldometers.info, there are more than seven billion people on the planet already and that number is expected to grow to nine billion by 2042. Think about it. Right now and on any given day, we are part of this vast collection of humanity sharing a tiny globe that orbits the sun at a rate of about 30 kilometers per second (or 18 and a half miles per second). As we zoom around the sun, the planet that we are standing on is constantly spinning on its axis, one full turn per day.

If this information doesn't get your kids' minds spinning about the daily



scientific miracle of life on earth, I don't know what will. But how often do parents stop and consider our place in the larger scheme of things? Considering the length of our to-do lists, probably not often enough. So these reminders are not just for kids — they are for the benefit of the whole family.

Here's what parents can do to instill a healthy appreciation for planet earth in the hustle and bustle of our busy lives: we can slow down, pay attention to the miracle that is our life on earth, and raise our family's consciousness about our humble place in the vast scheme of things.

You might think, "But I don't want my child to feel inconsequential and overwhelmed." Don't worry. Learning about the world and our place in the universe has an inspiring affect on kids, and teaching them will likely inspire you to want to learn more, too.

Ready to remind your family that we all share planet earth? It's easier than you might think. Weave a glimpse of the universe into your home décor. Bring some globally minded toys to your kid's bedroom. Let children see for themselves that although we all matter, no one person is the center of

the universe. Here's how:

- Display a large, flat map of the world prominently in your home.
- Keep a globe within reach.
- Hang a mobile of the solar system.
- Get a telescope or visit an observatory.
- Take virtual trips around the globe together using Google Earth.
- Watch A&E Television Network's "Spaceship Earth" as a family (www.amazon.com/gp/product/B009505PX4/ref=dv_dp_ep6).
- Display a "you are here" image of our place in the galaxy.
- Subscribe to National Geographic Kids or National Geographic Little Kids magazine.
- Watch the documentary "Babies" with the whole family.
- Take a trip to the closest science museum and visit the planetarium.
- Read "Horton Hears A Who" and "The Lorax" by Dr. Seuss out loud every year on Earth Day.

Christina Katz loves being a member of the human race. Her latest book is "Permission Granted, 45 Reasons To Micro-publish," which presents her vision of a publishing model that creates less waste and is easier on the planet.

More resources

Use these books and toys to help raise little global citizens:

"National Geographic Kids, First Big Book Of Space" by Catherine D. Hughes and David A. Aguilar

"I Never Forget A Face" Matching Game with children's faces from around the world by Eeboo
Forty-eight-piece Solar Sys-

tem Floor Puzzle by Melissa and Doug

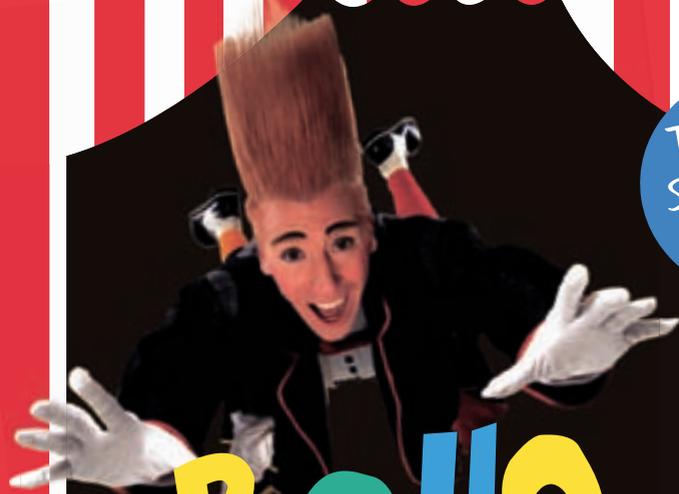
"If The World Were A Village, A Book About The World's People" by David J. Smith, Illustrated by Shelaugh Armstrong

"Children Just Like Me, A Unique Celebration Of Children Around The World" by Anabel and Barnabas Kindersley.

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Party for the planet

Five Earth Day parties that pay it forward

BY DR. HEIDI SMITH LUEDTKE

Our kids will be living on this planet long after we're gone, so they should learn to care for it. Why not throw a party to celebrate Earth Day, April 22, and use it to reinforce the importance of going green? Kids will have fun and make a difference in the environment with these Happy Earth Day party options.

Red-light, green-light

The facts: If each American family replaced just one traditional incandescent bulb with a Compact Fluorescent Light bulb, we'd save enough energy to light three million homes for a year and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by nine billion pounds, an

amount equivalent to the emissions of more than 800,000 cars.

Big bonus: This bulb lasts six times longer than an incandescent bulb and saves more than \$40 in lifetime electricity costs. Learn more at www.energystar.gov.

The fun: Host a twilight potluck block party and green-up the neighborhood. Purchase a case of Energy Star approved Compact Fluorescent bulbs at a home supply store. (A box of 48 bulbs costs around \$90.) Ask each family to purchase one or more energy-efficient bulbs and head home to green up their porch light before dark. Bask in the earth-friendly glow while you get to know the neighbors.

Pay it forward: At night's end, donate proceeds from bulb sales (and any additional donations) to a com-

munity program that subsidizes energy bills for low-income families or seniors. Ask \$5 per bulb, and you'll cover your costs and donate \$150.

Read it again!

The facts: Forty-two percent of American families with children can't afford food, clothing, or rent. That means they can't afford children's books, which cost between \$5 and \$25 in retail stores. Studies show limited access to print diminishes kids' motivation to read and their academic performance. Fortunately, there are many ways to donate old reads to those in need.

The fun: Host a bookish bash for your kids and their friends. Invite (pajama-clad) partiers of all ages to bring books they've outgrown and get several goofy grownups to read kids' favorites aloud. Use your silliest voices and outrageous props to make this a story time to remember.

Pay it forward: When the party's over, donate guests' well-loved books to Reading Tree (www.readingtree.org), a charity that distributes used books to underfunded libraries and schools in the U.S. and overseas. If there isn't a drop-off site in your area, ship your donations to Sheltering Books (www.shelteringbooks.org), a kid-created non-profit that provides books to residents of homeless shelters across America.

Choosing a charity

Whether you're donating money, material goods or time, you want maximum impact. Here are some things to consider:

- Can you keep it local? National charities often have greater visibility, but there are probably several worthy organizations close to your home. Keeping it local makes it easier for kids to see (and maybe even touch) those they've helped.

- Is the charity financially re-

sponsible? Non-profit organizations vary. Some use resources very efficiently, spending little on overhead and advertising. Others spend less than half their money on actual programs.

To find local and national charities related to issues that interest you and identify smart spenders, visit www.charitynavigator.org. Its four-star rating system will help you get the biggest bang for your buck.

Make a splash

The facts: The oceans cover 71 percent of the Earth's surface and contain 97 percent of its water, but they're under threat. Pollution and over-fishing destroy the habitats of many marine species, and some types of whales, dolphins, manatees, sea turtles, and sharks are endangered. And global climate changes mean rising water levels and temperatures.

The fun: Screen a sea-worthy film like the documentary "Oceans" (2009) or "IMAX: Deep Sea" (2010) at a water-themed celebration. Guests will have a whale of a time eating ocean-inspired treats while they view exhilarating underwater footage. Serve goldfish crackers and gummi sharks or make starfish sundaes. (Decorate small, star-shaped sugar cookies with colored sprinkles and stick 'em on ice cream "rocks.")

Pay it forward: In lieu of ticket sales, collect donations. Send them to the Ocean Conservancy (www.oceanconservancy.org), a marine-wildlife rescue (such as the Turtle Island Restoration Network, www.seaturtles.org) or a local waterways or wetlands preservation project.

Save a species

The facts: No one knows exactly how many species become extinct each year, but experts estimate the rapid loss of species we are seeing today is 1,000 to 10,000 times higher than the natural extinction rate. In the US, 619 animals and 817 plants are threatened or in danger of extinction. Find out which ones are endangered in your area using the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's interactive map (www.fws.gov).

The fun: Choose an endangered animal that excites your kids — how about bats, frogs, birds, or wolves? — and throw a save-the-species

soiree. Let kids decorate with animal pictures and fun facts they find online. Plan games and activities around your animal theme, or get a long sheet of butcher paper and let the kids paint a mural depicting the endangered guest of honor.

Pay it forward: Collect donations from guests to send to a related charitable organization. Need ideas? Consider the American Bird Conservancy (www.abcbirds.org) or the Wildlife Conservation Network (www.wildnet.org).

Flutter by, butterfly

The facts: Butterflies are beautiful and fragile indicators of ecosystem health. They pollinate wild plants and agricultural crops, ensuring animals and people have food to eat. And butterflies themselves are a valuable source of food for songbirds. Learn more at www.zoo.org.

The fun: Plan and plant a butterfly garden at your school or in your neighborhood. Pick a sunny spot and let kids dig in the dirt and plant flowering nectar sources like asters, cornflowers, dogbane, goldenrod, and zinnias. Be sure to include plants that provide food for butterfly larvae, too (clover, milkweed and passion vine are good options). Place several, large flat rocks in the garden, so the butterflies can sun themselves after feasting and add a watering hole for thirsty guests.

Pay it forward: Plan a monthly or quarterly butterfly garden party to clear out debris, plant new flowers, and enjoy the fresh air and sunshine. Strong community ties are good for you, your kids, and the planet we call home.

Psychologist Heidi Smith Luedtke loves to scuba dive and search for seashells with her kids. She is the author of "Detachment Parenting."

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New York Parenting collects nine awards



Our publisher, Susan Weiss, proudly accepted nine Awards for Excellence from the Parenting Media Association at the dinner held in Philadelphia, Pa. on March 1, 2014.

She was thrilled to once again be present to receive these honors as the Executive Editor on behalf of our contributing writers and design team.

Our publications won awards in all three levels, Gold, Silver and Bronze, in the arena of cover design, as well as for content in our columns, articles, and calendar.

Manhattan Family was a winner for large circulation in several categories as was *Brooklyn Family*, with both *Staten Island Family* and *Bronx/Riverdale Family* also garnering recognition in the midsize circulation group. Our pioneering magazine in the special needs genre, *New York Special Child* was honored with a cover award for our Fall/Winter issue.

Congratulations to all the members of our team, but particularly to those named in the winning categories! They include writers Danielle Sullivan (a double winner), Tim Perrins, Alison Besunder, Lee Chabin, Tammy Scileppi (also a double winner), and our art director, Leah Mitch.

This event culminated the last year of the presidency of the Parenting Media Association for Susan as she handed over the gavel to the incoming president, Sarah Taylor of Metro Family magazine in Oklahoma City. Susan still retains a board position as she has for the past seven years.

In recognition of her years of service to the organization, a special plaque was presented to Susan in a very moving ceremony, and after she thanked everyone and made sincere remarks about the pleasure her years of service to the organization have meant to her, she was given a rousing standing



(Top) Sharon Noble and Susan Weiss with New York Parenting Media's awards. (Above) Susan Weiss with Parenting Media Association Executive Director C. James Dowden and incoming president Sarah Taylor.

ovation.

The awards are judged by a team of 26 from the University of Missouri School of Journalism, and this year, the panel of judges reviewed more than 700 entries from across the US, Canada, and Australia.

It was a wonderful night for our Sales Manager Sharon Noble and publisher. They look forward to next year and hopefully even more recognition for the wonderful staff of talented people who contribute to *New York Parenting*.

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in advance of the audition date to register and schedule an audition time.



DOWNTOWN MOMMY

NOTOYA GREEN

Play-date prosperity

I remember the first time I heard the word “play date.” I was in college at the time, and I remember thinking to myself, “What’s a play date? And since when did kids start needing play dates?” And then I immediately dismissed it as yet another fad among modern moms. It’s amazing how judgmental we can be about parenting until we become parents ourselves.

Well, it took me more than a few years to become a parent. I became a mom of triplets and made the decision that I would stay home full time with my children. After just one year at home, I learned quickly that play dates was not just another “thing to do,” for moms, but rather a vital lifeline for new moms, stay-at-home moms, and pretty much every type of mom.

I attended nearly every mommy-and-me class known to man when my kids were infants, but I didn’t begin to establish real connections to other moms until I attended my very first play date. Through play dates, I made

real mommy friends that made me a happier and more confident mom and also provided me with great information about preschools, toddler activities, enrichment programs, toys, and even ideas for date night!

When my kids started preschool, though, I learned about another important benefit of play dates — how vital they are for our children’s development. According to experts, kids learn many important skills through play dates — like sharing and turn taking, conflict resolution, and how to get along with others — all skills that will aid them in school and throughout life.

Admittedly, I didn’t always have my kids go on play dates, because over time, I started thinking I was too busy for them or that my children didn’t need them as much as other kids did, because they had each other. After a few weeks of regular play dates, I saw that the triplets not

only needed them as much as other kids, but also how much they benefited from them. After a play date, my children seemed happier, more confident, talked more, played more, and even ate more. (If you’re a parent of a picky eater, you know how big this is!) The best part about play dates is that they are a lot cheaper than yet another toddler enrichment program. In fact, the only things we need as parents to make a play date happen for our kids is our willingness, our energy, and our time.

Five tips for your next playdate

- Don’t wait for other parents to invite you to a play date. Ask other parents. Someone will say “yes.”

- Be flexible as to the location of the play date, whether it’s your place, their place, or in a public place. Parents are more likely to say “yes” to you if they have options.

- If you’re hosting, have snacks handy for your child and for other children. If your child is over 3, encourage him to share his snacks with his friends. It will teach him about generosity, enhance his communication skills and help him to make a new friend.

- If you have more than one child, like I do, try to schedule some one-on-one play dates, so your child will learn to engage others beyond her siblings and really play!

- Don’t hover over your child during a play date, but be present. Watching your child play with another child will help you assess areas of your child’s personality that might need attention like his ability to play, share, communicate with friends, or get along with others.

Notoya Green is a parenting expert and former family law attorney. You can read her blog at www.tripletsintribeca.com. You can also follow her on Facebook at www.facebook.com/tripletsintribeca and on Twitter @NotoyaG.



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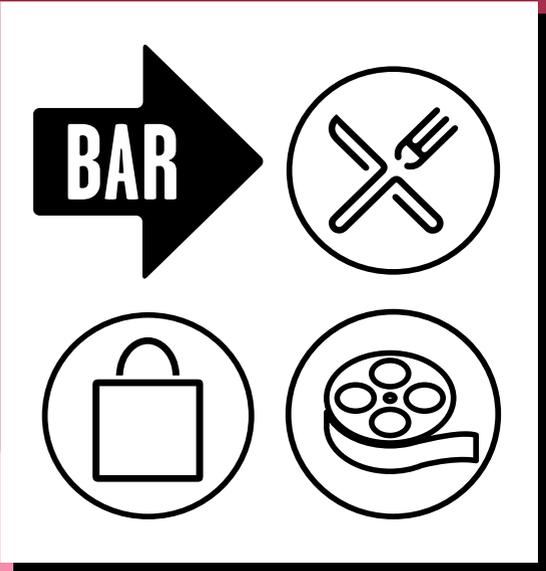
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Good eats

City kids lighten up and eat their veggies

BY ALLISON PLITT

For decades, there's been an increasing obesity rate in children, but in 2011, there was a reported decline in obesity in New York City schoolchildren spanning kindergarten through eighth grade. In fact, the obesity rate for this age group fell by 5.5 percent over a five year period, though it continued to climb for New York City teenagers and adults.

New York City officials were especially ecstatic over the drop in obesity for young children because of their recent attempts to combat obesity — putting calorie counts on menus at restaurants, an advertising campaign against sugary sodas, restrictions on school vending machines, and adding salad bars to some school cafeterias.

The decline in obesity was documented by the city during the public schools' annual physical education tests that are now completed by most of the city's kindergarten through eighth grade students.

City officials also observed trends among the participating schoolchildren. By age group, the decline was highest among 5- and 6-year-olds at 9.9 percent. By race, the drop in obesity was highest among whites (12.5 percent) and Asian children (7.6 percent), and lower for Hispanic (3.4 percent) and black (1.9 percent) children.

Dr. Marlene Schwartz, deputy director of the Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity at Yale University, concluded that younger children, who respond better to adult direction, and children from more

affluent families, which have the resources to change, were easiest to reach.

It may appear that there is a great disparity in public schools in obesity rates among children of different socioeconomic backgrounds. First Lady Michelle Obama has led a nationwide push to change young children's eating and exercise habits in 10,000 child care centers across the country, and many of these participating child care centers, including some in the New York City area, are in low-income communities.

In August 2013, a government report was issued stating that for the first time in decades, obesity rates among preschool-age children from poor families fell in 19 states, including New York, between 2008 and 2011. Some of the reasons for the change were attributed to Obama's initiative, an increase in breast-feeding, a drop in mothers giving their children sugary fruit juices, and changes in the food offered in federal nutrition programs for women and children.

Buoyed by such positive feedback, city officials now seem to be praising every suggestion possible in an effort to get parents to teach their young children about good eating habits. New insights in the crusade against obesity are now being researched and studied, but some of the information being published nowadays appears to be questionably beneficial.

For example, a new study published in the *Journal of Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics* recommends the strategy of pairing a new food with something a person already

likes, which is referred to as "associative conditioning." The study states that if parents give their children a new vegetable to eat, the child will not likely consume it by itself. However, if that child is given cream cheese to dip the vegetable into, then the child will be more likely to eat the vegetable.

The premise of the study sounds simple, but after you read in detail what actually happened during the data collection, you can take some grains of wisdom from the results and disregard the study's dubious testing tactics. To begin with, 29 children (13 boys and 16 girls) aged 3 to 5 years were included in the data analyses. They were served food in a school room setting starting at 9 am. Children received the vegetable snack five days a week, from Monday through Friday.

Children were put into groups of five or six each and seated in different rooms, so they would not be influenced by another group's opinion. All the children were first served Brussels sprouts alone. Next, they were served the sprouts with cream cheese, and then later they were served the vegetable with sweetened cream cheese. The same tests were done with cauliflower. All the vegetables were cooked in boiling water for up to seven minutes. Each vegetable (alone or with cream cheese) was tested for seven days.

According to the results, the children liked Brussels sprouts more with cream cheese. (Whether it was sweetened or unsweetened did not matter.) As for cauliflower, there were no significant differences



among the children in liking the vegetable alone or with cream cheese. Researchers believe the children's more pronounced liking of Brussels sprouts with cream cheese was due to the fact that it was the more bitter vegetable.

When I spoke with Dr. Dyan Hes, medical director of Gramercy Pediatrics and an obesity specialist on the American Board of Obesity Medicine, about the study.

She said she didn't like the idea of vegetables being eaten with cream cheese, because she said a food should not be sweetened just so a child will like it. Believing that children should be exposed to and enjoy a variety of tastes, Dr. Hes says her children come home from school "craving lentil soup." She said recent research studies also found that children who were breast-fed as babies were more inclined to eat a greater variety of flavors.

I commented on the fact that cream cheese was high in fat, but when I put olive oil, salt, and pepper on the Brussels sprouts and then roasted them in my oven, my daughter loved them.

Dr. Hes also critiqued the study because she felt that the number of children evaluated was too small. Nevertheless, she thought the 3 to 5 year age range for taste testing was perfect.

"It's better to start them earlier," Dr. Hes said.

Another aspect of the study that Dr. Hes liked was that the evaluations were conducted in classrooms. If a child is served Brussels sprouts at school, Dr. Hes thinks that child will be more likely to eat them at home as well.

In sum, the study of "associative conditioning" isn't perfect, but the lessons learned from it are invaluable: start children eating a variety of healthy foods at an early age, to ward off obesity in the future.

Allison Plitt is a freelance writer who lives in Queens with her husband and young daughter. She is a frequent contributor to New York Parenting.



GOOD SENSE EATING

CHRISTINE M. PALUMBO, RD

The taste of health

Like beauty, taste can be in the eye of the beholder. What tastes scrumptious to you may taste “yucky” to your child. Sadly, if the food you serve does not taste good, your family may not eat it, regardless of its nutritional content or how long you slaved in the kitchen.

“Enjoy the Taste of Eating Right” is this year’s National Nutrition Month® theme. National Nutrition Month is a nutrition education and information campaign created every March by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, headquartered in downtown Chicago.

Taste research

Consumer research confirms that taste tops nutrition as the main rea-

son why one food is purchased over another. While social, emotional, and health factors also play a role, the foods people enjoy are likely the ones they eat most.

As parents around the world know, children love sweet-tasting foods. Research conducted by the Monell Center indicates this heightened likeness for sweetness has a biological basis and is related to children’s high growth rate. This preference declines as kids’ physical growth slows.

Other research findings indicate most kids are sensitive to bitter flavors, such as those found in broccoli and other vegetables. Yet it is possible to get kids to enjoy them.

Combine taste and nutrition

“There is a lot of psychology involved with healthy eating. And there is a decent amount of evidence that tells us taste buds are adaptable,” says Registered Dietitian Nutritionist Angela Lemond, a board-certified specialist in pediatric nutrition and spokesperson for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. “A lot of parents are all-

or-nothing about healthy eating. Kids have high energy needs, so it’s okay to put a little ranch dressing or cheese on top of vegetables or salad” to improve their taste.

You’ve probably read this before, but it’s worth repeating. The process of a young child learning to enjoy a food can be long and tedious, but it’s worth the time and effort. Three- to 5-year-olds need up to 15 exposures to accept a new food. Yet, parents typically offer new items only three to five times, studies suggest.

Lemond is a big fan of avoiding so-called kid food by serving tots age-appropriate portions of regular grown-up food. She knows of a chef who serves his own little ones sushi rolls, which have become their favorite foods. This impressed on her if you just make adult food “the norm,” most children will accept it.

Christine Palumbo is a Naperville-registered dietitian nutritionist who is a new Fellow of the American Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Follow her on Twitter @PalumboRD, Facebook at Christine Palumbo Nutrition, or Chris@ChristinePalumbo.com.



Easy stuffed peppers

This is a meal in itself. It contains a vegetable, protein, and whole grain.

PREPARATION TIME: 30 minutes

COOKING TIME: 1¼ hours

SERVES: 6

INGREDIENTS:

1¼ pounds 96 percent lean ground beef

6 large green bell peppers

1 small onion, chopped

½ cup bulgur

1 egg

¼ cup white rice, uncooked

1-28 ounce can crushed tomatoes

½ teaspoon salt

½ teaspoon ground black pepper

½ cup water

DIRECTIONS: With a sharp knife, remove the stem and about 3 inches off the top of each pepper. Carefully

remove seeds and fibrous membrane from each pepper. In a large mixing bowl, combine ground beef, bulgur, onion, egg, rice, salt, and pepper. Divide the meat mixture into six portions, and stuff each pepper with it. Place crushed tomato and water in a large covered baking dish. Carefully add the peppers, so they are all standing up. Place in a 375 degree oven for about 1¼ hours. Carefully remove cover as there will be a great deal of steam. Serve on plate with tomato gravy spooned over each pepper and with additional gravy spread around the pepper.

NUTRITION FACTS: 270 calories, 32 grams carbohydrates, 25 grams protein, 6 grams fat (2 grams saturated), 470 mg sodium, 7 g dietary fiber, 25% DV vitamin A, 250% DV vitamin C, 25% DV iron, 29% DV zinc.

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Camper to camper

Advice for newbies from seasoned kids

BY KIMBERLY CARLSON

When we were kids, summer camp meant something different to us than it does to our children. For us, camp meant camp: cabins or tents, canoeing, hiking, singing songs around a

campfire, and general camaraderie. Children today are much more active, much more schedule-oriented, and generally just busier. Consequently, the very dynamics of summer camp have changed. Camps offered now are much more focused and detail oriented. There's soccer

camp, art camp, violin camp, space camp, leadership camp, paleontology camp, etc.

But there are some things about camp that truly haven't changed, like the general apprehension your son or daughter might feel the first time he or she attends camp. Here's what seasoned camp veterans had to say to children who are going off to camp for the first time.

Everyone gets homesick

Some kids handle being away from home better than others. It's a great opportunity for the kids who don't get homesick to step up and show their sympathy, and their new friendship skills. In a dorm room with nine other campers, fourth-grader Dakota Lopez recalls two to three kids who got homesick.

"We felt bad for them, but we all tried to make them feel better. We brought them junk food and soda."

And the ones that do get home-

“Camp only lasts a week, and if you wait until the last few days of camp to make friends, you’ve missed out on half the fun.”

sick learn just how much they can rely on their peers to get them through difficulties. It’s a great learning experience for all campers.

“I didn’t like missing my mom,” said 10-year-old Michael. “But when the kids cheered me up instead of teasing me, I felt better.”

Learn something new

As a sixth-grader, Elise Finlinson is a seasoned camper. She’s been attending summer camps since she was in first grade.

“Camp is great because you get to explore things you wouldn’t get to do in school or learn about,” she says with a smile.

Elise has found a new love of art that wasn’t cultivated during the school year, but has stuck with her since last summer’s camp. She has since expanded her knowledge and delved into different artistic media with the help of an art teacher she sees outside of school.

Dakota reminisced about the sketches she and her roommates were tasked with writing and performing at soccer camp last summer.

“It was SO COOL!” she said. “We got to perform it in front of all the other campers and the coaches. That was the best part of camp.”

It was also unexpected. She was expecting all things soccer. But her favorite memory from soccer camp had nothing to do with soccer.

Have fun

This sounds like a pretty straightforward bit of advice, but sometimes children need to be reminded to have a little fun, lest they get caught up in the stress of the “new.” A new environment, new rules, new daily activities and routines.

“I love camp!” says 5-year-old Anna Finlinson. “I don’t ever miss

my mom, because I’m too busy having fun.”

Anna attended Princess Dance camp last summer, and is looking forward to “more and more and more camp” this summer.

“I didn’t think I would like the hiking, but it ended up being pretty cool,” said Michael.

Don’t be shy

One of the best parts about summer camp is the ability to “make new friends,” says Dakota.

“Some of them I’m still friends with from last summer’s soccer camp.”

Every child I asked had the same bit of advice right from the start: don’t be shy.

“Camp only lasts a week, and if you wait until the last few days of camp to make friends, you’ve missed out on half the fun,” says Elise.

Regardless of the type of camp you and your children have chosen, make sure they make the most of it. It will go by faster than either one of you expect. If your child can embrace the opportunities presented before him, he will have a much more enriched experience.

Elise says that “summer camp is much cooler than regular school, because although we’re still learning stuff, we’re not stuck behind a desk all day.”

Even Michael, who was the most apprehensive about attending summer camp, says he would “do it again” this summer. He found confidence and security in knowing he can rely upon himself, and trust in his peers to help him if he feels homesick.

“Riding horses was pretty cool, too,” he proffered.

Summer camp may only last a week or so, but the memories really do last a lifetime. See for yourself: ask any child you know about his summer camp experiences, and you’ll see his face light up with the memories.

Have your first-time camper talk to other children that have already attended. They are more than willing to share their experiences, and their energy and excitement about it can be quite contagious!

Kimberly Carlson is a published author, blogger, and mother of two. One of her kids loves camping in the mountains and snow while her other kid loves camping in the forest — in the summertime, of course!

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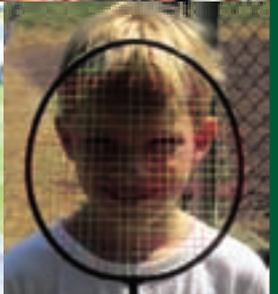
Fieldston Outdoors, a program of the Ethical Culture Fieldston School, is a six-week co-ed day camp for ages 5-12 that offers a unique focus on nature and the

Continued on page 24

lgoldberg@trevor.org'."/>

newyork.cervantes.org'. There are two cartoon characters: a boy with glasses and a girl with a large smile. The Instituto Cervantes logo is also present."/>

kids@brazil-ahead.com'. There are two photos: one of two children in yellow shirts holding up a sign, and another of a child wearing a yellow mask."/>



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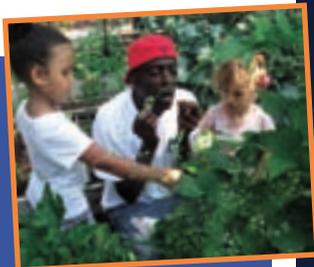
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FOR FURTHER INFO, PLEASE CONTACT:

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Summer Camps/Programs

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Hudson River, which campers learn about through songs, folklore and crafts. Trips are an integral part of the experience and include hiking the Hudson Highlands, sailing on the Clearwater sloop and canoeing the Piermont Marshes. Overnight camping is optional for 1st through 6th graders. Additionally, a full range of traditional camp activities is offered, including art, physical education, swimming, dance, gardening and music. Three afternoons campers select from an extensive roster that comprises the "choice program." All campers participate in theme days, such as Strawberry Festival and Carnival. Fieldston Outdoors is committed to the philosophy of the Ethical Culture Fieldston School, which emphasizes the unique value and dignity of the individual, encourages the potential growth in every child and values the importance of sharing experiences in a diverse community. The program offers full and per session rates and financial aid is available. Door-to door bus service to and from Manhattan is available for an additional cost. Call camp director David Smelin at the number above for additional information.

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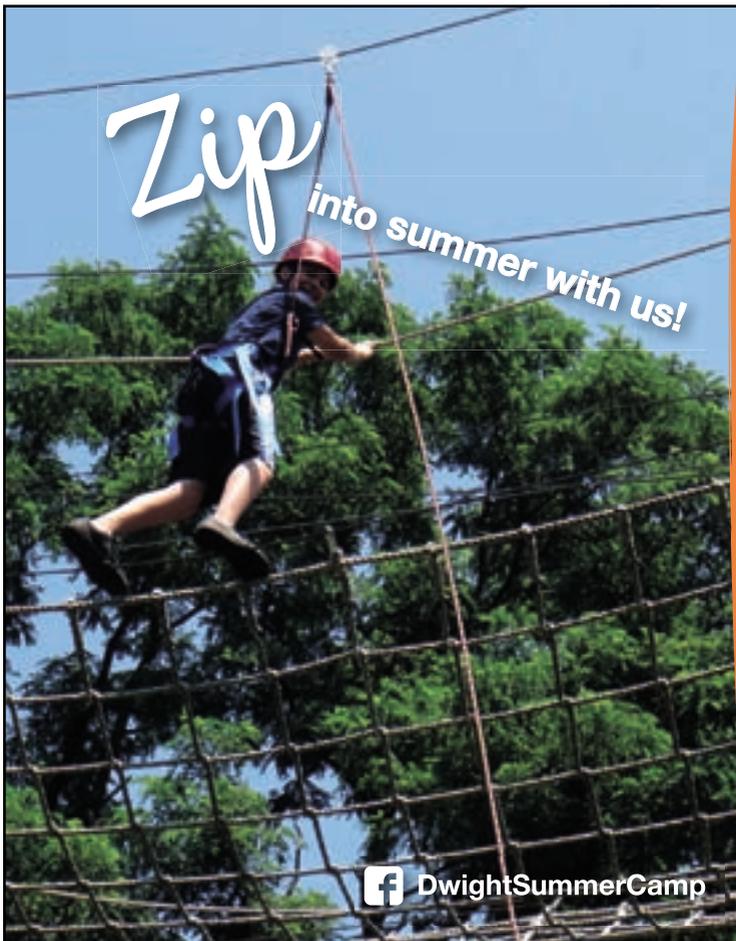
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Young Actors at The Lee Strasberg Theatre & Film Institute is an exciting and diverse program for young actors ages 7-18. The comprehensive curriculum includes acting, movement, dance, acting on camera, and acting for musical theatre, and more. The teachers, all working professionals, create an exciting, nurturing and positive environment by empowering the personal growth of each student and promoting self-confidence, self-discipline and creativity. Lee Strasberg's Method Acting technique ignites the imagination and empowers young actors to express themselves truthfully within dramatic circumstances. The program explores the creative process and helps young people develop skills in acting techniques for stage, film, and television. Students are grouped into programs by age. Twelve-week Saturday programs are offered for all ages year-round. Teen workshop and Teen Intensives as well as summer camp

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Summer Camps/Programs

DIRECTORY

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for 7-11 year olds are just some of the many summer programs. Registration and a personal interview are required. Students are encouraged to apply early.

Mohawk Day Camp

200 Old Tarrytown Rd. White Plains 10603

914-949-2635 or www.campmohawk.com

For more than 80 years, Mohawk has crafted magical, memorable summers for children ages 3-13. A Leadership Training program is available for ages 14-15. Originally a farm, Mohawk's remarkable 40-acre campus retains much of its historic charm with pastures, stone walls and apple orchards. Facilities include: 8 heated pools; outdoor ice skating rink; 8 arts/crafts centers; onsite farm; nature centers; huge ropes course; zip lines; pedal go-kart tracks; human foosball arena; archery and driving ranges; 3 mini golf courses; and 23 fields/courts for every game and sport imaginable! Our exceptional staff, which includes more than 120 teaching professionals and activity specialists, is led by Directors Ken, Barbara & Steve Schainman, leaders in the day camp and education fields for decades. At Mohawk, our goal is to provide each child with a unique opportunity for skill development and personal growth by creating an exciting, fun-filled environment that emphasizes compassion, cooperation, creativity and sportsmanship. For more information, call or visit us online.

National Academy Summer Art Camps

5 East 89th Street, NYC 10128
212-996-1908 or www.nationalacademy.org

Summer art camps at the National Academy School are fun, energizing learning experiences for young artists taught by professional artists. Camps are held in one-week sessions. Our high school art camp is one week only.

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340 E. 54th Street, NYC10003
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Oasis in Central Park Summer Program

95th & Central Park West
718-596-4900 or www.oasischildren.com

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Continued on page 28

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 applications available online at www.winstonprep.edu



Summer Camps/Programs

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children with a fantastic opportunity to play and learn in the great outdoors without ever leaving Manhattan. Located on the Upper West Side, Oasis utilizes Central Park's incredible collection of recreational facilities including tennis and basketball courts, softball fields, soccer fields, nature trails, and an incredible Olympic-sized outdoor swimming pool. Oasis also utilizes two indoor facilities, including their new home at The Mandell School on Columbus Ave, with access to classrooms, gymnasiums, an auditorium, and other large meeting spaces. A traditional day camp in every way, Oasis in Central Park's program includes sports and recreation, visual and performing arts, recreational and Red Cross instructional swim, field trips, and an outdoor education component that includes environmental studies, orienteering and much more. Oasis in Central Park is the perfect opportunity for children to have an active and safe summer while making lifelong friends along the way! Oasis day camp is for kids ages 3-11. For emerging teens ages 12-14 Oasis offers the Teen Travel program which gives emerging teens the opportunity to take unique trips every day. At Oasis, children enroll for a minimum of two consecutive weeks, a maximum of eight weeks, or any combination you choose. Families have the advantage to enroll their children around their summer plans!

Oasis Downtown Summer Program

285 Delancey St. Lower East Side, Manhattan
718-596-4900 or www.oasischildren.com

Oasis Downtown is located in the heart of Manhattan's Lower East Side. Oasis partners with Kids Creative to offer a wide variety of performing arts instruction and activities! Still a traditional day camp in every way, other activities include sports and recreation, swim lessons, field trips, and special events. Children have fun participating at the annual carnival, in-camp Olympics, talent shows and themed weeks. Oasis campers also engage in a wealth of enrich-

ing activities such as cooking, martial arts, and creative writing. Oasis provides children with all the tools to be active, safe, and develop lifelong friendships this summer! Oasis utilizes East River Park for plenty of outside summer fun. Oasis Downtown is for kids ages 3-12. At Oasis, children enroll for a minimum of two consecutive weeks, a maximum of eight weeks, or any combination you choose. Families have the advantage to enroll their children around their summer plans!

Park East Day School

164 East 68th Street, NYC 10065
212-737-6900 or www.raspeds.org

We are happy to announce the Park East Early Childhood Summer Program for children who are 2, 3, and 4 years old. Your Preschoolers will be challenged socially, emotionally and physically in our child-based program that is both fun-filled and educational. They will be encouraged to practice teamwork, develop self esteem and build confidence.

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Physique Swimming

212-725-0939 or www.physiqueswimming.com

Physique Summer Camp has been a favorite of parents and children alike, and our recent changes - like our new Olympic size pool - will make the experience we provide even better! Enjoy an hour and a half swim, art, science, sports, and cooking! We look forward to having a great time together! Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions, or to schedule a tour. We have a positive and inclu-

Continued on page 30



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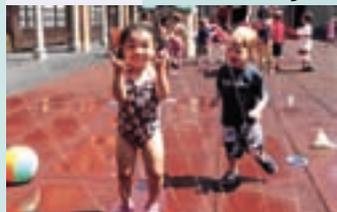
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❖ Online: <http://www.wdsnyc.org/pages/summerside-camp>

❖ Contact: Tricia Pool at tpool@wdsnyc.org

❖ Call for more information
212-870-6743



Session I: June 16 - 27

Session II: June 30 - 11 (closed 7/4)

Session III: July 14 - 25

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Summer Camps/Programs

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sive social community with individual and group instructional sport. Instructional swim and Fun Swim is only part of the Physique Summer Camp experience. We also have daily games of organized team sports, weekly intra-camp competition. Campers will participate in the Physique World Championship (Swimming, Track and Field) with awards for sportsmanship, teamwork, leadership. Campers receive a T-shirt too! Options for extended days are available. We welcome you to call and schedule a tour!

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SummerDay @ The Trevor Day School

**11 East 89th Street, NYC 10128
212-426-3307 or www.trevor.org
under "Summer Programs"**

We provide children with the space, materials, and activities with which to be challenged, to be excited and to enjoy themselves.

The program includes field trips, cooking, arts and crafts, science experiments, free play, storytelling, sports, movement, swimming lessons for the 4, 5 and 6 year olds, and much more. We also have our roof top kiddie pools, and roof top playground, which is a favorite of all the children. We have early drop-offs available for all ages and a beautifully air-conditioned state-of-the-art setting for your little campers aged 3 to 6. Register online or call the Lisa Goldberg to discuss your summer program options at SummerDay.

The Weekday School

**490 Riverside Drive
212-870-6743 or www.wdnyc.org/
pages/summerside-camp**

The Weekday School offers a summer camp program for June and July. The Summerside Program runs for six weeks divided into three two-week sessions. The Mini-Camp is for children 2.6 to 3.6 years of age and runs from 8:45am to 12:30 daily and includes a daily snack. The Full Camp is for children 3.6 to 6 years of age and runs from 8:45am to 2:30pm daily and includes daily snack and hot lunch. Camp activities for both the Mini and Full Camps include arts & crafts, music, dance/movement, water play and sports on our rooftop play area and play time on our large outdoor and indoor play structures. Children in the Full Camp also take one local walking trip during each two-week session and one field trip to destinations such as the Central Park Zoo, The New York Hall of Science and Chelsea Pier.

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Summer Camps/Programs

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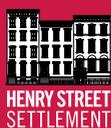
grouped by learning style and skill level in classes no larger than eight individuals in order to facilitate greater learning and maximize individualized instruction. The program develops decoding and encoding, reading comprehension, critical-thinking skills, memory retrieval, organizational skills, written language expression, self-advocacy, mathematical computation, time-management skills, test preparation, and expressive language skills within a nurturing, academic environment. From 2:00-3:30 pm, students may also enroll in optional one-on-one classes to target specific skill development and/or engage in after-school activities such as digital photography, art, acting, cross-training, music, zumba, and computing basics. Students may also enroll in

one-on-one sessions from August 4-21. Students from private, public, and parochial schools from New York City and abroad participate in the program. Scholarships are available. For further information, brochures, or applications, please call or e-mail.

Young People's Day Camp 914-792-6555 or 800-DAYCAMP or www.yfdc.com

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Digital CAMP GUIDE 2014

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HEALTHY LIVING

DANIELLE SULLIVAN

Benefits of spacing out your children

According to the research paper “Birth Spacing and Sibling Outcomes” by Kasey S. Buckles and Elizabeth L. Munnich of the University of Notre Dame, spacing siblings more than two years apart results in better scores on reading and math tests for the older children. Parents naturally want to do everything they can so their child can have an advantage, but there are other pros to spacing out your children.

I can't say the spacing itself is the sole reason for the spike in test scores. I have three kids, each five years apart, unintentionally. They all do very well in school, but so do many of their friends, and some of them are only children or siblings spaced close together. I tend to believe that the parent's educational goals and imposed study habits combined with a child's natural ability and quality of teachers will largely determine a child's educational outcome.

In our hyper-driven educational system that often cares more about test scores than actual learning, I wonder how much it even matters. Still, I have to say there are some definite advantages to spacing siblings widely apart.

Here is my top five:

Individual attention. With each child, I had time alone for him when he was a baby and toddler to focus on him for many hours a day. By the time another baby was born, the baby prior to that was in school, so I happily devoted time each day to playing, teaching, and enjoying the new addition. It was lovely.

Never diaper train more than one child at a time. My hat is off to the many moms who pull double duty and potty train multiple toddlers at a time. I don't believe I'd ever have the patience to pull off such a feat.

Stagger out tuition. None of our kids will ever be in college when another is, and that realization is



huge. I especially recognize this perk since our oldest started college.

Live-in babysitters. As your oldest gets more mature each day, he can be a big help in watching the younger ones. This privilege should never be abused, of course, but sometimes having your 10-year-old watch her younger siblings — so you can finish dinner, help another with homework, or take a shower — can be purely joyful.

Prolong having a baby in the house. By the time my oldest was no longer a baby or toddler any-

more, I was pregnant again with another. I was lucky enough to have a baby in our home for many years. Now that it's over (my youngest is 11), I can't explain how much I miss it. A couple of years ago, when the baby urge hit an all-time high, we adopted an adorable black lab. Coincidence? I think not!

Danielle Sullivan, a mom of three, has worked as a writer and editor in the parenting world for more than 10 years. Sullivan also writes about pets and parenting for Disney's Babble.com. Find Sullivan on her blogs, Just Write Mom and Some Puppy To Love.

Taxes & childcare

What parents should know about tidying up their taxes

BY STEPHANIE BREEDLOVE

April tends to be when tax talk reaches its crescendo. People are filing their personal income tax returns and crossing their fingers for a big refund check from Uncle Sam. But if you're a family in the Big Apple with in-home childcare expenses, you know your tax season really began back in January and is finally winding down.

By now, you've accounted for all of your caregiver's wages and taxes for 2013, given her a W-2 Form, and

filed paperwork with the Social Security Administration. It's quite a bit of work to do, so kudos for getting the job done!

There are only two things left to do before the April 15 personal income tax filing deadline. First, make sure you attach a Schedule H to your personal income tax return. Then, be sure to capitalize on your childcare tax breaks.

The Schedule H simply summarizes your household employment activity, so the Internal Revenue Service understands you paid someone to work in your home, withheld federal taxes from her, and paid your share of federal taxes. If you've remitted the federal tax throughout the year using the 1040-ES (Estimated Tax) process, you'll reflect those payments on your 1040 Form and they will offset the liability reported on Schedule H. If you have not made those payments yet, they'll be factored into your tax payment and refund.

The tax break you'll want to take is the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit (IRS Form 2441) — not to be confused with the Child Tax Credit. As long as childcare was needed because you and your spouse both work or are full-time students, you can apply the wages you paid your caregiver (and other qualifying childcare expenses) to this tax credit.

If you have one child, you can itemize up to \$3,000 of expenses per year and if you have two or more children, you can itemize up to \$6,000 per year. Most families will receive a 20 percent tax credit on these expenses, so you can expect to see a savings of up to \$600 if you have one child and up to \$1,200 if you have two or more children.

NOTE: If you applied your childcare expenses to a Dependent Care Account ("Flexible Spending Account" or "FSA") through your work, you likely cannot take the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit unless you have

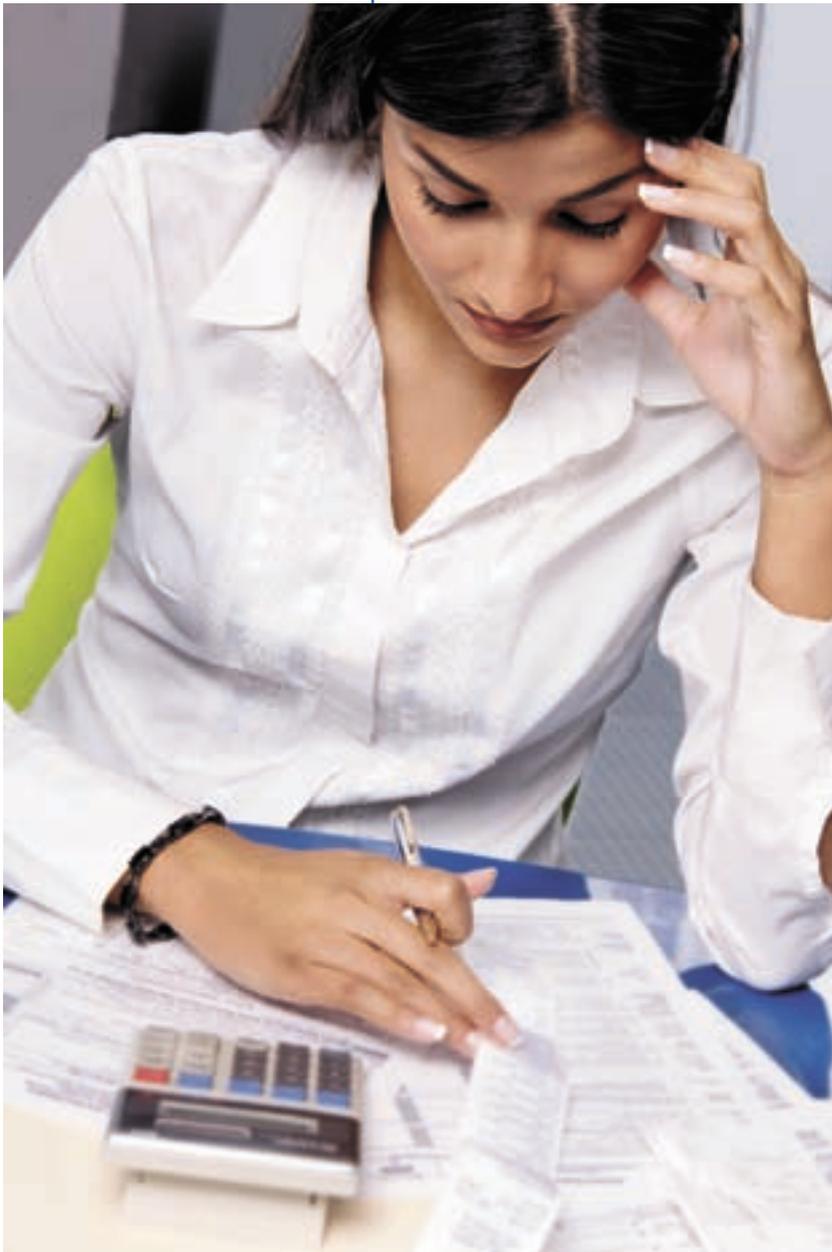
two or more children. The dollars applied in a Flexible Spending Account count against your expense limits. So, if you have one child and applied more than \$3,000 to your account, you have already exhausted your expense limit. However, if you have two or more children, you may itemize the expenses that have not already been applied to your account — up to \$6,000. Since most people utilize \$5,000 in their Flexible Spending Account, this provides an additional \$1,000 that can be itemized on Form 2441.

As you finalize these taxes and tax breaks, it's a great opportunity to look back at your care-related expenses in 2013 and see if you need to adjust your budget for 2014. For instance, a few things you definitely need to keep in mind are changes to laws specific to New York residents. As of this year, the minimum wage increased from \$7.25 per hour to \$8 per hour, so you need to make sure you've budgeted for this increase if you paid under \$8 per hour in 2013.

Lastly, if you're not doing so already, you'll need to make sure you've budgeted for your caregiver to have paid days off. State law mandates that if — on average — she works 30 hours or more per week, she is entitled to three paid days off once she's worked for you for a full year. If she works between 20 and 30 hours per week, she is entitled to two paid days off and if she works less than 20 hours per week, she earns one paid day off. This paid time off mandate was part of the New York Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights legislation that passed in 2010.

We know all these details are tedious, but taking care of all these tax and labor law obligations is important to you and your caregiver. It protects you from audit and wage disputes and entitles you to tax breaks. For your caregiver, the payroll system funds all the benefits and protections (Social Security, Medicare, Unemployment, etc.) other workers enjoy — now and in retirement. That peace of mind for both parties makes for a more professional and more successful working relationship.

Stephanie Breedlove is the vice president of Care.com HomePay.



SAT

in flux

Why the
College Board
is making
changes to
the SAT

BY FRANCES KWELLER

Let the anxiety begin. The first line of the newly printed New York Times article reads, “Saying its college admission exams do not focus enough on the important academic skills, the College Board announced on Wednesday a fundamental rethinking of the SAT, eliminating obligatory essays, ending the long-standing penalty for guessing wrong, and cutting obscure vocabulary words.”

The College Board is advertising a newer test as a way to address social injustice. It is a flimsy defense against the criticisms of a test the College Board has administered for 81 years that is virtually impossible for most students to test in the top 10th percentile unless they can afford tutoring and materials. The reality is that the SAT has fallen behind the ACT in terms of test numbers and the College Board wants to make money. The College Board long held a monopoly as the only college entrance

examination, but in the 1960s, the ACT emerged as a response to the SAT, long identified by many as a classist, and arguably racist, test. In 2013, 1.8 million students took the ACT as opposed to 1.7 million sitting for the SAT.

Actions speak far louder than

PERSONAL ESSAY



words, so let us examine what the College Board is doing rather than what it is saying.

SAT scoring will return to the system where the scores will be up to 1600, with a top math score of 800, a top “Evidence-Based Reading and Writing” score of 800, and the writing section optional. This seems to be a “back to the future approach” when once upon a time, the SAT consisted of a top math score of 800, a top “verbal” score of 800, and an optional written section. This is tantamount to an admission

of defeat with the retooled SAT as most college admissions departments never really adopted the writing portion of the exam in their processes because of the constant confusion surrounding it.

Furthermore, the college prep media never embraced the 2400 point exam. Even the “Bible” of college admissions, the “U.S. News and World Report” college guide, stuck to the 1600-point scale in its collegiate assessments.

This is not to say that I think that the SAT should remove the written section altogether. I think that would be a mistake. The strength of the SAT essay is to demonstrate

Actions speak far louder than words, so let us examine what the College Board is doing rather than what it is saying.

that a student can write a clear, concise essay in a tightly timed (25 minute) setting, using proper grammar, punctuation, spelling, a range of sentence structures, and apt vocabulary. There have been cases where the College Board essay was compared against student's college application essay to determine how polished the college application essay was by counselors, teachers, and parents.

Apparently, changes coming to the exam are going to be extensive: The SAT's "rarefied" vocabulary words will be replaced by words that are common in college courses, such as "empirical" and "synthesis." I sincerely hope I am not being abstruse in my query, but by what empirical metric is the College Board quantifying the syntax and lexis of the collegiately adept as opposed to the grammar and vocabulary of the vernacular? And doesn't this mean a lessening of the rigor of the exam without actually making preparation easier?

In addition, the use of a calculator will no longer be allowed on some math sections. In fact, most students must purchase \$100 to \$200 calculators for their daily math classes. That is the reality of today's schools, but the College Board has now arbitrarily decided that students who have used calculators in math classes for a generation, should now suddenly perform on a potentially life-changing exam without them. That Pandora's box has long been opened and cannot now be closed and still be representative of a student's high school work. This alone undermines the College Board's credibility as experts in measuring student performance.

The College Board touts its fee waiver program that allows students with limited means to send scores to up to four schools free of charge. The College Board has always offered this program, but

the process is labyrinthine and the waivers are ridiculously difficult to obtain, and the process must be repeated completely for each sitting for the exam. The College Board does not mention any improvement in this little-known program; it merely reiterates that the program exists.

Perhaps the most disingenuous statement is that, "It is time for the College Board to say in a clearer voice that the culture and practice of costly test preparation that has arisen around admissions exams drives the perception of inequality and injustice in our country." Big words for an institution that has for 81 years said nothing about the iniquities of its exams, and who charges an additional \$60 for online software with six tests, and charges \$19 for each time a student wants a copy of his test.

The Blue Book, a ponderous manual the College Board condones (and publishes for \$21.99) as the only "Official SAT Study Guide," is half useless. Literally, one entire half of the book is filled with jargon that is intended to detail the skills necessary for test success and instead ends up confusing readers, because everything is so poorly explained.

The second half of the book features 10 real SAT exams riddled with errors. For an extra \$10, the College Board will sell you a Blue Book with a CD with videos that makes a far better coaster than an effective preparation tool. And best of all, the Blue Book does not come with an explanation section, so that students can learn from the examiner how they will be examined.

And from the looks of the cease and desist letters sent to some educators who try and write explanation sections to the Blue Book, the College Board does not want anyone else explaining its tests either.

The College Board created the test preparation industry by the College Board's lack of direction and student outreach. It is not the test preparation industry that drives the perception of iniquity. It is the very necessity of such an industry that is the iniquity. It is an artificially created iniquity that the College Board wants to continue to profit from.

Frances Kweller is an education and testing standards expert and CEO of Kweller Test Prep in Queens.



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DIVORCE & SEPARATION

LEE CHABIN, ESQ.

Financial infidelity

It's a fact that money issues contribute to the breakup of many relationships.

As individuals, we worry about money. As couples, we argue about it. Or avoid the subject. Some people spend without knowing where their money goes. Others track every dollar and are frightened of losing it all.

Times are hard. Unemployment rates remain high — higher than the numbers the government reports, in part because the long-term unemployed are not counted in the statistics, as if everything was just fine with them.

Many have had their homes foreclosed on. Many saw their retirement, savings, and investments lose value in the recession, and could not take advantage when the stock market rebounded. College tuition continues to increase.

Such challenges are stressful and frequently contribute to marital problems — that's so, even when we are open and honest with each other. When there is "financial infidelity," relationships suffer even greater strains.

In January 2014, Harris Poll conducted a survey for the National Endowment for Financial Education, and the results, "Financial Infidelity Poses Challenges for Couples," were posted on the Endowment's website in February. Its findings are probably familiar to most who work with couples. Here are some of them:

Deceitful behaviors

Of those who have ever combined finances with a partner or spouse, 33 percent have committed financial deception.

When those who have combined finances were asked about their own behaviors, the data showed that 30 percent have hidden a purchase, bank account, statement, bill, or cash from a partner or spouse. Thirteen percent have lied about finances or debt.

Asked about the deceitful behavior of a spouse or partner, 30 percent said that a significant other had hidden a purchase, bank account, statement, bill, or cash. Twenty-one percent said a spouse or partner



had lied about finances or debt.

Seventy-six percent said the financial deceptions affected current or past relationships in some way. As one would expect, trust is damaged; 33 percent said it caused less trust in the relationship.

Why behave deceitfully?

- Thirty-five percent said they believe some aspects of their finances should remain private, even from their spouse or partner.

- Twenty-four percent said they discussed finances with their spouse or partner, but knew the spouse would disapprove.

- Sixteen percent were embarrassed or fearful about their finances and didn't want their spouse or partner to find out.

- Fifteen percent said that while they hadn't discussed finances with their spouse or partner, they feared the spouse would disapprove.

Conclusions? Some might take away from these findings that partners should share financial information with each other. All of it. Always. This approach may work well for some couples.

For others, deciding together that each can spend an agreed upon amount on whatever she or he wants without any obligation to tell the other, will be the right way to go.

(This approach would very likely suit those in the 35 percent that said they believe aspects of their finances should remain private.)

You and your partner may well have different temperaments. It is very possible that growing up, your experiences regarding saving, spending, debt and so on taught each of you different lessons. Some of those lessons may have been unhealthy; for instance, the perception that money is bad and something to be frightened of, which resulted in never learning how to handle financial matters.

With a partner, or just for yourself, being honest about money pays off. Admittedly, talking about money can be hard work, especially if one of you has been deceitful. But a willingness to talk, listen, and change destructive behaviors may help to improve your own life and strengthen the relationship.

New York City and Long Island-based divorce mediator and collaborative divorce lawyer Lee Chabin helps clients end their relationships respectfully and without going to court. Contact him at lee_chabin@lc-mediate.com, (718) 229-6149, or go to <http://lc-mediate.com/>. Follow him on Facebook at www.facebook.com/lchabin.

Disclaimer: All material in this column is for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice.

Here's to New York Parenting's Disney on Ice contest winners



Steven Dembinski, Yan Chen, 8-year-old Cate Dembinski, and 6-year-old Luke Dembinski meet Minnie and Mickey as winners of New York Parenting's "Meet and Greet the Characters" contest at the recent Disney on Ice at the Barclay's Center in Brooklyn.

When you wish upon a star, your dreams come true. And when you enter a New York Parenting contest, your dreams can also come true!

That was the case for Steven Dembinski, Yan Chen, 8-year-old Cate Dembinski, and 6-year-old Luke Dembinski when they won the chance to meet Mickey and Minnie Mouse at a recent "Disney on Ice" performance at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn — thanks to New York Parenting's "Meet and Greet the Characters" contest. They were afforded VIP greetings as well as special seating and had a magical experience.

"Thank you for the opportunity to win the Disney on Ice tickets," said Steven Dembinski. "The show was wonderful, and my kids had a great time."

The family has already put its name on NYParenting.com again to be considered for future contests. Congratulations to the Dembinski-Chen family!

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Photo by Paul Martinka

April in the Big Apple!

What is more DeLysscious than the beginning of spring in Manhattan, namely Central Park? April is special and extra-fun for many reasons: April Fool's Day, the beckoning of May flowers (you know the rhyme!), more time is spent outdoors, and Easter! Spring is a perfect time to get outdoors with your DivaTots and maybe even teach them a thing or two about nature, or explore new parts of our wonderful city!

April Fool's

You and your little ones can kick off the month with some laughs with a few cute (harmless!) pranks for April Fool's Day.

- Put a few drops of food coloring — choose your kid's fave shade — in a pitcher of milk. For my boys, I know I will be dyeing their milk blue, green or red! Make sure you are nearby with your camera when he or she sits down to eat breakfast.

- Change the language on your kids' smart devices to a different one! My kids love movies like "Karate Kid" and "Kung Fu Panda," so I will change their languages on the iPads to Chinese or Japanese. I cannot wait to see their faces as they try to figure out what went wrong with their lists of movies and music! But make sure you know how to change it back!

- This one's good for the kid who checks his messages, game scores, and e-mails every morning, or is always playing some type of computer game. Put part of a Post-It note over the tracking ball on a computer mouse to stop it from working altogether. Sit and watch his priceless expression; I can't wait to see Jackson, my oldest son, when he can't check his stats on Angry Birds!

- Use a pin or knife to make a few very small holes in a plastic cup, and make sure to put it back on the top of the stack or on the shelf. Watch as Dad gets a drink, and it ends up all

Cherry blossoms are the stars at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's Sakura Matsuri festival, April 26–27.

over his shirt. And make sure the kids are there to watch with you to laugh their heads off. But make sure that A) you're not the one doing the laundry that day, and B) it isn't something irreparable when spilled, like wine!

- End the day on a fun note. After dinner, send the kids up for a bath. When they get there, they'll find the tub has been turned into a ball pit! This is the most fun and generous "prank" if you ask me! My boys will be in heaven :)

Spring flowers

So, about April showers bringing those beautiful May flowers. Where should you go in the city to see the flowers bloom? Here are my family's favorite flower-spotting spots!

- The Brooklyn Botanic Garden: My boys and I absolutely love the Brooklyn Botanic Garden for its creativity with the designs and display of the beautiful looking — and smelling — flowers! We always stroll around for hours, and then, eventually, make our way to the gift shop to get a nature-themed cute little something to remember our special day. I can't wait to stroll my new daughter Blake around this year; I will definitely be dressing her in something floral and bright!

[1000 Washington Ave. in Brooklyn, (718) 623-7200, www.bbq.org]

• **Conservatory Garden:** Located at Fifth Avenue and 105th Street and open daily from 8 am until dusk, Conservatory Garden is the only formal garden found in Central Park. This garden is so beautifully and impressively kept, and just gets more and more luscious and gorgeous every spring! The flowers, water, and trees all come together to make you feel like you are somewhere far outside the city. My boys can kick their soccer ball around with my husband, while I sit and enjoy the views and unpack some DeLyssious snacks.

[Fifth Avenue and 105th Street in Central Park, Manhattan, (212) 628-1036, www.centralparknyc.org]

• **Bartow-Pell Mansion:** Located in Pelham Bay Park, the Bronx, this place is a MUST-SEE! The grounds alone are breathtaking, but add the sprawling, fit-for-a-princess mansion, and you will never want to leave! I hope one of my three children decides to get married here one day. It is free for children under 6, and very cheap otherwise (\$3 for kids and seniors, \$5 for adults). You can even take a tour of the carriage, mansion and grounds so as not to miss a thing!

[895 Shore Rd in the Bronx, (718) 885-1461, www.bartowpellmansion-museum.org]

• **Wave Hill:** Wave Hill is the perfect place to picnic with your kids. With water views and a mansion just as beautiful as Bartow-Pell, this is another perfect urban escape. In fact, the first blooms of the spring season were just spotted here! I can't wait to have my first mommy-daughter-day with Blake here this month.

[675 W. 252nd St. in Manhattan, (718) 549-3200, www.wavehill.org]

• **The Bryant Park Flower Garden:** Right near the New York Public Library, this little gem of a garden boasts more than 30,000 square feet of cultivated plantings with 100,000 daffodils, which begin to sprout green foliage in February and are in full bloom in March. Compared with most other parks in New York City, Bryant Park enjoys a relatively early spring. (The shelter of the surrounding buildings the lawn create a warm zone. And some of the more recently constructed high-rises, such as the Bank of America Tower, are sheathed in reflective glass, which bounces sunlight, like a heat lamp, back into the park. Yes, that's right; you can enjoy what will feel like an early summer with your family!) While

you're there, too, why not take your little ones to do some reading at the most beautiful library in the world?

[Between Fifth and Sixth avenues and W. 40th and W. 42nd streets in Manhattan, (212) 768-4242, www.bryantpark.org]

Easter

Living in the city, it may be difficult to find a safe place to set up a great Easter egg hunt for your little ones, or it may just not be in your family's tradition. Here are some bunny-themed, fun, free, family-friendly Easter egg hunts.

• **The Great Easter Egg Hunt:** The Lower Manhattan Community Church sponsors this Easter Fest, featuring egg hunts for children of different ages, photo ops with the Big Bunny and other holiday activities. This year's 10th annual event is on April 12 at 2 pm at PS 89 on Warren Street and is free.

At PS 89 [201 Warren St. at West Street in Tribeca, (646) 397-7051, <http://lowermanhattanchurch.com>].

• **Carl Schurz Park Egg Hunt** on the Upper East Side: Families can decorate egg-collection bags before participating in one of three hunts, on April 12 from noon to 2 pm. The rain date is April 13 at the Mayor's Lawn in the park off of E. 87th Street.

Carl Schurz Park is one of my family's favorites, as there is just so much going on! Jackson likes to watch the hockey and basketball players practice in the big sports arena, while my little Oliver likes to play with our puppy, Jedi, in the little dog park. Adding an egg-hunt and some arts and crafts will be more than enough springtime fun!

[E. 87th Street and East End Avenue in Manhattan, (212) 459-4455, carlschurzparknyc.org]

• **Easter at the Children's Museum** of Manhattan: The top spot offers a trio of holiday activities on April 20. Preschoolers can create Easter collages while school-age kids decorate actual eggs. The museum also hosts a twist on the usual egg hunt: Visitors search for half a dozen paper eggs that are hidden throughout the museum. Once located, kids can redeem their completed hunt sheets for Easter prizes! Not to mention, you are at the museum! You can spend the rest of the day exploring and learning with your little ones.

[212 W. 83rd St. between Broadway and Amsterdam avenues in Manhattan, (212) 721-1223, www.cmom.org]

Lyss Stern is the founder of *DivaLysious Moms* (www.divamoms.com).



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Calendar

APRIL



Photo by John Powers

It's 'Bello Mania!'

Demetrius Alexandro Claudio Amadeus Bello Nock, the creative genius behind "Bello Mania," is back by popular demand on the stage at the New Victory Theater.

Be prepared to witness brand-new antics and daredevil tricks performed as only Bello can. Families with children ages 4 and up

will be delighted by this super fun show.

April 4 through 20, multiple performances. Tickets range between \$14 to \$38.

The New Victory Theater [209 W. 42nd St. between Seventh and Eighth avenues in Times Square, (646) 223-3000, www.newvictory.org].

Submit a listing

This calendar is dedicated to bringing our readers the most comprehensive list of events in your area. But to do so, we need your help!

Send your listing request to manhattancalendar@cnglocal.com — and we'll take care of the rest. Please e-mail requests more than three weeks prior to the event to ensure we have enough time to get it in. And best of all, it's FREE!

TUES, APRIL 1

IN MANHATTAN

KidsFlix: 115th Street Library, 203 W. 115th St., at Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Boulevard; (212) 666-9393; www.nypl.org/events/programs/2014/04/01/kidsflix; 3 pm; Free.

Relax in the playroom for some quality children's entertainment — Hayao Miyazaki's "My Neighbor Totoro."

Tween Crafts: Bloomingdale Public Library, 150 W. 100th St., between Columbus and Amsterdam avenues; (212) 222-8030; www.nypl.org/events/programs/2014/04/01/tween-crafts; 4 pm; Free.

Children ages 8-12 can participate in crafts with their friends.

WED, APRIL 2

IN MANHATTAN

Kids' Crafts: Mulberry Street Library, 10 Jersey St., between Prince and E. Houston streets; (212) 966-3424; www.nypl.org/events/programs/2014/04/02/kids-crafts; 4 pm; Free.

Children from infants to 12 years old will enjoy seasonal crafts in the Children's Room.

FURTHER AFIELD

Mud Art: Brooklyn Children's Museum, 145 Brooklyn Ave. at St. Marks Avenue, Brooklyn; (718) 735-4400; www.brooklynkids.org; 11:30 am; Free with museum admission.

Children learn about the earth, the rocks, sand, clay and other surfaces that cover the planet.

THURS, APRIL 3

IN MANHATTAN

Grand Central Centennial Quilts Tour: New York Transit Museum Annex, 87 E. 42nd St., between Lexington and Park avenues; (718) 694-1600; web.mta.info/mta/museum; 12:30 pm; Free.

Representatives from The City Quil-



Maveick Inman, Echo Design

Egg-cellent spring

Celebrate spring with an incredible display of more than 260 two-foot-tall egg sculptures at Rockefeller Center! The eggs were each created by artists, designers, photographers, architects and many others. This exhibition will be the finale of the citywide Faberge Big Egg Hunt, where the eggs will be hidden

around the boroughs of the city, and the public can go on a hunt to find them!

April 18 through 25, from 7 am to midnight. Admission is free.

Rockefeller Center [W. 48th Street and W. 51st Street between Fifth and Sixth avenues in Midtown West, (212) 864-5400, <http://thebigegg-hunt.org>]

ter will lead casual, free lunch-time tours of the exhibition that honors Grand Central in textiles.

Tween Book Club: Battery Park Public Library, 175 North End Ave.; (212) 790-3499; www.nypl.org/events/programs/2014/04/03/tween-book-club-kiki-strike; 5:30 pm; Free.

Children ages 9-12 will enjoy snacks, trivia, and more, while discussing the club's latest book, "Kiki Strike."

FRI, APRIL 4

IN MANHATTAN

Grady High School Performance: SONY Wonder Technology Lab, 550 Madison Ave. at 56th Street; (212) 833-8100; www.sonywondertechlab.com; 2:45 pm; Free.

Enjoy a live musical performance by local students from the Grady High School in Brooklyn, New York, in the

Sony Plaza Atrium.

Spring Dance Concert: Julia Richman Education Complex Auditorium, 317 E. 67th St., between Second and First avenues; (212) 737-1530; www.tuhsnyc.com; 3 pm; \$10, \$5 (students).

Talent Unlimited High School of the Performing Arts presents its spring dance concert.

The Paper Bag Players Workshop: Hamilton Fish Park Library, 415 E. Houston St., at Avenue D; (212) 673-2290; www.nypl.org/events/programs/2014/04/04/paper-bag-players-workshop; 3:30 pm; Free.

The goal of the workshop is for each participant to experience The Paper Bag Players approach to creating and performing theater.

SAT, APRIL 5

IN MANHATTAN

Rug Concerts at Diller-Quaile:

The Diller-Quaile School of Music, 24 E. 95th St.; (212) 369-1484; www.diller-quaile.org/public-concerts-master-classes/rug-concerts; 10 am, 11 am, 1 pm, & 2 pm; \$20.

These concerts are designed for children ages 6 and under and feature performers who introduce a wide variety of instruments and music of diverse periods.

Life in a Skyscraper: The Skyscraper Museum, 39 Battery Pl., at First Place; (212) 945-6324; www.skyscraper.org/home.htm; 10:30 am; \$5.

Children ages 5-9 will discuss the difference between residential and commercial building and create a model residential building of their own.

I am an Artist: George Bruce Library, 518 W. 125th St., between Amsterdam Avenue and Broadway; (212) 662-9727; www.nypl.org/events/programs/2014/04/05/i-am-artist; 10:30 am; Free.

Children of all ages learn to explore who they are and find their strengths as artists in this workshop.

Baby Animal Encounter: American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street; (212) 769-5200; www.amnh.org; 11 am, 1 & 2:30 pm; \$12 (\$10 Members).

Meet some of nature's wildest and cutest youngsters, and learn how they grow and learn to adapt to their unique habitats with zoologist and TV host Jarod Miller.

Astrograss in Concert: Symphony Space, 2537 Broadway at W. 94th Street; (212) 864-5400; www.symphonyspace.org; 11 am; \$13-\$20.

Brooklyn-based Astrograss folks gets kids and their parents dancing and

Continued on page 42

Continued from page 41

singing together, with a unique blend of bluegrass, old-time, and folk music.

Hands-on Nano Demo: SONY Wonder Technology Lab, 550 Madison Ave. at 56th Street; (212) 833-8100; www.sonywondertechlab.com; 1-3 pm; Free.

Children uncover the fascinating world of nanoscience and nanotechnology and participate in hands-on activities that explore the properties, structures, materials and more.

Meet the Scientist: American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street; (212) 769-5200; www.amnh.org; 2:15, 3, & 3:45 pm; Free with museum admission.

Visitors aged 7 and older can chat with scientists and learn how they became interested in their fields.

Patricia Lakin: Bank Street Bookstore, 610 W. 112 St., corner of 112th Street and Broadway; (212) 678-1654; bankstreetbooks.com; 2:30 pm; Free.

Author Patricia Lakin reads two new children's book titles for newly independent readers.

Teen open house: Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1000 Fifth Ave. at E. 82nd Street; (212) 570-7710; www.metmuseum.org; 5-6:30 pm; Free.

Meet other teens and staff from the museum's art organizations and find out about summer classes. Bring a friend and enjoy the museum until it closes. Registration required.

Spring Dance Concert: 7 pm. Julia Richman Education Complex Auditorium. See Friday, April 4.

FURTHER AFIELD

Citizen Science Series: New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St., at Avenue of Science, Queens; (718) 699-0005 X 353; www.nyscience.org; Noon-4 pm; Free with museum admission.

Citizen Science Series introduces audiences to a range of science projects.

Surprise buildings: New York Transit Museum, Boerum Place at Schermerhorn Street, Brooklyn; (718) 694-1600; www.mta.info/mta/museum; 1:30 pm; Free with museum admission.

Children older than 6 years discover the secrets of the 74th Street Powerhouse, built in 1902.

Rubber Band Month: New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St., at Avenue of Science, Queens; (718) 699-0005 X 353; www.nyscience.org; 1:30 - 3 pm & 3:30 - 5 pm; \$5, plus museum admission.

Children explore cool projects made with simple rubber bands, including rubber band-powered helicopters and cars, musical instruments and Viking



Family fun in Tribeca

This annual street fair, which is part of the famous Tribeca Film Festival, will feature a variety of activities, including live Broadway performances, filmmaking, animation, video gaming, sports, arts and crafts, storytelling, music, free screenings and so

much more. Perfect for families and fans of all ages!

April 26 from 10 am to 6 pm. Admission is free.

Tribeca Family Festival (Greenwich Street from Chambers to Hubert streets in Tribeca, www.tribecafilm.com/family)

catapults.

SUN, APRIL 6

IN MANHATTAN

"Shlemiel Crooks:" Merkin Concert Hall at Kaufman Music Center, 129 W. 67th St., between Broadway & Amsterdam Ave.; (212) 501-3300; www.kaufmanmusiccenter.org/mch/event/poppy-seed-players-shlemiel-crooks; 11 am; \$20.

Families will go on a musical adventure with the Poppy Seed Players in this musical celebrating Passover.

Elizabeth Mitchell and You are My Flower Concert: The Jewish Museum, 1109 Fifth Ave., at 92nd Street; www.thejewishmuseum.org; 11:30 am; \$18 (adult); \$13 (child); \$15 (adult member); \$11 (child member).

Hear cherished folk classics and soulful originals from Elizabeth Mitchell, and her daughter Storey's albums *Catch the Moon* and *Blue Clouds* and more.

Open Studios: Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, 1071 Fifth Ave. at 89th Street; (212) 423-3500; www.guggenheim.org; 1-4 pm; Free with museum admission.

Families are able to stop by the Sackler Center's Studio Art Lab and create a work of art inspired by the Guggenheim spring exhibitions.

Just Drop In!: Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, 1071 Fifth Ave. at 89th Street; (212) 423-3500; www.guggenheim.org; 1-4 pm; Free with museum admission.

Museum educators lead creative, interactive projects for children ages 3-10 and their families that explore highlights of the spring exhibitions.

Sunday Studio: Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1000 Fifth Ave. at E. 82nd Street; (212) 570-7710; www.metmuseum.org; 1-4 pm; Free with museum admission.

Try your hand at creating works of art. Art supplies are provided.

FURTHER AFIELD

Sun Catchers: New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St., at Avenue of Science, Queens; (718) 699-0005 X 353; www.nyscience.org; 10:30 am-12:30 pm; \$8 plus museum admission.

Children 18 months and up will explore light and color as they experiment with prisms, flashlights and filters to create their own sun catcher in this workshop.

Baby Expo: PS 133, William A Butler school, 610 Baltic St., Brooklyn; www.eventbrite.com/e/brooklyn-baby-family-expo-presented-by-a-child-grows-in-brooklyn-tickets-10640645457; 11 am-3 pm; \$15-\$130.

A fun event that gives moms and

dads access to products, advice and community resources for children, birth to early childhood. Vered Music, Little Rock its by Frolic and City Stomp provide the entertainment.

Surprise buildings: 1:30 pm. New York Transit Museum. See Saturday, April 5.

Rubber Band Month: 1:30 - 3 pm & 3:30 - 5 pm. New York Hall of Science. See Saturday, April 5.

MON, APRIL 7

IN MANHATTAN

Far Out Physics: Bloomingdale Public Library, 150 W. 100th St., between Columbus and Amsterdam avenues; (212) 222-8030; www.nypl.org/events/programs/2014/04/07/far-out-physics-light; 3:30 pm; Free.

The Far Out Physics workshop uses demonstrations, art projects and hands-on science experiments to inspire children's understanding of the world around them.

PC Scavenger Hunt - Poetic Devices: George Bruce Library, 518 W. 125th St., between Amsterdam Avenue and Broadway; (212) 662-9727; www.nypl.org/events/programs/2014/04/07/pc-scavenger-hunt-poetic-devices; 4 pm; Free.

A hunting game using the Internet and library resources to find answers to a list of questions and clues about poetry.

FURTHER AFIELD

Science Workshop for Young Children with Autism: New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St., at Avenue of Science, Queens; 718-699-0005 X 341; www.nyscience.org; 3:30-5 pm; Free.

Children ages 3 - 5 with autism and their families explore the physics of how things move as they play, paint, and build their own trains from recycled materials. Pre-registration is required.

TUES, APRIL 8

IN MANHATTAN

Arts & Crafts for Children: Agular Library, 174 E 110th St., at Third Avenue; (212) 534-2930; www.nypl.org/events/programs/2014/04/08/arts-crafts-children; 4 pm; Free.

Children ages 5-12 will engage in hands on projects using a variety of skills.

Tween Crafts: 4 pm. Bloomingdale Public Library. See Tuesday, April 1.

Our online calendar is updated daily at www.NYParenting.com/calendar

WED, APRIL 9

IN MANHATTAN

Modern Masters: Battery Park Public Library, 175 North End Ave.; (212) 790-3499; www.nypl.org/events/programs/2014/04/09/modern-masters-mc-escher; 4 pm; Free.

Children ages 6 and up will explore the mediums, messages, and techniques of modern and contemporary artists in this workshop.

THURS, APRIL 10

IN MANHATTAN

Read Aloud With Jackie: Kips Bay Public Library, 446 Third Ave., at E. 31st Street; (212) 683-2520; www.nypl.org/events/programs/2014/04/03/read-aloud-jackie; 3:30 pm; Free.

Children ages 3-8 will be introduced to the wonder of books, and then will enjoy a coloring page.

FRI, APRIL 11

IN MANHATTAN

Art Adventures: 96th Street Library, 112 E. 96th St., at Park Avenue; (212) 289-0908; www.nypl.org/events/programs/2014/04/11/art-adventures-geometric-shapes; 11 am; Free.

This early childhood program explores formal art themes through story time, body movement, and art projects.

Hyde Leadership Charter School Band Performance: SONY Wonder Technology Lab, 550 Madison Ave. at 56th Street; (212) 833-8100; www.sonywondertechlab.com; Noon; Free.

Enjoy a live musical performance by students from the Hyde Leadership Charter School Band in Bronx, New York, in the Sony Plaza Atrium.

The Paper Bag Players Workshop: 3:30 pm. Hamilton Fish Park Library. See Friday, April 4.

SAT, APRIL 12

IN MANHATTAN

I am an Artist: 10:30 am. George Bruce Library. See Saturday, April 5.

"Sesame Street Being Brave" Screening: SONY Wonder Technology Lab, 550 Madison Ave. at 56th Street; (212) 833-8100; www.sonywondertechlab.com; 11 am; Free.

Everyone's favorite Sesame Street characters will tackle tough scary topics like thunderstorms, shadows, and creepy creatures in this special screening.

Hans Christian Andersen Storytellers: Scandinavian House, 58 Park



Photo by Reuben Reading

Astrograss is a gas

Get ready for sing-a-longs and dance contests! Brooklyn's own Astrograss is bringing its high-energy show to Symphony Space for the last Just Kidding show of the season. Families will be dancing and singing together, while listening to the unique blend of bluegrass, old-time, and folk music.

April 5 at 11 am. Tickets are \$20, \$17 for members, \$15 for children, \$13 for member children. Family four pack of tickets are available for \$65.

Symphony Space [2537 Broadway at W. 98th Street on the Upper West Side, (212) 864-5400, www.symphonyspace.org/event/8028/Family/astrograss]

Ave., at 38th Street; www.scandinaviahouse.org/events_kids_upcoming.html#scan-sing-along; 11 am; Free.

Some of New York's most famous storytellers bring to life exciting tales of mythical creatures and fantastic adventures from Scandinavia and the far North.

Easter Egg Hunt: Carl Schurz Park, E. 87th Street and East End Ave.; (212) 459-4455; www.carlschurzparknyc.org; Noon-3 pm; Free.

Decorate Easter egg bags and then hunt for the treasures. For all ages.

Scandinavian Sing-Along: Scandinavian House, 58 Park Ave., at 38th Street; (212) 779-3587; www.scandinaviahouse.org/events_kids_upcoming.html#scan-sing-along; 1 pm; \$7.

Danish musician Vibe Normann will introduce children to English versions of traditional songs, play musical games, and more.

The Great Easter Egg Hunt: PS 89, 201 Warren Street; (646) 397-7051; www.lowermanhattanchurch.com; 2 pm; Free.

Children of all ages enjoy the search for ghooxies, a photo op with the Easter Bunny and fun activities. Hosted by the Lower Manhattan Community Church.

National Poetry Month Event: Bank Street Bookstore, 610 W. 112 St., corner of 112th Street and Broadway; (212) 678-1654; bankstreetbooks.com; 2:30 pm; Free.

Join New York City's Youth Poet Laureate Ramya Ramana to enjoy an inspiring event in celebration of National Poetry Month.

FURTHER AFIELD

Eco House: New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St., at Avenue of Science, Queens; (718) 699-0005 X 353; www.nyscience.org; Noon-6 pm; Free with museum admission.

Children will be able to enter this mobile, cutting-edge exhibit that lets visitors see behind the walls and underneath the floor of a home.

Citizen Science Series: Noon-4 pm. New York Hall of Science. See Saturday, April 5.

Rubber Band Month: 1:30 - 3 pm & 3:30 - 5 pm. New York Hall of Science. See Saturday, April 5.

SUN, APRIL 13

IN MANHATTAN

Second Sunday Tour: Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, 1071 Fifth

Ave. at 89th Street; (212) 423-3500; www.guggenheim.org; 10:30 am-Noon; \$15 per family.

Participating families with children ages 5-10 will view works by artists in the Guggenheim's spring exhibitions to learn about different artists' depictions of places, both real and imagined.

Poseidon's Poisons and Marine Medicines: American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street; (212) 769-5200; www.amnh.org; 11 am-4 pm; Free with museum admission.

Curator Mark Siddall hosts a dynamic program expanding on the exhibition *The Power of Poison* and offers family-friendly activities, including a live animal encounter.

Open Studios: 1-4 pm. Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum. See Sunday, April 6.

Just Drop In!: 1-4 pm. Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum. See Sunday, April 6.

ShirLaLa's Passover Celebration: Museum of Jewish Heritage, 36 Battery Place at First Place; (646) 437-4202; www.mjhnyc.org; 2 pm; \$10, \$7 (children 10 and under).

This celebratory concert will feature Shira Kline and her band, ShirLaLa, themed crafts and museum tours.

FURTHER AFIELD

Sound Science: New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St., at Avenue of Science, Queens; (718) 699-0005 X 353; www.nyscience.org; 10:30 am-12:30 pm; \$8 plus museum admission.

Children ages 18 months and up will discover sounds as they make their own musical instruments with recycled materials and join in a jam session.

Eco House: Noon-6 pm. New York Hall of Science. See Saturday, April 12.

Rubber Band Month: 1:30 - 3 pm & 3:30 - 5 pm. New York Hall of Science. See Saturday, April 5.

MON, APRIL 14

IN MANHATTAN

Far Out Physics: Bloomingdale Public Library, 150 W 100th St., between Columbus and Amsterdam avenues; (212) 222-8030; www.nypl.org/events/programs/2014/04/14/far-out-physics-magnets; 3:30 pm; Free.

Children ages 6 and up will participate in demonstrations, art projects and hands-on science experiments.

TUES, APRIL 15

IN MANHATTAN

Bot Building: SONY Wonder Technology Lab, 550 Madison Ave. at

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56th Street; (212) 833-8100; www.sonywondertechlab.com; 11 am-1 pm; \$10.

Children 8 and up will learn how to assemble their own robot by using motors, screws, and recycled materials in this workshop.

Spring Break Crafts and Games:

Mount Vernon Hotel Museum and Garden, 421 E. 61st St., between First & York avenues; (212) 838-6878; www.mvhm.org/pages/events/events.htm; 11 am-4 pm; Free with museum admission.

Drop in during regular museum hours and make a 19th-century craft and play historic games.

Stroller Tour: Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, 1071 Fifth Ave. at 89th Street; (212) 423-3500; www.guggenheim.org; 3 pm; \$20 per stroller.

One-hour tour of the Guggenheim's spring exhibitions, led by museum educators, for caregivers and their babies.

Tween Crafts: 4 pm. Bloomingdale Public Library. See Tuesday, April 1.

FURTHER AFIELD

BubbleMania: New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St., at Avenue of Science, Queens; (718) 699-0005 X 353; www.nyscience.org; 1 & 2 pm; \$6, plus museum admission.

Families will enjoy a fun, 30-minute show by comic bubble-ologist Casey Carle.

WED, APRIL 16

IN MANHATTAN

Spring Break Crafts and Games:

11 am-4 pm. Mount Vernon Hotel Museum and Garden. See Tuesday, April 15.

Grand Central Centennial

Quilts Tour: 12:30 pm. New York Transit Museum Annex. See Thursday, April 3.

Celebrate Spring: Stephen A. Schwarzman Building, Fifth Avenue at 42nd St.; (917) 275-6975; www.nypl.org/events/programs/2014/04/16/family-crafts-celebrate-spring; 3 pm; Free.

Families with children ages 4-8 can enjoy making a craft together to celebrate spring.

FURTHER AFIELD

BubbleMania: 1 & 2 pm. New York Hall of Science. See Tuesday, April 15.

THURS, APRIL 17

IN MANHATTAN

Spring Break Crafts and Games:

11 am-4 pm. Mount Vernon Hotel Museum and Garden. See Tuesday, April 15.



Photo by Gabriel Rivera

Every dog has his day

The Poppy Seed Players are back, just in time for Passover, with "Shlemiel Crooks: A Passover Musical" at the Merkin Concert Hall at Kaufman Music Center.

A hilarious musical about a boy and his dog, it's based on the popular children's books "Shlemiel Crooks" and "Chicken Bone Man" by award-winning author Anna Olswanger. You'll leave with

a renewed sense of family loyalty and the desire to follow your dreams!

April 6 at 11 am. Tickets are \$20 each.

Merkin Concert Hall at Kaufman Music Center [129 W. 67th St. between Broadway and Amsterdam Avenue on the Upper West Side, (212) 501-3300, www.kaufmanmusiccenter.org/mch/event/poppy-seed-players-shlemiel-crooks]

day, April 15.

Matzah Box Masterpieces: The Jewish Museum, 1109 Fifth Ave., at 92nd Street; www.thejewishmuseum.org/FamilyPrograms; 1-4 pm; Free with museum admission.

Design a colorful box to hold matzah or treasures for the holiday using collage, fabric, buttons, and other materials.

Read Aloud With Jackie: 3:30 pm. Kips Bay Public Library. See Thursday, April 10.

FURTHER AFIELD

BubbleMania: 1 & 2 pm. New York Hall of Science. See Tuesday, April 15.

FRI, APRIL 18

IN MANHATTAN

Storytime: Mount Vernon Hotel Museum and Garden, 421 E. 61st St.,

between First & York avenues; (212) 838-6878; www.mvhm.org/pages/events/events.htm; 10:30 am; Free with museum admission.

Children will enjoy historically-themed stories and activities, dress-up in the Children's Corner and role-play with the museum's Touch Collection.

Art Adventures: 96th Street Library, 112 E. 96th St., at Park Avenue; (212) 289-0908; www.nypl.org/events/programs/2014/04/18/art-adventures-organic-shapes; 11 am; Free.

Children ages 3-6 will explore formal art themes through story time, body movement, and art projects.

Spring Break Crafts and Games:

11 am-4 pm. Mount Vernon Hotel Museum and Garden. See Tuesday, April 15.

Spiderman Web Art: SONY Wonder Technology Lab, 550 Madison Ave. at 56th Street; (212) 833-8100;

www.sonywondertechlab.com; Noon; \$7.

Families with children 8 and up will learn how to make a fun and unique spider web using balloons, yarn, glitter and more in this workshop.

Matzah Box Masterpieces: 1-4 pm. The Jewish Museum. See Thursday, April 17.

FURTHER AFIELD

A Sneak Peak at "Dear Albert Einstein": New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St., at Avenue of Science, Queens; (718) 699-0005 X 353; www.nyscience.org; 1 & 3 pm; Free with museum admission.

Members of the cast will sing selections from the musical and chat with audience members after the performance.

SAT, APRIL 19

IN MANHATTAN

Archikids: The Skyscraper Museum, 39 Battery Pl., at First Place; www.skyscraper.org/home.htm; 10:30 am; \$5.

Architect Yves Roger leads a hands-on workshop, where children ages 9-13 make their own soaring structures, inspired by images, vintage film and models.

Elmo's Rainbow and Other

Springtime Stories: SONY Wonder Technology Lab, 550 Madison Ave. at 56th Street; (212) 833-8100; www.sonywondertechlab.com; 11 am; Free.

Celebrate spring with Elmo and friends as they discover a rainbow on Sesame Street in this special screening.

Spring Break Crafts and

Games: 11 am-4 pm. Mount Vernon Hotel Museum and Garden. See Tuesday, April 15.

Tech for Tots: SONY Wonder Technology Lab, 550 Madison Ave. at 56th Street; (212) 833-8100; www.sonywondertechlab.com; Noon; Free.

Children ages 4 and up will learn about primary colors and then make a fun and colorful picture to take home in this workshop.

KidsFlix: 115th Street Library, 203 W. 115th St., at Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Boulevard; (212) 666-9393; www.nypl.org/events/programs/2014/04/19/kidsflix; 1 pm; Free.

Families will enjoy a screening of "The Land Before Time."

FURTHER AFIELD

Rubber Band Month: 1:30 - 3 pm & 3:30 - 5 pm. New York Hall of Science. See Saturday, April 5.

SUN, APRIL 20

IN MANHATTAN

Easter activities: Children's Museum of Manhattan, 212 W. 83rd St. between Amsterdam and Broadway; (212) 721-1223; www.cmom.org; 11 am-3 pm; Free with museum admission.

Preschoolers create Easter collages, school age children decorate actual eggs and everyone goes on a hunt. Prizes awarded.

Spring Break Crafts and Games: 11 am-4 pm. Mount Vernon Hotel Museum and Garden. See Tuesday, April 15.

Sunday Art Discoveries: The Jewish Museum, 1109 Fifth Ave., at 92nd Street; www.thejewishmuseum.org; 11:30 am; Free with museum admission.

Children ages 4-10 will engage with works of art through activities and gallery tours that focus on themes related to Travels in Art for Passover, Culture and Continuity - The Jewish Journey.

Freedom Art Jam: The Jewish Museum, 1109 Fifth Ave., at 92nd Street; www.thejewishmuseum.org/Family-Programs; Noon-4 pm; Free with museum admission.

This second annual Passover extravaganza will feature art, music, and dancing, plus participants can design a freedom sculpture, hear songs from David Grover & Grover's Gang, create an instrument, add to a giant word poem, and more!

Open Studios: 1-4 pm. Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum. See Sunday, April 6.

Just Drop In!: 1-4 pm. Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum. See Sunday, April 6.

Sunday Studio: 1-4 pm. Metropolitan Museum of Art. See Sunday, April 6.

FURTHER AFIELD

Rubber Band Month: 1:30 - 3 pm & 3:30 - 5 pm. New York Hall of Science. See Saturday, April 5.

MON, APRIL 21

IN MANHATTAN

Far Out Physics: Bloomingdale Public Library, 150 W 100th St., between Columbus and Amsterdam avenues; (212) 222-8030; www.nypl.org/locations/tid/11/directions; 3:30 pm; Free.

The Far Out Physics workshop uses demonstrations, art projects and hands-on science experiments to inspire children to better understand the world around them.



Photo by Lee Wecker

Teens make 'em laugh

The city's funniest teens are at it again. They're ready to help you navigate New York City and the ever-present dangers of territorial pigeons, malfunctioning subway turnstiles, and so much more.

Families with children ages 9

to 18 will surely enjoy this one-of-a-kind show.

April 27 at 1 pm. Tickets are \$15, plus one menu item.

Gotham Comedy Club [208 W. 23rd St. between Seventh and Eighth avenues in the Flatiron District, (212) 877-6115, www.kidsncomedy.com]

TUES, APRIL 22

IN MANHATTAN

Tween Crafts: 4 pm. Bloomingdale Public Library. See Tuesday, April 1.

FURTHER AFIELD

Colorful Kaleidoscopes: New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St., at Avenue of Science, Queens; (718) 699-0005 X353; www.nyscience.org; 10:30 am-12:30 pm; \$8 plus museum admission.

Children ages 18 and up explore the colors and patterns inside of kaleidoscopes.

WED, APRIL 23

IN MANHATTAN

Modern Masters: Battery Park Public Library, 175 North End Ave.; (212) 790-3499; www.nypl.org/events/programs/2014/04/23/modern-masters-jackson-pollack; 4 pm; Free.

Children ages 6 and up will explore the mediums, messages, and techniques of Jackson Pollack.

Spring Fling Party: Mulberry Street Library, 10 Jersey St., between Prince and E. Houston streets; (212) 966-3424; www.nypl.org/events/programs/2014/04/16/kids-can-cook; 4 pm; Free.

Celebrate the season with crafts and activities at the library.

THURS, APRIL 24

IN MANHATTAN

Read Aloud With Jackie: 3:30 pm. Kips Bay Public Library. See Thursday, April 10.

FRI, APRIL 25

IN MANHATTAN

Corinth Holders High School Chorus Performance: SONY Wonder Technology Lab, 550 Madison Ave. at 56th Street; (212) 833-8100; www.sonywondertechlab.com; 1 pm; Free.

Enjoy a live musical performance by students from the Corinth Holders High School Chorus in Wendell, North Carolina, in the Sony Plaza Atrium.

The Paper Bag Players Workshop: 3:30 pm. Hamilton Fish Park Library. See Friday, April 4.

SAT, APRIL 26

IN MANHATTAN

Tribeca Family Festival Street Fair: Tribeca Film Festival, Greenwich Street, from Chambers to Hubert

streets; tribecafilm.com/family; 10 am-6 pm; Free.

This annual fair will feature filmmaking activities, live Broadway performances, arts and crafts, chef demonstrations and tastings, storytelling, free screenings, and more.

Spiderman Animation: SONY Wonder Technology Lab, 550 Madison Ave. at 56th Street; (212) 833-8100; www.sonywondertechlab.com; 10:30 am & 1:30 pm; \$6.

Children ages 8 and up will learn the basics of stop-motion animation, then they can make their own short movie to take home.

I am an Artist: 10:30 am. George Bruce Library. See Saturday, April 5.

"Fluff - A Story of Lost Toys": The New Victory Theater, 209 W 42nd St. between Seventh and Eighth avenues; (646) 223-3010; www.newvictory.org; 11 am & 3 pm; \$14-\$38.

A comedic, quirky and colorful mix of sound, story, and video, where toys get discovered and recovered by the plaid-patterned family, The Ginghams, in this off-beat show best for children ages 5 and up.

European excursions: Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1000 Fifth Ave. at E. 82nd Street; (212) 570-7710; www.metmuseum.org; 2-5 pm; Free.

Teens 15 to 18 explore Europe without ever leaving the city. Fill your passports by strolling through the new European Paintings Galleries. Registration required.

"Pinocchio in Manhattan": Italian American Museum, 155 Mulberry St., at Grand Street; (212) 860-2983; www.facebook.com/italytheater; 4-6 pm; \$15, Free (children 7-11).

Italytheater presents a workshop where kids get to improvise with professional actors.

FURTHER AFIELD

Run for the Wild: Bronx Zoo, 2300 Southern Blvd. at Boston Road, The Bronx; (718) 220-5103; www.wcsrun-forthewild.org; 8 am; \$30-\$40 registration fee.

The annual 5 K run/walk is dedicated to the WCS's 96 Elephants Campaign. Walkers and runners can choose from two different events - the Family Fun Run at 8:45 am and the individual race beginning at 8 am. Registration is required.

Plant a green city: New York Transit Museum, Boerum Place at Schermerhorn Street, Brooklyn; (718) 694-1600; www.mta.info/mta/museum; 1:30 pm; Free with museum admission.

Children of all ages learn how the MTA is building green, and using more

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efficient forms of energy to keep the city Green and Clean.

SUN, APRIL 27

IN MANHATTAN

"Fluff – A Story of Lost Toys": Noon & 5 pm. The New Victory Theater. See Saturday, April 26.

Kids 'n Comedy present Danger!: Gotham Comedy Club, 208 W 23rd St., between Seventh and Eighth avenues; (212) 877-6115; www.kid-sncomedy.com/index.htm; 1 pm; \$15 plus one menu item.

NYC's funniest teenagers dispense some much-needed survival advice as only they can.

Open Studios: 1–4 pm. Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum. See Sunday, April 6.

Just Drop In!: 1–4 pm. Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum. See Sunday, April 6.

FURTHER AFIELD

Plant a green city: 1:30 pm. New York Transit Museum. See Saturday, April 26.

MON, APRIL 28

IN MANHATTAN

Far Out Physics: Bloomingdale Public Library, 150 W. 100th St., between Columbus and Amsterdam avenues; (212) 222-8030; www.nypl.org/events/programs/2014/04/28/far-out-physics-optics; 3:30 pm; Free.

The Far Out Physics workshop uses demonstrations, art projects and hands-on science experiments to inspire children ages 6 and up to better understand the world around them.

TUES, APRIL 29

IN MANHATTAN

Arts & Crafts for Children: 4 pm. Aguilar Library. See Tuesday, April 8.

Tween Crafts: 4 pm. Bloomingdale Public Library. See Tuesday, April 1.

FURTHER AFIELD

Exploring Circuitry: New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St., at Avenue of Science, Queens; (718) 699-0005 X 353; www.nyscience.org; 10:30 am–12:30 pm; \$8 plus museum admission.

Children ages 18 and up explore the basics of circuitry with copper tape, coin batteries and LEDs.

WED, APRIL 30

IN MANHATTAN

Dobbs-Ferry Choir and Orches-



No strings attached

"Pinocchio in Manhattan," presented by italytheater, offers children the unique opportunity to interact with professional actors on stage, hone their writing skills, and of course, perform with Pinocchio himself! Plus, they'll also have a chance to win a trip to Collodi, Italy — the

place where Pinocchio was originally created.

April 26 from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. Tickets are \$15 for adults, and free for children ages 7 to 12.

Italian American Museum, [155 Mulberry St. at Grand Street in Little Italy, (212) 860-2983, www.facebook.com/italytheater]

tra Performance: SONY Wonder Technology Lab, 550 Madison Ave. at 56th Street; (212) 833-8100; www.sonywondertechlab.com; Noon; Free.

Enjoy a live musical performance by students from the Dobbs Ferry Choir and Orchestra in Dobbs Ferry, New York, in the Sony Plaza Atrium.

Modern Masters: Battery Park Public Library, 175 North End Ave.; (212) 790-3499; www.nypl.org/events/programs/2014/04/30/modern-masters-joan-miro; 4 pm; Free.

Children ages 6 and up will explore the mediums, messages, and techniques of Joan Miro.

LONG-RUNNING

IN MANHATTAN

"Through My Eyes": 14th Street Y, 344 E. 14th St., between First and Second avenues; (212) 780-0800; www.14StreetY.org; Weekdays, 6 am–10 pm, Saturdays and Sundays, 7 am–9 pm, Now – Fri, April 18; Free.

In recognition of World Autism Awareness Day 2014 the Exhibition "Through My Eyes" will be featured at the 14th Street Y gallery, featuring art prints for sale from national and international, award winning and world renowned artists.

Arsenal Gallery Exhibition: Arsenal in Central Park, 830 Fifth Ave.; (212) 360-8163; Weekdays, 9 am–5 pm, Now – Thurs, April 24; Free.

The artists in STRATA collect and arrange found or invented artifacts from the urban environment.

Graffiti Art from the Martin Wong Collection: The Museum of the City of New York, 1220 Fifth Ave., between E 103rd and E 104th streets; (212) 534-1672; www.mcny.org; Daily, 10 am–6 pm; \$10 (adults), Free for children under 12.

This new exhibit explores the relationship between the city and graffiti art through the works of Martin Wong, featuring nearly 150 historical photographs of graffiti, paintings, and sketchbooks.

The Butterfly Conservatory: American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street; (212) 769-5200; www.amnh.org; Daily, 10 am–5:45 pm; Now – Mon, May 26; \$27, \$16 (children).

This annual favorite features up to 500 live, free-flying tropical butterflies from Central, South, and North America, Africa, and Asia.

Toddler Storytime: Nolen Library, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Fifth Avenue at E. 81st Street; (212) 570-3788; www.metmuseum.org; Mondays – Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:30 am–11 am, Now – Fri, May 2; Free.

Look, listen, and have fun with picture books - for children 18 months to 3 years old.

Storytime: Nolen Library, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Fifth Avenue at E. 81st Street; (212) 570-3788; www.metmuseum.org; Sundays – Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:30 am–11 am, Now – Sun, May 4; Free.

Look, listen, and have fun with picture books - Children 3 to 7 years old start with a book and then explore the museum on a self-guided gallery hunt.

"Bessie's Big Shot": Swedish Cottage Marionette Theater, 79th Street & West Drive; (212) 988-9093; Tuesdays – Fridays, 10:30 am & Noon, Saturdays and Sundays, 1 pm, Now – Sun, June 29; \$10, \$7 (children under 12).

It's a bird, it's a plane, no — it's Bessie the cow! Based on the Puppet-Mobile show of the same name, this popular production is making its debut at the Swedish Cottage Marionette Theatre.

Toys & Childhood in the 19th Century: Mount Vernon Hotel Museum and Garden, 421 E. 61st St., between First & York avenues; (212) 838-6878; www.mvhm.org; Tuesdays – Sundays, 11 am–4 pm, Tues, April 1 – Wed, April 30; Free with museum admission.

View popular toys of the 19th century like classic wooden toys, early board games, china head dolls, and educational toys, and explore what they can tell us about child development in the 1800s.

Cross-Stitch Circle: New-York Historical Society DiMenna Children's History Museum, 170 Central Park West at 77th Street; (212) 873-3400; nyhistory.org; Thursdays, 3:30–5:30 pm, Now – Thurs, April 24; Free with museum admission.

Beginning cross stitchers ages 6 and up will learn the basic stitch and create a bookmark with their new skill.

"Bello Mania": The New Victory Theater, 209 W 42nd St. between Seventh and Eighth avenues; (646) 223-3010; www.newvictory.org; Friday, April 4, 7 pm; Saturday, April 5, 12 pm; Sunday, April 6, 12 pm; Friday, April 11, 7 pm; Saturday, April 12, 12 pm; Wednesday, April 16, 2 pm; Thursday, April 17, 2 pm; Friday, April 18, 2 pm; Saturday, April 19, 12 pm; Sunday, April 20, 12 pm; \$14–\$38.

Bello is back, and delivers brand new wacky antics and favorite daredevil tricks in this latest show perfect for children ages 4 and up.

Family Activity Pack and Guides: Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, 1071 Fifth Ave. at 89th Street; (212) 423-3500; www.guggenheim.org; Saturdays and Sundays, 10 am–4 pm, Now – Sun, April 27; Free with museum admission.

Family Activity Guides provide infor-

Our online calendar is updated daily at www.NYParenting.com/calendar

mation and activities for families to explore the Guggenheim on their own.

"The Amazing Max and The Box of Interesting Things": Manhattan Movement & Arts Center, 248 West 60th St., between Amsterdam and West End avenues; (866) 811-4111; theamazingmaxlive.com; Saturday, April 5, 1 pm; Saturday, April 12, 1 pm; Sunday, April 13, 11 am; Wednesday, April 16, 11 am; Thursday, April 17, 1 pm; Friday, April 18, 1 pm; Saturday, April 19, 1 pm; \$34.50-\$59.50.

Magician Max Darwin performs a magic show like no other, with visual magic, comedy and loads of audience participation.

Archaeology Zone: The Jewish Museum, 1109 Fifth Ave., at 92nd Street; www.thejewishmuseum.org/FamilyPrograms#/?i=1; Sundays, 11 am-5:45 pm, Now - Sun, May 25; Free with museum admission.

Children ages 3-10 can magnify, sketch, piece together fragments, interpret symbols and dress in costumes from the past in the popular interactive children's exhibition on archaeology.

Macy's Sunday Story Time: New-York Historical Society DiMenna Children's History Museum, 170 Central Park West at 77th Street; (212) 873-3400; nyhistory.org; Sundays, 11:30 am, Now - Sun, April 27; Free with museum admission.

From the 17th century to the 21st, through fiction and through fact, hear tales of New York City and the people who made it great.

Drop-in Art Workshop: The Jewish Museum, 1109 Fifth Ave., at 92nd Street; (212) 423-3200; www.thejewishmuseum.org/FamilyPrograms#/?i=1; Sundays, 1-4 pm, Now - Sun, May 25; Free with museum admission.

Children ages 3 and up with their families will paint, draw, sculpt or craft a work of art inspired by exhibitions on view with different themes every week.

Storybooks and Art: The Jewish Museum, 1109 Fifth Ave., at 92nd Street; www.thejewishmuseum.org/FamilyPrograms#/?i=1; Sundays, 1:30 pm, Now - Sun, May 25; Free with museum admission.

Children ages 3-7 listen to a story from the library of children's book favorites, then participate in an art activity in the galleries.

Masterpiece Mondays: The Jewish Museum, 1109 Fifth Ave., at 92nd Street; www.thejewishmuseum.org/FamilyPrograms#/?i=1; Monday, March 31, 3:30 pm; Monday, April 7, 3:30 pm; Monday, April 28, 3:30 pm; Monday, May 5, 3:30 pm; Monday, May 19, 3:30 pm; Free with museum admission.

Explore the galleries with sketching,



Fun for Passover

Go on a musical Passover journey with Shira Kline and her band, ShirLaLa.

Their energetic songs encourage children to jump like frogs, crunch lots of matzah, and dance themselves silly. Plus, with museum tours, craft sessions, and more, families will really enjoy

this celebration at the Museum of Jewish Heritage.

April 13 from 1 to 4 pm. Tickets are \$10, \$7 for children 10 and under.

Museum of Jewish Heritage [36 Battery Pl. in Battery Park City, (646) 437-4337, www.mjhnyc.org/calendar_apr14.html#shirl]

art activities and more in this fun afternoon series.

Faberge Big Egg Hunt Display: Rockefeller Center, 48th St. to 51st St., between Fifth and Sixth avenues; Daily, 7 am-Midnight; Fri, April 18 - Fri, April 25; Free.

More than 260 two-foot tall egg sculptures will be displayed at Rockefeller Center as the finale of the city wide Faberge Big Egg Hunt.

FURTHER AFIELD

Science Playground: New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St., at Avenue of Science, Queens; (718) 699-0005 X 353; www.nyscience.org; Weekdays, 9:30 am-5 pm, Saturdays and Sundays, 10 am-6 pm.; \$4, plus museum admission.

Children are encouraged to explore science through slides, seesaws, climbing webs, a water play area, sand boxes, and more, weather permitting.

Rocket Park Mini Golf: New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St., at Avenue of Science, Queens; (718) 699-0005 X 353; www.nyscience.org; Weekdays, 9:30 am-5 pm, Satur-

days and Sundays, 10 am-6 pm.; \$6 (adults,) \$5 (children and seniors,) plus museum admission.

Golfers of all ages can learn about key science concepts such as propulsion, gravity, escape velocity, launch window, gravitational assist, and more!

Flight of the Butterflies in 3D: New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St., at Avenue of Science, Queens; (718) 699-0005 X 353; www.nyscience.org; Tuesdays - Fridays, 11 am, Noon & 2 pm, Saturdays and Sundays, Noon, 1, 2 & 3 pm, Now - Fri, April 11; \$6 (adults,) \$5 (children, students & seniors,) plus NYSCI admission.

Join millions of real butterflies on an amazing journey to a remote and secret hideaway in this award-winning film.

Bug out!: Brooklyn Children's Museum, 145 Brooklyn Ave. at St. Marks Avenue, Brooklyn; (718) 735-4400; www.brooklynkids.org; Tuesdays, 11:30 am-12:30 pm and 2:30-3:30 pm, Now - Tues, May 6; Free with museum admission.

Children of all ages meet grasshoppers, worms, and Madagascar hissing

cockroaches.

Art Kid: Brooklyn Children's Museum, 145 Brooklyn Ave. at St. Marks Avenue, Brooklyn; (718) 735-4400; www.brooklynkids.org; Fridays, 11:30 am, Fri, April 4 - Fri, May 30; Free with museum admission.

Children 5 years and older explore a new style each week.

Arty facts: Brooklyn Museum, 200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue, Brooklyn; (718) 638-5000; www.brooklynmuseum.org; Sundays, 11 am and 1:30 pm, Now - Sun, May 18; \$10 materials fee plus museum admission.

Children 4 to 7 years old explore the galleries, enjoy an activity and take an art class.

Little Kids, Big Stars: MCU Park, 1904 Surf Ave. at W. 17th St., Brooklyn; (718) 37-BKLYN; info@brooklynclones.com; www.brooklynclones.com; Saturday, April 12 - Saturday, June 7; Free.

Baseball is back and the Cyclones want the little ones to experience the game. Coaches of little league and softball leagues throughout the boroughs can nominate one player their team to be named Little Kids, Big Stars of the week. For boys and girls between the ages of 5 and 14 years old. The child should have a passion for baseball/softball, serve as a leader to the team and be helpful to the coaches. The winners will receive an invitation to a baseball clinic with the Cyclones a chance to throw out a first pitch and a commemorative T-shirt.

Dinosaur Safari: Bronx Zoo, 2300 Southern Blvd. at Boston Road, The Bronx; (718) 220-5103; www.bronx-zoo.com; Weekdays, 10 am-5 pm, Saturdays and Sundays, 10 am-5:30 pm, beginning Sat, April 12; \$20.95 (\$16.95 children; Free for children under 3; \$18.95 seniors).

Mysteries Revealed features more than 30 dinosaur species and how scientists reconstruct the fossil pieces. The ride runs through the zoo and has fully animatronic dinosaurs as they move and snarl. The 40 foot T-Rex is joined by deinonychus, prodohadros, stegosaurus and edmontonia.

"Sharin' a Ride": New York Transit Museum, Boerum Place at Schermerhorn Street, Brooklyn; (718) 694-1600; www.mta.info/mta/museum; Saturday, April 12, 1:30 pm; Sunday, April 13, 1:30 pm; Tuesday, April 15, 11 am; Wednesday, April 16, 11 am; Thursday, April 17, 11 am; Friday, April 18, 11 am; Saturday, April 19, 1:30 pm; \$7 (\$5 children and seniors).

The original musical tackles carbon footprints and public transportation. Get ready to sing along in this 30 minute performance that is perfect for children 4 years and older.

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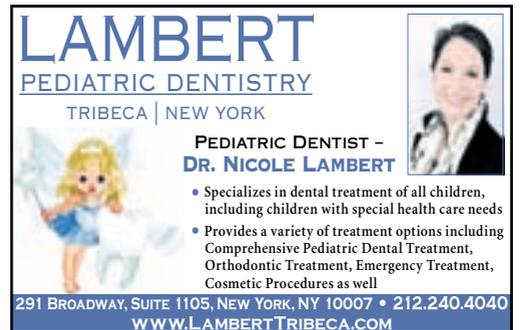
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ALISON ARDEN BESUNDER,
ESQ.

Designation of care

Many clients ask me what would happen to their children in their absence, either because the parents are away and can't be reached, or are incapacitated, or have passed away. A previous column discussed the designation of a Standby Guardian under a law known as "Surrogate Court Procedure Act Section 1726." This article discusses another tool in the estate planning toolbox: a designation of a "person in parental relation" under a separate statute.

What is a legal guardian and what are his or her responsibilities?

A legal guardian is not a child's parent, but is an adult who has the same authority over a child as a parent. A parent might need a guardian for a child where: the parents have died, are sick, are in prison, or are too sick or disabled to be able to care

for the child and make decisions for them. The designation is also useful for families with only one parent and when both parents will be traveling together. In many states, the enactment of these laws was to address the needs of parents living with HIV and AIDS, other disabling conditions, or terminal illnesses.

What laws permit a non-parent guardian?

Every state permits transfer of guardianship authority over a child from a parent to another adult when the child has no other parent available to assume responsibility for care and custody of the child. A traditional guardianship provides for the care of a child in the event of the parent's death or permanent disability and is generally regarded as a permanent transfer of custody and authority from the parent to the guardian.

One recent approach to transferring custody is facilitated through standby guardianship laws. Many states developed these laws specifically to address the needs of parents living with HIV and AIDS, other disabling conditions, or terminal illnesses who want to plan a legally secure future for their children.

Surrogate Court Procedure Act or General Obligations Law?

Under the Surrogate Court Procedure Act, a parent can execute a written designation, signed by two witnesses, designating a standby guardian under certain circumstances. After the triggering event stated in the designation (usually death or disability), the designated guardian must file a petition seeking permanent appointment after a court hearing. Once activated, the standby guardian and the parent, while living, have concurrent authority.

However, the Act designation has its limitations: it expires 60 days after it is signed by the parent unless the standby guardian petitions to be appointed as permanent guardian within that 60-day time frame. For example, a parent executing a standby guardian designation in the ordinary course of

executing estate planning documents would have to re-execute the form every 60 days. The designation would still serve as evidence of the parent's intentions, which is given a strong presumption that a parent's choice will promote the best interests of the child. Yet, it could be subject to challenge in a dispute over the appointment of a guardian. The diligent parent would then have to re-sign an Act designation every 60 days, which is impractical.

The alternative tool is a designation of a "person in parental relation" pursuant to a different statute, General Obligations Law Section 5-1551. This law allows a parent to designate another person to act "in parental relation" to a minor or incapacitated person. The "parental relation" designation lasts longer than the standby guardian — six months from the occurrence of a contingency stated in the designation, as opposed to 60 days from the date of signing. The designation of parental relations can be submitted to a child's school, health care provider, or health insurer. The parent can limit the scope of the powers, and can grant any or all of the powers and duties pursuant to the Public Health Law Sections 2164 (immunizations) and 2504 (medical, dental, health and hospital services) and Education Law Sections 2 and 3212 (educational matters). The designation can be revoked at any time in accordance with the statute.

Although there is overlap between the two statutes, it is helpful to have both mechanisms available to address the situations that arise when custody over a child is needed in a parent's absence. It is important to add one or both documents to your arsenal of estate planning documents.

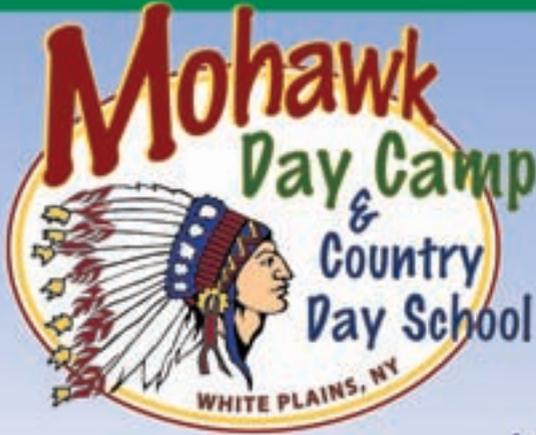
Alison Arden Besunder is the founding attorney of the law firm of Arden Besunder P.C., where she assists new and not-so-new parents with their estate planning needs. Her firm assists clients in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, Nassau, and Suffolk Counties. You can find Besunder on Twitter @estatetrustplan and on her website at www.besunderlaw.com.



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