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Letter from the publisher

Crying at the camp bus

When my daughter was 6 years old, I sent her to a terrific day camp on Staten Island. A bus came to pick her up and bring her back every evening. I was an emotional wreck every day for the first few weeks, but she was excited and adored her bus counselor. She was so happy, and it was the closest thing to the country that a city kid could get while still coming home at the end of the day. She LOVED that camp! She loved it so much that each summer experience developed a camp "family," and as the years passed she graduated from camper to junior counselor and then on to full counselor. She ended up being a fantastic mentor



to the very little kids, the newcomers, who she had a special gift of working with and relating to. She still does, and nothing pleases me more than seeing her interacting with small children in that special way she has that endears both her and them to each other.

She also went to local mini-camps when there were school breaks, and thank goodness for those because working parents need to fill in the gaps that these breaks pose. So many wonderful programs are out there and the terrific people who run and staff them do us a service that is priceless.

It's that time of year when we present in earnest the programs that

are offered both in our communities, throughout the city and in the surrounding countryside that many of us will select as the summer home/activity for our kids. There is so much diversity, with all kinds of camps and programs that will enhance every child's possibilities. There are full-time and part-time schedules to accommodate every economic reality, and happily, there is literally something for everyone's kid.

You have to do the homework, inquire, and ultimately select the right program for your family's needs, your pocketbook, and your child. This month we present some of the many possibilities, and there will be more in the months ahead.

I know this has been a long, cold

and snowy winter, but spring will come and so will summer, and before we know it, the kids will be getting on the bus, or we will be dropping them off at camp and another summer of fun will be ongoing. Don't wait too long to start your search and make sure to read the camp articles each month that will help you ask the right questions, and look for the most fitting program for your youngsters.

Have a great month! Thanks for reading!

Susan Weiss-Voskidis, Publisher

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The house of jazz

Icon Louis Armstrong's home is now a museum

BY MARY CARROLL WININGER

A jazz trumpeter who had 50 years of hit songs, dozens of jazz standards, 30 films, and a legion of fans, Louis Armstrong most enjoyed coming home to Queens and playing his trumpet for the local kids, teaching them about music and his life. Now you, too, can visit his home and learn about his music, life and legacy.

Born on Aug. 4, 1901, Armstrong grew up in an area of New Orleans so rough that it was nick-

named while he was in the Colored Waifs' Home for Boys that he received his first music lesson.

Sixty years later, he had far-reaching influence in the worlds of music and cinema, major sociopolitical events of the 20th century, and American pop culture at large. Although he toured extensively, he was always glad to come back to northeast Corona, where he and his wife, Lucille, had established their permanent home base in 1943. (Lucille decided they should settle in Queens because she hailed from that borough.)

Upon their deaths, Lucille willed the modest little frame house on 107th Street to the city, which deemed it a national landmark.

In 2003, the Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation, an organization created to promote and preserve Armstrong's legacy, decided to convert the house into a museum, because there continues to be so much interest in the jazz musician.

"Long after he passed away, fans kept showing up [to the house]," says Deslyn Dyer, the museum's assistant director.

The main draw of the museum is the hourly guided tours, during which visitors can see rooms and furnishings left untouched since the Armstrongs were residents: a Chinese-inspired, red,

lacquer bench in the dining room; knickknacks from around the world; a streamlined kitchen, in which the cabinets were finished in a vibrant turquoise; and a bathroom where the ceiling and walls are covered in mirrors.

Visitors can also hear audio clips of Louis's vast personal collection of home recordings, in which he practices the trumpet or chats with friends. These recordings — which encompass some 1,200 hours of reel-to-reel tape — make up a fraction of the museum's collection. Armstrong was an avid amateur historian; he enjoyed keeping extensive records

about the details of his life and time, which is evident through the 86 scrapbooks, 5,000 photographs, 120 awards and plaques, five trumpets, and innumerable papers, letters and manuscripts all found in the house.

"[Louis Armstrong] was the original archivist of the house," says Dyer. "Before the house was even designated as a museum, Louis had already done a lot of the work for us, as far as record-keeping and organization of media and other materials. We were...already sitting on a gold mine of stuff."

Approximately 5,000 schoolchildren visit the museum annually, and the majority of visitors are families. The museum's longest-running and most successful program to date, "Pops is Tops," is an annual concert series held in May, during which more than 1,600 kids from all over Queens listen to jazz bands perform in the Japanese-themed garden adjacent to the house. Every Fourth of July, the day which Armstrong was originally thought to have been born, the museum hosts a free, open-to-the-public birthday party in honor of the jazz great. And during the annual Halloween party, there are tours and costume prizes awarded every hour. (But any child who shows up dressed as Armstrong receives an automatic prize!)

For all the places he saw and the people he met in his lifetime, what Louis Armstrong most enjoyed was spending time at home and teaching others about his music and life, just as the Louis Armstrong House Museum continues to do today.

Louis Armstrong House Museum [34-56 107th St. in Corona, (718) 478-8274]. Open Tuesday through Friday 10 am-5 pm, Saturday and Sunday 12-5 pm. The 40-minute guided tours start every hour on the hour, with the last tour at 4 pm. \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors, children and groups. Children under 4 and members free. For more information, visit www.louisarmstronghouse.org.

Mary Carroll Wininger is a writer based in New York City. She is a frequent contributor on topics ranging from etiquette to feng shui.



(Top) Louis Armstrong jams with some neighborhood pals in front of his house in Corona in the mid-1960s. (Above) The house today.

named "The Battlefield." He lived in stark poverty with his mother and sister, and left school at the age of 7 to work odd jobs such as delivering coal and selling newspapers. (He later attended school intermittently through the fifth grade.) Armstrong was jailed in 1912 for firing a pistol in the street to celebrate New Year's Eve, but it was

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Recession 101

The economic
downturn
vs. hopes for
college

BY CANDI SPARKS

It used to be widely accepted that going to college would lead to a good-paying job, so families saved and borrowed money in order to send their children to school. Unfortunately, the economic downturn is affecting our ability to make, save and borrow money for our day-to-day expenses, making college less affordable for many families. Moreover, students are not only vying against other high school grads to get a spot, but now out-of-work adults are returning to school in record numbers. And now, even with a bachelor's degree, there's no guarantee that a college degree will land our kids a job. The recession has hit our children's hopes for higher education.

What can we do about it?

"You cannot think about going to

college today without thinking about how to pay for it," says Carol, a New Yorker who has a checklist for her daughter, Julie, who is now a high school sophomore.

"Start looking at colleges as soon as possible," advises Carol, who started during her daughter's freshman year.

The junior year of high school is generally the time that most students start visiting campuses. However, in the current economic climate, their list of preferred schools may take longer to weed through because the families require more time to look for funding.

The criteria for choosing a school should include which setting fits your child the best; cost, including tuition, books, room, board, and distance; majors offered; school ranking; loans, grants and scholarships

available; environment; reputation; crime rate — on and off campus — and lots more. It is also important that the student's grade point average and learning style is one that can meet the requirements of the college and is one that will be a good fit for her learning style.

In addition to finding out which colleges meet your child's needs, it is critical that all financial info is up-to-date and available when the college applications and financial aid packages have to be filled out and turned in. Keep an eye on deadlines and requirements for financial aid, scholarships, loans and grants. The transition from high school to college is a process — and largely a financial one.

"Don't be afraid to ask a college for a re-evaluation of your financial aid package. Learn the art of the bargain," says Kristen Campbell, executive di-

rector of Kaplan college prep programs [what's her exact title? what's the exact name of the company? executive director of Kaplan's college prep program division?]. According to Campbell, financial aid is one of colleges' biggest recruiting tools.

"Keep in mind that you don't necessarily have to take the first financial aid package that is offered to you," says Campbell. "By the time a school accepts you as a student, it sees you as a worthwhile investment on its part, so it will usually want to help you figure out financing. Schools want to work with families and students to find a way to make themselves affordable."

Campbell says a Kaplan 2010 survey saw an increase in the number of students entering college in a gap year. So, if college is not affordable right now, consider enrolling in the next year or two, while you continue to look for the right package — and your student can take advantage of that time to bank some money — at least to cover the cost of books.

Schools are also seeing a rise in students transferring from top 10 and other four-year colleges to community colleges because of affordability. [From Lisa: Here, the writer is saying that students want to transfer from a good school to a community college, because cc's are more affordable, but this contradicts the quote which follows, which says that students want to save money by going to cc for two years and then transfer TO the good school. Are these contradicting each other? Or are they both true? And if they are both true, then we need write a segue that makes that clear. At the moment, it reads like we made a mistake.]

"The rise in interest in transferring also seems to be because more middle-class students that would not usually go to a community college otherwise, are going because it's simply more affordable — even though they still want to transfer to a great school after two years," explains Chris Goodmacher, co-author of "The Transfer Book," and its blog, www.thetransferbook.com/blog.

"A major market correction will occur in the college selection process. Students and families will move away from selecting colleges with 'coffee table cache' and high stock prices, and instead lean toward lesser-known schools offering high-quality education at a rea-

sonable price," predicts Jacquelyn Nealon, EdD, vice president of New York Institute of Technology [in Brooklyn??]. "Focus will shift from the cost of higher education to the value of high education. Families will emphasize reducing loan debt, earning impactful degrees that result in good jobs right after graduation, and learning about our 'shrinking world' through an emphasis on global education."

It is evident that the recession is causing students to re-think their educational prospects. Surprisingly, for some, there is value in going into hock for a prestigious degree. The current high unemployment — and underemployment — rates are contributing factors.

"Top-tier colleges are seeing a dramatic increase in the number of applications that they receive," says Barry Lenson, a college counselor and blogger at MyUsearch.com and Straighterline.com, where he comments on college education and educational funding. "I think it is because students and their families believe that a degree from a top school will assure a job after graduation. Interesting that this trend is insulating Harvard and the other elite schools from harm during this post-recessionary period." Of course, enrollment in an Ivy League school may not result in graduation from that school or guarantee a lucrative post-graduation job.

Parents and their students should have an ongoing dialogue about college and how to make it happen. To assist families in the process of evaluating their options, college admission counselors in both the public and private sectors are available. There are also several online resources that can help manage the student's educational needs and evaluate what a particular college has to offer. Many companies, such as Connected, <http://www.connectedu.com>, offer information and services to students, and the adults who work with them, to assist in the process.

There are options out there that can make college more affordable. With research, planning and paperwork, students can realize their dreams of earning a degree that is personally fulfilling and will help lead them to a promising career.

Candi Sparks is the author of the "Can I Have Some Money?" book series and is on Facebook and Twitter. She is the mother of two and currently resides in Brooklyn.

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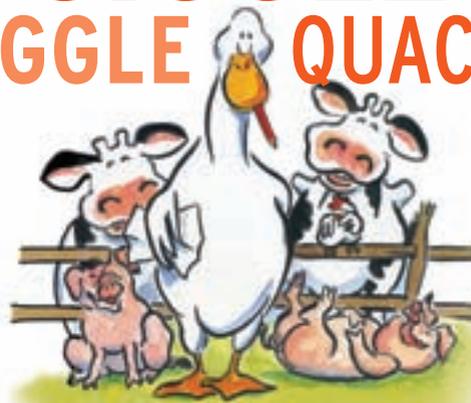
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Graduating up to sleep-away camp

BY LAURIE ROBERTS KAROL

Your child has gone to day camp, and now he wants to try sleep-away camp. How do you decide if he is ready? And how do you choose which type of camp will be right for him?

You may turn to the Yellow Pages, the Internet, friends, or to relatives. And they all may have different suggestions — “Go for single sex,” “You really want co-ed,” “All sports, he’ll love it,” “You need a well-rounded camp.”

The most important part of choos-

ing a camp is assessing your child’s interests, strengths and personality in order to find the best program, in the best location, for the appropriate length of time to suit your child’s — and your family’s — needs. It can be overwhelming and daunting to cull from the many options that are available to children during the summer.

If possible, visit the camps. Each camp has its own strengths and philosophies, so by spending time at a camp, you can get a sense of how your child would fare in that environment. Plus, this gives you an oppor-

tunity to meet directors and head counselors. You’ll also get the opportunity to compare and contrast the many aspects of camping.

Spending time at each camp will also help your child. Many younger children hear about sleep-away camp from babysitters, children at school, or older kids. If there is no one in your family who has gone to camp, the thought of sleep-away camp might conjure up all sorts of images in your child’s mind. Even if he is resistant to the idea of sleeping away during the summer, visiting a

camp now may eliminate the fear of the unknown and spark enthusiasm. Many camps may even allow the him to stay overnight, or even attend camp for several days.

Camps and summer programs range from traditional to travel, academic to special needs, sports to fine arts and religious — not to mention co-ed, single sex, half-summer only, full-summer only, flexible weeks — the list is endless.

Here are some options:

Traditional camps

These camps offer a tremendous variety of activities and special events, from color war to inter-camp tournaments to barbecues. Typically, traditions, songs and activities are passed down through the generations of campers. These camps are generally located in rural settings and provide a range of living conditions and facilities.

Specialty camps

Whether it's sports, fine and performing arts, outdoor wilderness, academic, or travel camps, these specialty camps provide campers with a single focus to help them develop skills. Campers benefit from small groups and intensive instruction in their area of focus.

Special-needs camps

Children with special needs gain a sense of independence in a secure environment at these overnight camps. The owners, directors and staff at special needs camps are well equipped to understand and manage problems that may arise. Their low staff-to-camper ratio and nurturing environment provide these children with an experience they won't soon forget.

Teen tours

For adolescents entering sixth grade and older, teen tours provide lifetime experiences that help them build confidence, gain independence and hone their social skills. Tours can last from two to six weeks and range from U.S. trips to trips in Canada, Alaska, Europe, Australia and beyond. Shorter regional trips are available to younger teens, while older teens can explore places and cultures around the world.

Pre-college study

High school students who are

looking to prepare for college or careers have tremendous options today. There are many programs available on college campuses both in the United States and abroad. Students can take courses that interest them — sometimes for college credit — and preview what life is like as a college student.



Language immersion

Whether it's living with a family in a home stay, taking intensive language classes, or traveling in a foreign country, many opportunities exist to learn a new language or improve upon a language of study.

Community service

From Tanzania to New Orleans, service options exist domestically and in many areas around the world. A teen can participate in a construction project, help children in an orphanage, work with senior citizens, assist in an animal shelter, teach, or work on environmental projects.

Internships

Teens can live in a city of their choice and get real hands-on work experience in a field of interest. Internships are available in many fields including fashion, advertising, law, medicine, and real estate. By working in the corporate world, teens can gain independence, self-knowledge, and experiences to help shape their search for college and for life beyond.

• • •

While the task may be daunting, being an educated parent will make the decision-making process much easier. Being able to compare and contrast the many programs will help narrow down the choices. When the suitable camp or program is selected, it will provide growth in your child through the acquisition of new skills, new relationships, and, most importantly, cherished memories.

Laurie Roberts Karol is a former camp director and is currently a professional camp consultant with The Camp Experts and Teen Summers, a free advisory service that guides families through the decision-making process and assists in planning summer camp visitations. For more information, visit www.campexperts.com. Contact Laurie at (516) 780-6464, (718) 766-8005, or laurie@campexperts.com.

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10 questions to ask when researching a summer camp

You are beginning to search for a summer camp for your child, but with all of the options, how do you choose? The good news: there is a camp for every child with any interest. But as a parent, you want to make sure you are choosing the right camp program for your child. Where do you start?

The American Camp Association, New York and New Jersey, recommends that families talk to the camp director and ask the following 10 questions before choosing a summer camp:

families are with camp directors, the better informed they will be when it comes to making a decision.

What is your camp's program?

Consider what activities are must-haves for your child. Then ask the director how many electives the children get and what kind of help they receive in choosing them. How long is each activity?

What type of training and education do you and your staff have?

The American Camp Association recommends directors possess a bachelor's degree, have completed

in-service training within the past three years, and have at least 16 weeks of camp administrative experience before assuming the responsibilities of director. At a minimum, camp staff should be trained in safety regulations, emergency procedures and communication, behavior management techniques, child abuse prevention, appropriate staff and camper behavior, and specific procedures for supervision. Families should ask about camper-to-staff ratios, and supervision in cabins and for various activities, like swimming and athletics.

Enrollment options: What is the length of the program offered? Is there flexibility? What is the length of the day?

Is transportation available?

What is the staff composition?

Who is caring for your child? Ask about age, experience, pre-season and on-going staff training, child abuse training, background checks, the interview process, and camper-staff ratios.

What are the safety procedures?

Ask about the safety measures that are in place for things like medical personnel on property, emergency plans (i.e. evacuation, inclement weather), staff screening procedures, and instructor qualifications.

Is your camp accredited? Find out if the program follows a nationally-known accreditation process. Ask for those standards to be outlined. Find

out if the camp program is inspected each summer by the Department of Health. Understand what it means to be accredited by the American Camp Association. The Association is the only national organization that establishes uniform standards for reviewing camps, so ask if this program has chosen to participate.

Sensitivity to camper needs:

Ask how the camp handles special considerations for your child such as food allergies, religious obligations, Attention Deficit Disorder, vegetarian food options, etc.

What are the policies on parent-camper communication while in camp? For resident camp, can you send and receive e-mails from your child? Can you call and talk to the child during his time at camp?

Ask for references from the camp Parents shouldn't be afraid to ask for references. This is generally one of the best ways to check a camp's reputation and service record. Ask other parents about the experiences of their children at the camp. Find out if the children seemed comfortable in talking about their experiences with staff and campers. Ask if they are going back the next summer. Ask if the parent was pleased with the communication received from the camp. Ask these parents for the names of other parents and children who have attended the camp.

...

Whatever your child's interests may be, and whatever standards you may have, there is a summer camp out there for your family. It just takes a bit of research.

The American Camp Association has been serving the camp community and families for 100 years. To find the right camp for your child, visit www.campwizard.org, or call (800) 777-CAMP for free, one-on-one advice in finding a summer camp. American Camp Association-accreditation is a parent's best evidence of a camp's commitment to health and safety, and ensures that children are provided with a diversity of educational and developmentally-challenging learning opportunities.



What is your camp's philosophy and program emphasis?

Can the director easily explain the program's mission statement and goals? Ask the director about the type of child that is a successful participant in her program. Each camp is unique, and provides unique programming and approaches. Families need to consider carefully whether or not the camp's philosophy matches their own. Asking questions about learning approaches, how behavioral and disciplinary problems are handled, and how adjustment issues are addressed will give families a better understanding of the camp's position. Don't be afraid to ask about policies regarding discipline and communication. The more open



A fun and flexible summer program for children entering grades Pre-K to 6!

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June 27 - August 12, 2011 * Monday - Friday, 9:00 am - 4:30 pm



Bring your whole family to our Open House!

Saturday, March 19th, 2011
11:00 am - 2:00 pm

After March 19th, please call to schedule a tour.

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The Kew-Forest School, 119-17 Union Turnpike, Forest Hills, NY 11375

Phone: (718) 268-4667 ext. 108

Email: summer@kewforest.org

Website: www.kewforest.org



**Oasis Queens in Astoria
Better than video games!**

Get off the couch and get some fresh air! No need for video games when you can have more fun with your new friends at Oasis Queens in Astoria!

Oasis Queens in Astoria offers boys and girls ages 4-14 a summer experience unrivaled by even the most expensive private day camp programs. This location offers campers an array of activities in a safe, exciting and nurturing environment. Oasis campers develop teamwork skills, friendships and most importantly have fun!

- **Many Special Events:** dance parties, visual & performing arts, field trips and so much more
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- **1:6 Counselor to Camper ratio:** children are always supervised and attended
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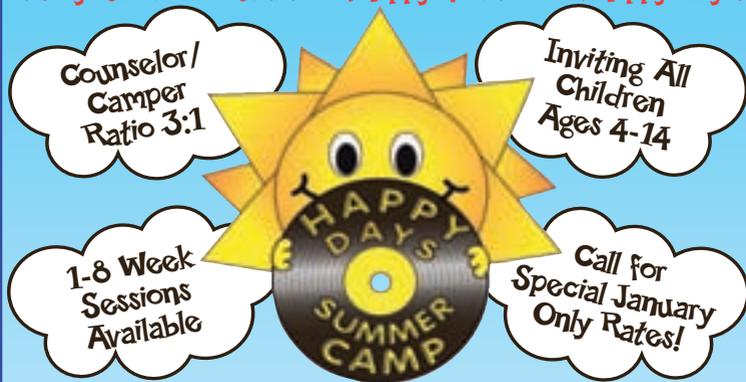
Campers come in to new friends and leave with lifelong memories. Come enjoy the summer at Oasis Queens in Astoria!



Reserve your spot today and SAVE!

www.OasisChildren.com OR CALL 800-317-1392

Give your child a summer of Happy Memories & Happy Days!



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Owner/Director: Andy Foss

Director Magic Carpet Day Camp	2005-2010
Asst. Director Magic Carpet	2001-2005
Group Leader & Assistant Boys Head Counselor	
Camp Brookwood	1995-1997
Group Leader (Kutchers Camp Anawana)	1990-1995
Licensed NYC Teacher	Since 1995

Call for more information **718-888-0264**
www.HappyDaysCamp.com

NYC GIFTED & TALENTED PROGRAM PREP



Searching for a summer program that will provide your child with stimulating, academic enrichment? Kent Prep is proud to offer a Gifted and Talented Summer Program for current **Pre-K to 1st graders**. Have your child excel and be prepared for the 2011 new school year! Call **(718) 423-5757** to learn more about our summer and on-going yearly G&T programs or visit www.kentprep.com.

- Date: **Summer I** (Jul. 5~Aug. 11)
Summer II (Aug. 22~Sept. 1)
- Days & Time: **Mon. - Thurs.**
9:00 am~2:15 pm

718.423.5757
 194-11A Northern Blvd.



Find **Family** online at
www.webfamilyny.com

Summer Programs

DIRECTORY

All Star Studios
 108-12 72nd Avenue, Forest Hills
 718-268-2280 or www.allstarstudiosnyc.com

All Star Studios is more than just a dance studio; Theater, Triple Threat, and Acro classes are also offered. Dance classes include Ballet, Jazz, Tap and Hip hop for children starting from age 3 to adults. Celebrating their 7th season in Forest Hills (formerly Just East of Broadway), this rapidly growing studio never loses sight of their philosophy of keeping the fun in the arts. Why choose them? Small teacher-student ratio, superior customer service, great relationships with their students, and their ability to instill a love of the arts in their students!

Aviator Sports and Recreation

Hangar 5 at Floyd Bennett Field
 718-758-7550 or www.aviatorsummercamps.com

Aviator Sports and Recreation is offering an All Star Day Camp and a variety of specialty sport camps this summer catering to ages 3-17. The All Star Day camp will be offering instruction in rock climbing, gymnastics, and ice skating along with a variety of sports, group games, field trips and craft activities.

The sports camps specialize in ice-skating, basketball, soccer, lacrosse and ice hockey. Camp hours are 9 am to 4 pm, both pre and post camp supervision is available along with transportation service from Brooklyn, Queens and Manhattan.

"Belle Arti" Center for the Arts, L.L.C.

108-10 72nd Avenue, Forest Hills,
 718-261-2237 or www.belleartiny.com

Is the first and only music school of European heritage in Forest Hills. Under the direction of two internationally renowned concert pianists, husband and wife, Massimiliano Facchini and Claudette Munné, "Belle Arti" offers a curriculum that follows the methods used in the most famous music conservatories in Europe and the United States. Our teachers are all graduates from such leading music schools as Manhattan School of Music, Mannes College of Music, and The Juilliard School and European music conservatories. We offer lessons on piano, violin, cello, guitar, voice, woodwinds, music theory and Musical Aurora®, a unique music program for children between the ages of 2 to 5. Two recitals a year are organized at Flushing Town Hall and students are encouraged to take a jury exam, giving them the opportunity to demonstrate their technical and musical achievements.

Beth Sholom Day Camp
 401 Roslyn Road, 516-621-9257 or
www.bethsholomdaycamp.com

Beth Sholom Day Camp offers boys and girls, ages 2-15, the opportunity to reach their goals in a warm, friendly, and noncompetitive atmosphere. Activities include music, dance, computers, gymnastics, Young Israelites arts and crafts and karate, as well as all outdoor field sports, tennis, and an Adventure park Experience. Red Cross swim instruction is offered in our 3 heated pools. A unique C.I.T. (Counselors In Training) program is available for 9th and 10th graders. Older boys and girls in grades 5-8 participate in the Sports Academy and Tween Experience. These programs blend day trips to Splish Splash, Adventureland, baseball games, and shows, with all regular camp activities. They also go on two overnight trips. The camp provides excellent supervision, with a counselor-child ratio of 4:1. Beth Sholom serves hot, Glatt Kosher lunches in an air-conditioned lunchroom, and we are a nut-free environment. Door-to-door, air conditioned transportation is also provided. Beth Sholom also offers full and mini-day nursery-kindergarten programs.

Central Queens YM-YWHA
 67-09 108th St., Forest Hills

OUTDOOR SUMMER DAYCAMP for children ages 5 to 15 years. Welcome to quality outdoor camping programs! Campers ride on our air conditioned school buses to arrive at our stunning 375 acres of campgrounds and nature trails in Huntington, Long Island. There is an optional Kosher lunch program for grades Kindergarten through 5th grades and a daily Kosher snack is provided. A registered nurse is on staff at the campgrounds and many of our staff and administrators are CPR and First Aid certified. Shaded campsite areas and comfortable shelters are provided. Mature, experienced and skilled counselors and unit heads. Activities include: Daily Red Cross swim instruction in our 4 pools; sports on our athletic fields, including soccer, basketball, tetherball, wiffleball and more; arts & crafts; playground areas; Jewish Culture; nature center; exciting weekly trips to such places as Adventureland, Hot Skates, Fun Zone, Liberty Science Center and more, depending on age. For a brochure contact Mitch Karpp, Director of Youth Services, 718-268-5011, x201, or email Mkarpp@cqyjcc.org. **ALTERNATIVE INDOOR SUMMER of ARTS & SPORTS PROGRAM** for children ages 5 through 11 years. Your child can partake in a fun-filled summer adventure combining the best they have to offer in creative and performing arts, sports, swimming and fitness. With our flexible schedule, campers can enroll for full-days or half-days, one to seven full weeks of summer fun. Some of the program's options include clay

Summer Programs

DIRECTORY

workshops, painting, science, dance, drama, cooking, swim instruction, gymnastics, basketball, baseball, hockey, martial arts and more. For a complete schedule and brochure, contact Dale Stark, Director of Health & Fitness, 718-268-5011, x501, email: Dstark@cqyjcc.org. FOR CHILDREN AGES 3 to 5 call Robin Kaufman, Manager of Parenting Department, at x482 for information on our Nearly Camp and Nursery Camp programs.

Christ the King Summer Camp

68-02 Metropolitan Avenue, 718-366-7400 Ext. 313 or www.ckkce.org
Looking for a summer camp? Find 3 exciting programs to choose from at Christ the King!

Royals Basketball Camp bring together young players from all over the area in an environment that will teach them the skills of the game as an individual and stressing the idea of being a part of a team.

American Dance & Drama Camp includes activities such as ballet, tap, jazz, hip hop, acrobatics, arts/crafts, drama, vocal and much more. Full & half days available.

Aviator Summer Camp transportation to & from Aviator Sports and Event Center. Ice skating, rock climbing, swimming, weekly field trips, and much more. Call for special open house and pricing information.

The Crayon Box Preschool

44-10 192nd Street, Flushing
718-888-9341 or www.crayonboxpreschool.com

Offers a fun and enriching summer program for children 2.9 to 5 years old. At the Crayon Box Preschool, learning and fun are all rolled into one! All teachers are NYS certified with a great teacher/student ratio. They offer hours and programs to fit all schedules, as well as family discounts. They are currently registering for Summer Camp and September 2011. Call or visit their website for more information.

Happy Days Day Camp

718-888-0264 or www.happydaysdaycamp.com

At Happy Days day camp we never lose sight of our job, which is to take care of your most prized possessions your children. At Happy Hays we foster a caring nurturing environment where children can feel safe and make friendships that can last a lifetime. Happy Days day camp offers an all inclusive day camp where transportation, lunches, trips and a 3 to 1 camper to counselor ratio are all provided by an experienced staff. Our indoor facility is spacious and air-conditioned. Our meals are top notch with catered meals provided daily by Buddy's kosher delicatessen of bayside.

Please call for more information and dates and locations of our open houses.

Kent Prep

194-11A Northern Blvd., Flushing
718-423-5757 or www.kentinstitute.com

Summer does not mean learning should be put on hold! July 5th – August 11th (Summer I) & August 22nd – September 1st (Summer II) Kent Prep offers a Gifted and Talented Summer Program for current Pre-K to 1st graders. Your child will be exposed to developmentally appropriate G&T enrichment curriculum that will set them forth in the upcoming school year. Call to learn more about our summer and fall 2011 G&T programs!

Kew-Forest School

119-17 Union Turnpike, Forest Hills
718-268-4667 extension 114 or www.kewforest.org

Offers an idyllic summer children entering grades K-6 enjoy a full-day program 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. featuring mornings of academics and afternoons of recreation, or a half day of either option. Academic sessions focus on enrichment in reading, writing, and math; recreation options range from computer lab to tennis to swimming, cheerleading/dance to martial arts and field trips. For teens, grades 7-12, there's a Summer Institute and C.I.T. program. Register for half- or full-day sessions, by the week or for the full eight weeks.

Kidz Yoga

27-14 23rd Avenue, Astoria.
347-455-3661 or visit www.kidzyoga.net

Tina Mavrelis-Charalambous always had a vision of keeping kids fit and healthy! "As a proud member of our community, I would like to give back the gift of health to our area." With that mission in mind, Kidz Yoga offers a roster of classes for ages 5 months to adult. For children, programs include Yoga, Capoeira, Zumba, Mommy & Me and Mommy & Me Bootcamp. Classes for adults include TRX Suspension Training, Yoga, Capoeira, Zumba, Fitness Boxing and more. The center is also available children's birthday parties. Kids can choose from a theme such as beach, farm zoo, princess, pajama, spa party and many more.

Parties include entertainment, face painting, funhouse bouncer, dancing and many games and activities.

Kimmy Ma ARTStudio

190-19 Union Turnpike, Fresh Meadows, 646-209-9352 or www.kimmyma-artstudio.com or Email: kimmyma-artstudio@live.com

Her studio is dedicated for art instructions in paintings and drawings for

Continued on page 16



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 QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE — BAYSIDE, QUEENS, NYC

Summer Programs

DIRECTORY

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youth and adult. Young learners are encouraged art making in an artistically supportive and constructive learning environment.

Younger & Young ARTIST PROGRAM for School Year Schedule: September through June, Mondays-Fridays after 3:30pm & Saturdays 9-4p.

Winter Break 2/21-2/25 & Summer Mornings 7/6-8/19: Mini ART Club (Grade K & up): explore arts, crafts, designs, collages & ink. Opt to attend 3 or 5 half-days 9:45-noon.

Summer Afternoons 7/6-8/19: Younger & Young Artist Program for Mondays to Fridays 1-3pm & Sat. 10-noon.

Mrs. Ma holds M.A/Ed. from New York University. Her Art also participated in Travel Exhibitions in Italy & various exhibitions in NYC. As a dedicated art instructor and lecturer, she engages actively in art forums and public arts projects in various schools and education institutions in our Queens community for the past decade.

The Learning Tree

Middle Village, 718-899-2020 or www.thelearningtree.org

Learning Tree has been providing quality educational services since 1972. Situated in Middle Village, the nurturing environment is safe, creative and non-competitive. Age-appropriate curriculum, equipment, and positive social interaction are the nursery's key successful elements. Nursery and Pre-Kindergarten programs for ages 2-4, and camp programs for children 2-13 includes A/C facilities, and on-site swimming and instruction. After school programs are also available.

Magic Carpet Day Camp

718-634-8109 or www.magicdaycamp.com

Magic Carpet Day Camp is getting ready to board and its destination is a Summer of Fun for boys and girls ages 4 to 14. There will be a new and exciting adventure each day. This summer, the "flight plan" will take you to the following landing zones: Adventureland, Fun Zone, Mad Science, Bounce U, Pump-It-Up, bowling and first run movies.

Magic Carpet provides a wide variety of popular summer sports. Music, arts and crafts, drama, dance and dance instruction are also part of the fun.

Door to door transportation, on-site hot lunch, and a T-shirt and tote bag are provided.

Oasis in Bayside at Queensborough Community College

718-596-4900 or www.oasischildren.com

In Oasis programs, children have the opportunity to explore, learn from adult role models, develop self-confidence, use their imagination, and find adventure in a safe environment! Oasis is for boys and girls ages 4-11. Our popular Teen Travel program is offered for ages 12 to 14. Oasis programs include sports and recreation, visual and performing arts, swimming, field trips, an outdoor education component that includes environmental studies, orienteering and much more! Bring the entire family to an Info Session! Visit the Oasis website for site info, discounts, busing info, and online registration!

Our Kids Place Summer Camp

247-11 Francis Lewis Blvd., Rosedale (718) 276-3722 or www.ourkidsplacecares.com

Our Kids Place Summer Camp, located in Rosedale, Queens has designed an eight week program to accommodate campers' ages three to eleven. During the eight weeks, your child will participate in educational enrichment which includes math and reading. Campers will enjoy trips, arts & crafts, and sports activities such as swimming, tennis, soccer, ballet, bowling, etc. Rest assured that your children will be under the careful watch of our certified and caring counselors. Please call to register or visit our website. Give your child a summer they will never forget.

Super Kickers Soccer Camp 2011

77-02 37th Ave, Jackson Heights www.superkickers.com

Our Summer Camp is for Boys and Girls; we have Mornings and Afternoons Camps. SOCCER-ARTS-MUSIC-BOUNCY HOUSE for kids Ages: 2.5 TO 6 YRS, Time: 9 AM TO 1PM INTENSIVE SOCCER for Ages: 7 TO 14 YRS, Time: 1 PM TO 5 PM. 2 weeks: \$400, 4 weeks: \$700, 6 weeks: \$1050, 8 weeks: \$1200. Registration is open!

We also have Drop-in class everyday in the summer and packages are 10, 20, 30 or unlimited classes and you can use your Flex Pass any day you want.

Fee: \$150 to \$360. Go Online and choose the best package for your child. Public transportation available; R, V, F, E, 7, at Roosevelt Ave Station.

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Continued on page 18



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www.ckkce.org

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Royals Basketball Camp

Boys & Girls Ages 7 to 16

- Boys Week #1 August 8–12
- Girls Week August 15–19
- Boys Week #2 August 22–26



For more information call Joseph Arbitello

718.366.7400 x 313 • RoyalsBasketball@ctkrhs.org

American Dance & Drama Camp

Boys & Girls Ages 2 1/2 to 14

- July 5 to August 12

For more information

Call Cara Nicole

917.602.6271

or cfragias@ctkrhs.org



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 For curriculum & program description,
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Summer Programs

DIRECTORY

Continued from page 16

ented 7- to 19-year-olds. Three Musical Theatre/Dance Companies by age & ability or Teen Acting Ensemble. Full day (Mon – Fri) includes acting, musical theatre/dance, voice, on-camera, improv, and more. Learn with working professionals from Broadway & beyond. Students perform in fully staged shows for the public. Musical Theatre (ages 7-19) July 5-August 1. Teen Acting Ensemble June 28-July 25. Fifth week cabaret workshop option for advanced teen vocalists. One of the best values in NYC! By audition. Space is limited. Robert Laconi & Kristine Lewis, Artistic Directors.

The West Side Tennis Club Camp

1 Tennis Place, Forest Hills
718-268-2300 extension 127 or
www.foresthillstennis.com

Former home of the US Open, offers the premier tennis and swim camp in NYC. They offer juniors the opportunity to use state-of-the-art facilities: 39 courts, four different surfaces, Junior Olympic swimming pool and historic stadium.

The EXCEL Program includes three hours of tennis instruction, two snacks, catered lunch, swimming and supervised match play. The ELITE Tournament Team includes all aspects of national level training. The facility is two blocks from major subway lines; transportation is also available from Manhattan and Queens.

Have you played at Forest Hills?

YMCA of Greater New York Day Camps

Catalpa Center YMCA 69-02 64th Street, Ridgewood; 718-821-6271 or
www.ymcanyc.org/catalpa

Cross Island YMCA 238-10 Hillside Avenue, Bellerose; 718-479-0505 or
www.ymcanyc.org/cross

Flushing YMCA 138-46 Northern Boulevard., Flushing; 718-961-6880 or
www.ymcanyc.org/flushing

Jamaica YMCA 89-25 Parsons

Boulevard, Jamaica; 718-739-6600 or
www.ymcanyc.org/jamaica

Long Island City YMCA 32-23 Queens Boulevard., LIC; 718-392-7932 or
www.ymcanyc.org/lic;

214-13 35th Avenue in Bayside 718-229-5972 Beacon Center at JHS 189

154-60 17th Avenue, Whitestone 718-961-6014 Beacon Center at JHS 194

144-80 Barclay Avenue, Flushing 718-747-1364 Beacon Center @ MS210

93-11 101st Avenue, Ozone Park 718-659-7710

YMCA of Greater New York Day Camps provide youth with supervised activities that teach core values, conflict resolution and leadership skills. Kids have fun while making new friends, building self-confidence, appreciating teamwork and growing in self-reliance.

Their program includes playing games, arts & crafts, exploring science and technology, swimming, field trips, appreciating nature and values of many cultures.

All camps are accredited by the American Camping Association. Registration for Summer 2011 will be beginning soon. Please contact your nearest YMCA of Greater New York Day Camp for more information:

Young People's Day Camp of Queens

800-DAY-CAMP or 1-800-856-1043 or
www.ypdcc.com or
www.queenscamp.com

Since 1972, our family run camp has provided safe, fun-filled summers for thousands of Queens youngsters. YPDC of Queens is accredited by the American Camping Association, the New York Camp Directors Association and is supervised by licensed teachers and administrators. The camp's philosophy is to "grow" children intellectually, physically, and spiritually in a FUN environment. For children, ages 4 to 15. Free transportation available. Choose from 2 to 8 weeks of camp. Ask about our Special Discounts.



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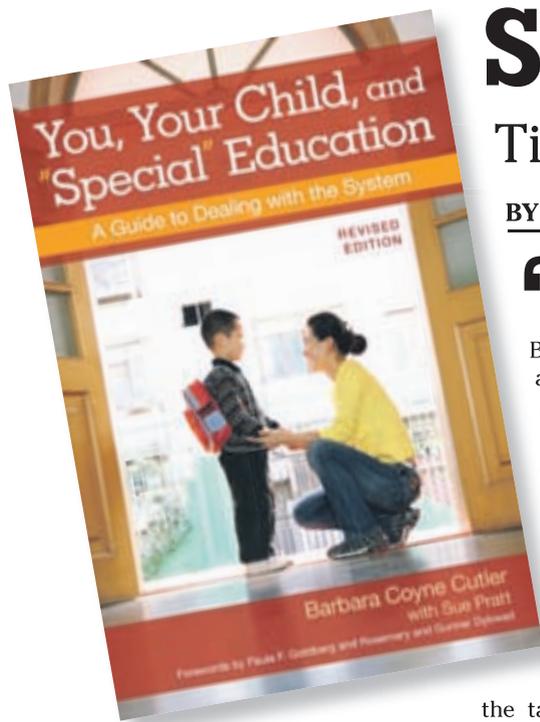
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Some 'Special' advice

Tips for getting the most from public schools

BY JOANNA DELBUONO

“You, Your Child, and Special Education,” by Barbara Coyne Cutler, is an informative guide for parents of special needs children. The book, in simple and easy-to-read language, helps these parents negotiate the often murky and confusing waters of the public education system. Cutler offers encouragement as parents wade through

the tangles and webs of bureaucratic red tape to get the best possible services for their child.

Let's face it: every parent wants

what's best for their kid, and Cutler provides the means in an empathetic, candid way so that parents can take advantage of the necessary programs for their special needs child.

In this latest revision, parents learn not only the legal entitlements and available options, but how they can best provide the most appropriate education, from Pre-K through graduation and beyond.

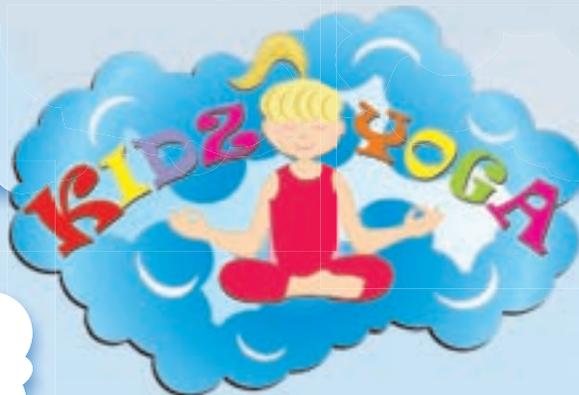
Cutler offers straightforward advice and step-by-step instructions on how to arrange, prepare for and conduct classroom observations; on how the school system works and how to navigate the power structure of the school system, including school politics and the best way to effectively negotiate with school personnel; how to discuss your questions, concerns, and observations

with a teacher; how to get the best possible Individualized Education Program from the first notice to the final resolution and most importantly, how to say “no” and fight for their child's rights if the individualized program is not acceptable. And finally, she offers advice on how to monitor and implement the child's program.

Cutler also provides listings of hundreds of disability-related organizations and agencies, associations and groups, and the appendix full of Web sites is an invaluable resource guide that can be easily accessed through your computer.

“You, Your Child, and Special Education: A Guide to Dealing with the System,” Revised Edition by Barbara Coyne Cutler with Sue Pratt; Brookes Publishing, 312 pages, \$24.95.

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Having a baby on her own

One woman's choice of artificial insemination

BY ALLISON PLITT

At 37-years-old, Leslie, a Queens resident, had a successful career and was ready to be a mother. But she didn't have a partner to join her in conceiving a child, and Leslie was very aware that her biological clock was ticking.

"I was the great aunt — successful in my career, could take my nieces and nephews here and there, buy them whatever, and then they'd go home," Leslie said. "I kind of always saw myself with a child, but I didn't have any serious boyfriends. I decided I wanted to have a child on my own."

The first option Leslie considered was artificial insemination, or intrauterine insemination, a procedure by which sperm is placed into her reproductive tract to impregnate her. To inquire about the process, Leslie went to North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset, Long Island.

The doctors there asked her about her reasons for having a child as well as her support network in caring for her baby. As Leslie explained to them her situation, the doctors also checked her medical history to make sure she did not have gynecological problems. After considering her case, they decided to go through with the procedure.

The doctors informed her that

she could choose from two different "cryobanks" — laboratories where sperm and other tissues are stored at sub-zero temperatures — one in Virginia and the other in California.

Leslie looked at the two websites and learned she was able to choose the type of man the sperm came from — including his level of education.

"There was one site called 'doctorate' for men who had doctorates, and since I had always liked being around smart people, I chose the doctorate site," she said. "I chose 'tall' because everybody in my family was short, and I also chose 'waif-

like skinny' because everybody in my family was fat."

Leslie understood that, despite choosing her desired traits, there was always the chance her child would not inherit the father's genes. After choosing three possible sperm donors, Leslie had her doctor go over them with her.

Her first choice, she was told, was a no-go, because her doctor found that conceiving from that particular donor could put her child at risk of contracting a certain illness. Her other choices didn't have that risk, and Leslie pressed on.

During her next ovulation, she



was inseminated with her second choice's sperm two days in a row, but it was unsuccessful. The following month, she opted to be inseminated three times, at which point she became pregnant.

Leslie's pregnancy went smoothly. When she went into labor, her sister brought her to the hospital where Leslie gave birth to a baby girl, whom she named Kelly. She has been raising her in Queens for the past five years.

Kelly has no medical problems and is thriving in school, but Leslie confessed that raising a child as a single parent has been challenging.

"Friends would complain, 'Oh, my husband doesn't do anything, he doesn't help.' But I tell them, 'You can run to the store. I can't. If I've got to run to the store, I've got to pack up Kelly.'"

But Leslie says she has only experienced one awkward moment while being a single parent.

"When Kelly was about 2-and-a-half, one of her teachers asked what Kelly should make for a Father's Day gift in class," Leslie said. "I told her Kelly has uncles and a grandfather, and if she ever had any other questions, she could ask me."

And when Kelly recently asked about her father, Leslie was prepared.

"I've already talked to her about how I didn't have a husband and the nice man gave his seed," Leslie said. "When she asks 'Why don't I have a dad?' I always answer, 'Well, I haven't found — yet — the right person to love, who will love us and we'll love.'"

Instead of focusing on the absence of a father, Leslie has preferred to talk with Kelly about different kinds of families. She said, "I'm more into reading books about different types of families — some people just have a mom, some people just have a dad, how everybody's family looks different."

Because a donor's sperm is more expensive when he indicates he would be willing to meet

his children in the future, Leslie — for economic reasons — chose a donor who did not wish to be contacted by any of his children.

"I wanted Kelly to meet her father, but I just couldn't afford it," Leslie said. "I have a lot of information about him. I have his baby picture, essay questions he answered, things that he wrote, and an audio CD of his voice."

Kelly is registered on a website that lists the children of specific sperm donors, and Leslie knows that her daughter has six siblings, including one whose birthday is close to her own.

The entire insemination process cost Leslie \$8,000. "The sperm that I chose cost \$350, so it cost \$500 each time I got inseminated, because I also had to pay the doctor for the procedure. I also had to pay for the storage of the sperm, which was a one-time, \$800 fee," Leslie explained. "My insurance

wouldn't cover the expenses, because you need to show you had been trying for at least six months to get pregnant [in order to qualify]."

Although Leslie is raising Kelly alone, she admits she feels lucky to have had support from friends and family who live nearby and have helped during sleepless nights and parenting crises. Leslie has also been lucky to have a job that has provided her with a steady income, especially during the recent recession.

Despite some of the difficulties she's encountered in raising her daughter, Leslie is happy with the way things have turned out. "It was the best decision I ever made. I have never regretted it. I have the best daughter, we are a happy family and I am the luckiest mom in the world!"

To find out more about artificial insemination, you can visit the website www.northshoreljiivf.com.

Allison Plitt, a mother of a preschool-age daughter living in Queens, is a staff writer for Family Publications. If you have any ideas you'd like to share with her about resources for families in Queens, please contact her at allisonplitt@hotmail.com.

"I kind of always saw myself with a child, but I didn't have any serious boyfriends. I decided I wanted to have a child on my own."

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Looking at eyes

How vision problems can create trouble in school

BY ILANA GELFOND-POLNARIEV, OD, FCOVD

If a child appears to be struggling in school or performing below his ability, a vision problem could be the cause.

Vision problems that interfere with a person's ability to learn —

learning-related vision problems — may lead to poor school performance and other issues that can ultimately affect the child's quality of life. Early eye exams are critical for children in order to prevent a misdiagnosis.

The American Optometric Association recommends a child have a comprehensive vision exam by 6 months of age, followed by one at 3 years of age, at 5, and every year that the child is enrolled in school thereafter. An eye exam that tests distance vision is NOT an adequate evaluation of a child's visual development. A child should have a thorough evaluation by a developmental optometrist, which is an optometrist who specializes in dealing specifically with testing for the visual skills critical to reading and learning, and with diagnosing and treating learning-related vision problems.

A child's comprehensive eye examination should include age-appropriate testing of the following visual skills:

- Acuity-distance: visual acuity (sharpness, clearness) at a distance of 20 feet.

- Acuity-near: visual acuity for short distance (specifically, reading distance).

- Focusing skills: the ability of the eyes to change focus and maintain clear vision at varying distances.

- Eye tracking and fixation skills: the ability of the eyes to look at and accurately follow an object; this includes the ability to move the eyes across a sheet of paper while reading.

- Convergence and eye teaming skills: the ability of the eyes to aim, move and work as a coordinated team.

- Binocular fusion: the ability to use both eyes together at the same time.

- Stereopsis: binocular depth perception (three-dimensional vision).

- Color vision: the ability to differentiate colors.

At the completion of a thorough evaluation, a combination of glasses, vision therapy, and/or other multi-sensory intervention (occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy, etc.) may be recommended for the child.

What is vision therapy?

Vision therapy addresses the problems listed above that the child may be having and which are interfering with his learning process.

Optometric vision therapy is an individualized treatment program prescribed for a patient in order to:

- Provide medically necessary treatment for a diagnosed visual dysfunction;

- Prevent the development of visual problems; or

- Enhance visual performance to meet the defined needs of the patient.

Optometric vision therapy is an appropriate treatment for visual conditions including an eye turn, a lazy eye, focusing problems, eye-teaming problems, tracking and scanning problems, and visual perceptual disorders.

The systematic use of lenses, prisms, filters, occlusion and other appropriate materials, modalities, equipment and procedures is integral to optometric vision therapy. The goals of the optometric therapy are to alleviate the signs and symptoms, achieve desired visual outcomes, meet the patient's needs and improve the patient's quality of life, as defined by the American Optometric Association.

Early diagnosis of a child's learning-related vision problem can make all the difference in improving that



Symptoms of possible vision problems

The College of Optometrists in Vision Development designed the following chart for parents and teachers:

SYMPTOMS	POSSIBLE VISION PROBLEM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complains of blurred vision Rubs eyes frequently Squints 	Nearsightedness, farsightedness, or astigmatism (inability to see clearly in the distance or up close)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closes or covers one eye Occasionally sees double Able to read for only a short time Poor reading comprehension 	Eye coordination problems (inability to coordinate the eyes together effectively)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holds things very close Complains of blurred vision Poor reading comprehension Says eyes are tired Able to read for only a short time Has headaches when reading 	Eye focusing problems (inability to easily refocus eyes or maintain clear focus)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moves head excessively when reading Frequently loses place and/or skips lines when reading Uses finger to keep place Poor reading comprehension Short attention span 	Eye tracking problems (inadequate ability to smoothly and accurately move the eyes from one point to another)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mistakes words with similar beginnings Difficulty recognizing letters, words, or simple shapes and forms Can't distinguish the main idea from insignificant details Trouble learning basic math concepts of size, magnitude, and position 	Faulty visual form perception (inability to discriminate differences in size, shape, or form)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trouble visualizing what is read Poor reading comprehension Poor speller Trouble with mathematical concepts Poor recall of visually presented material 	Faulty visual memory (inability to remember and understand what is seen)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sloppy handwriting and drawing Can't stay on lines Poor copying skills Can respond orally but not in writing 	Faulty visual motor integration (inability to process and reproduce visual images by writing or drawing)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trouble learning right and left Reverses letters and words Trouble writing and remembering letters and numbers 	Difficulty with laterality and directionality (poor development of left/right awareness)

child's quality of life.

Dr. Ilana Gelfond-Polnariiev is board-certified in vision development and vision therapy. She is currently a New York State coordinator for the College of Optometrists in Visual Development and specializes in pediatric vision, vision therapy, and head trauma rehabilitation for children and adults. A 2002 graduate of Pennsylvania College of Optometry, she completed a residency in rehabilitative vision therapy at the State University

of New York College of Optometry. She is a recipient of the honorary award for extensive knowledge in behavioral vision therapy, and has published and lectured on children's vision.

For more information, and to find an optometrist in your area, visit www.covd.org.

Dr. Ilana Gelfond-Polnariiev [Allied Health Staff at Staten Island University Hospital, 50 Cooper Ave., Staten Island, (718) 979-2020]. For more information, visit www.eyesoncooper.com.



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Dr. Milchman received his Doctor of Dental Medicine degree from the University of Pennsylvania where he graduated with Honors and received two additional awards in the specialty of Periodontics. He expanded on his training with a one year General Practice Residency at Montefiore Medical Center. Dr. Milchman went on to complete a dual degree Orthodontic Residency Program at Temple University. In addition to his certificate in Orthodontics, Dr. Milchman has also earned a Masters of Science in Dentistry. In pursuit of the highest standards in his specialty, Board Certification, Dr. Milchman has successfully passed the American Board of Orthodontics Written Board Exam and Clinical Case Exam. Dr. Milchman serves the needs of the pediatric, adolescent, and adult community in his two private offices in Queens, New York. In addition, he is currently an Attending Orthodontist at St. Barnabas Hospital and Wyckoff Heights Medical Center.

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Dr. Kourtsounis received his Bachelor's degree in Biology from the State University of New York at Stony Brook and his Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from the University Of Maryland College of Dental Surgery. He completed his pediatric dental residency training at the Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City.

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Queens theater company gives back to the community

BY ALLISON PLITT

A Queens community theater company is giving disadvantaged children the chance to enjoy their own night on the town — just like the lead character from its current production, “Annie.” Inspired by the spunky orphan in Depression-era New York City who is welcomed into the home of a billionaire during the Christmas holidays, Bayside’s Theater By The Bay is giving free tickets to underprivileged kids throughout the boroughs.

“We wanted to reach out to the community, and we’re doing that in several ways,” says Lawrence F. Bloom, who is producing and directing the play this month at the Bayside Terrace Jewish Center.

First, the company visited St. Mary’s Healthcare System for Kids in Bayside, which helps special needs kids and their families, and put on a free concert that showcased several songs and dances from “Annie.”

“I’ve organized these types of events before. The performers are just as excited — if not more excited — than the audience to whom we present this,” says Bloom. “It’s just a nice gift back.”

The troupe has also given



It’s a hard knock life: The company is giving kids like the disadvantaged girls in “Annie” free tickets to see the show. Isabel Robin (below) stars.

free tickets to kids in the Manhattan-based organization Kids with a Promise, which was established by the Bowery Mission and provides at-risk youth with counseling and educational opportunities for a chance at more promising futures.

“These young people, who are disadvantaged in a sense and don’t have a chance to see live theater, will be able to come as our guests and be entertained and participate in the arts,” explains Bloom.

Cast member Roseann Kytka, who is the director of childhood education at the Ascension Church in Forest Hills, has been able to distribute free tickets to needy kids through her network of churches and organizations in Queens. And the company also reached out to New Hope Community Church in Staten Island with free tickets for underprivileged kids in that area.

Theater By The Bay has even more special offers for children who come to see the show. There will be free snacks for kids under 12 who dress up as either Annie or Daddy Warbucks for the March 6 matinee performance. That same day, actors Isabel Robin and John Canning, who play the roles of Annie and Daddy Warbucks, will sign autographs and pose for photos with audience members.

Following the matinee performances on March 13 and 20, the 50 cast members will be available to answer questions from the audience. After the discussion, there will be an opportunity to meet with all of the performers for autographs

and photos.

Bloom is a man who truly cares about his community — and his diverse cast.

“It’s wonderful working with a cast that’s multi-generational,” he says. “We have people who are seniors. We have people who are middle-aged and, of course, we have the young people.”

And Theater By The Bay believes in encouraging and nurturing those young cast members.

“Annie’ is special because there are a lot of kids in the cast, but even in past productions, there were always a few kids in there,” says Stacey Zable, publicity director for the company. “It’s a very nice, loving environment. Larry is great with the kids. And the experience gives them exposure to the great musicals.”

“Annie” is the 14th production for Theater By The Bay, which was founded in 2004. In the fall of 2011, the company will stage the musical “Annie Get Your Gun.” Anyone can audition for the shows, which the company advertises on websites and in newspapers in Queens and Long Island. Bloom says cast members past and present have come from all five boroughs and New Jersey.

As many of the younger cast members have gone on to attend the LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts and the Frank Sinatra School of the Arts, Zable adds, “It’s a nice step to — who knows? — maybe Broadway.”

For audition information, visit www.debsliweb.homestead.com and www.spotlightonstage.com. Theater By The Bay’s production of “Annie” at Bay Terrace Jewish Center [1300 209th St. in Bayside, (718) 428-6363], Saturdays March 5, 12 and 26 at 8:30 pm, and Sundays March 6, 13, 20 and 27 at 3 pm. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$18 seniors and children under 12.

Allison Plitt is a staff writer for Family Publications New York and a mother living in Queens with a preschool age daughter. If you have any ideas you’d like to share with her about resources for families in Queens, please feel free to contact her at allisonplitt@hotmail.com.



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The 'Tiger' wars

Examining the controversial author's strict parenting techniques

BY RISA C. DOHERTY

Amy Chua is sparking controversy across the country — enraging, intriguing and inciting discussion over her recent bestselling book, “Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother,” in which she reveals her strict parenting style.

Most parents want their children to reach their potential and become exceptionally successful, and Chua is no different. Most parents, however, may not take the same approach that the Yale law professor does with her children. She explains that, as a “Tiger Mother,” based on the traditional Chinese parenting style, she is uncompromising about her expectations for her children and pushes them to excel by adhering to a strict set of rules, and investing a substantial amount of time and effort enforcing them.

Although Chua has since denied that her book is a “how to” manual, but rather a memoir of her journey through parenthood — the book jacket presents itself as a parenting primer, with the heading, “How To Be A Tiger Mother.” One cannot help but think Chua has declared herself an expert.

In the book, she explains that she demands that her children get straight A's in school, become accomplished musicians by playing either the piano or the violin, and refrain from playdates, sleepovers, watching television, and playing video games. For her, gold medals are the prize and silver is of no value.

When one of her daughters waffled in math, Chua tutored her, employing numerous practice tests for hours until her daughter became the “math kid.” She ridicules Western parents because she claims they “[would] get to have a glass of wine and go to yoga class,” while she would stay home, yelling at her kids about homework or practice. Apparently, she misses the fine line between positive parent involvement and over involvement.

Chua was fortunate to the extent

that her daughters were capable of achieving the grades demanded. I would be wary of placing such inflated expectations on all children. Sometimes children fail — even with the child's best efforts. It seems that parents who subscribe to Chua's approach react to failure with horror and shame. In the face of failure, I prefer to help the child learn from the experience and foster the growth of future resilience. Parents are not just “fair weather fans.”

I believe it is the school's job to educate my children, although

Chua demands the best. One wonders who benefits from this: the parent or the child?

I would supplement their learning from time to time. But it has never been my goal to homeschool my children, and fortunately or unfortunately, my recollection of math or science, beyond the fourth grade, is limited.

Diametrically opposed to Chua's traditional Chinese approach is “Western parenting,” where the parent is sensitized to the self-esteem of the child and promotes a freedom of individual choice. Many parenting experts, like Wendy Mogel, author of “The Blessing of a B Minus: Using Jewish Teachings to Raise Resilient Teenagers,” have weighed in on the issue. Mogel is a strong proponent of teaching children self-reliance by allowing them to make mistakes and get grades that are not ideal. She believes that children need to experience failure to cultivate coping skills.

Another parenting author, Ayelet Waldman, criticizes Chua's cookie-cutter approach, and advocates for a more individualized strategy for

parenting.

Chua says she believes that when young children are allowed to choose their activities, they will invariably choose what is fun over what is productive, and that children sampling a myriad of activities without focusing on any one will lead to the them being proficient in nothing.

She overlooks both the fact that exploring may lead to the discovery of a hidden talent, as well as the fact that, at some juncture, learning to make choices is in itself a skill necessary for growth. She also presupposes that an enormous amount of practice will yield results.

She was fortunate that when it came to her children, that was the case. Some children do not have musical aptitude, but instead have latent art, athletic, or dramatic talent. Others may never excel at any extra-curricular activity. Childhood is the perfect time to try new activities. Granted, parents who over schedule their children are doing them a disservice in another manner, but there is a middle ground.

Many readers balked at Chua's rejection of the homemade birthday cards her daughters presented to her, saying that they were not acceptable. She thought the cards evidenced a minimum amount of thought and effort. To her, it is not the “thought that counts.”

She is correct, in that many times children are self-absorbed and need to be directed so that they can learn to think of others. But she goes astray when she rates the card that is supposed to be her child's offering to her. To many parents, the best cards are the ones that may not be the prettiest, so long as the child is giving from her heart and taking



pride in her work.

Chua has also been reviled for calling her daughter “garbage” for talking back to her. She defended her comment, justifying it as a result of cultural differences. To be honest, I have told my children that I am allowed to speak to them in a harsher manner than they are allowed to speak to me, as we are not equals. Still, there is a limit to the language that is appropriate, and adults are supposed to set an example as to how to behave.

Child psychologists will tell parents to carefully target the child’s behavior for disapproval, and not the child herself. Even with this goal in mind, it is often difficult to temper one’s reaction to an incendiary situation and tailor one’s words so carefully.

Childhood should not be all about work and achievement — the mantle of adult responsibility forces that upon us soon enough. But even after acquiescing and allowing her daughter to play tennis, Chua was on automatic pilot, micro-managing the lesson: behind her daughter’s back once she saw potential for successful competition. To her credit, she did not confront her with criticism, but to really let go, Chua would need to leave the training to trusted professionals and to her daughter’s desire to achieve.

Chua seems to be consistent in her focus, stressing not just the effort, but the results. She demands the best. She also believes in bringing pride to one’s family. Of course, neither of these things are bad. Still, though, one wonders who benefits from this: the parent or the child? Chua might say both — the parent is proud of the success and the child is encouraged by it. The flaw in this reasoning, beyond the extreme pressure placed upon these children to achieve, is that she believes that there is no merit in an activity in which one does not excel.

My father taught me “E for effort.” I always knew there was a difference between a measly effort and my best

effort. I never got a pat on the back for doing that which was expected of me, and I do not agree with the philosophy that everyone who participates should get a trophy — that makes true achievement less meaningful. A silver medal, a bronze medal, or even an honorable mention hard-earned was worthy of praise. Still, no more was expected from me beyond my best effort, and my parents never thought it was their job to ensure

that I could do no better.

As an attorney, Chua might know that many courts look to the best interests of the child when faced with domestic relations issues. As a parent, I believe the standard should be the same. Although Chua has proved herself to be devoted to her girls, by dedicating innumerable hours — day in and day out — to study with them, guide them and schlep them to lessons and recitals, her methods were overly harsh. Chua recently told me that

she wishes she had allowed her daughters a little more choice, had not been so harsh and had not been so overconfident with all her decisions.

Despite her children’s public support, “tiger parenting” can have detrimental effects on the parent/child relationship. Waldman cited higher suicide rates among Asian-American girls, and I have a friend who chose to move across the country to escape her “tiger mom.”

New York Magazine’s Po Bronson claims that American parents will use the tiger methodology, but adapt it in a more moderate manner, to create the uberachievers their children are destined to become.

Bronson believes that American parents have just been waiting for permission to toughen up. Bronson may be correct about the generation of parents who got all their cues from books like “What To Expect When You’re Expecting,” followed by “What To Expect the First Year.”

Since I did not have the benefit of “What to Expect: The Toddler Years” in 1992, I was convinced that I would be looking for advice for years two to 30. I hope other parents come to the conclusion I did: parenting is trial by fire. Although it is comforting to commiserate with others and to seek the guidance of more-seasoned parents, invariably, good common sense is the best guide.

In her book, Chua seemed to ascribe to a very narrow definition of parental success. It is not all about the grades, the Ivy League and the glory. I beam with pride faster when someone tells me that my daughter “is a mensch,” than when they act impressed by the school she might attend or the award she won.

My father used to say he was “the Tsar,” because he acted as a benevolent dictator. Based on her account, Amy Chua could have used a little more benevolence.

Risa C. Doherty is an attorney and freelance writer, who encourages her children to reach their potential and tries to suppress the occasional urge to become a “Tiger Mom.”





ASK THE PROFESSIONAL

DEBORAH BERGER

Divorce & education

After a split, who makes decisions for your kids?

My husband and I have recently divorced. Our lawyers have worked out a settlement and child support until our children turn 18 (one is 10 and the other 13). Who makes the school-education decisions? Do these things need to be spelled out? Can you elaborate a bit about how we deal with questions regarding education now that we are no longer a couple?

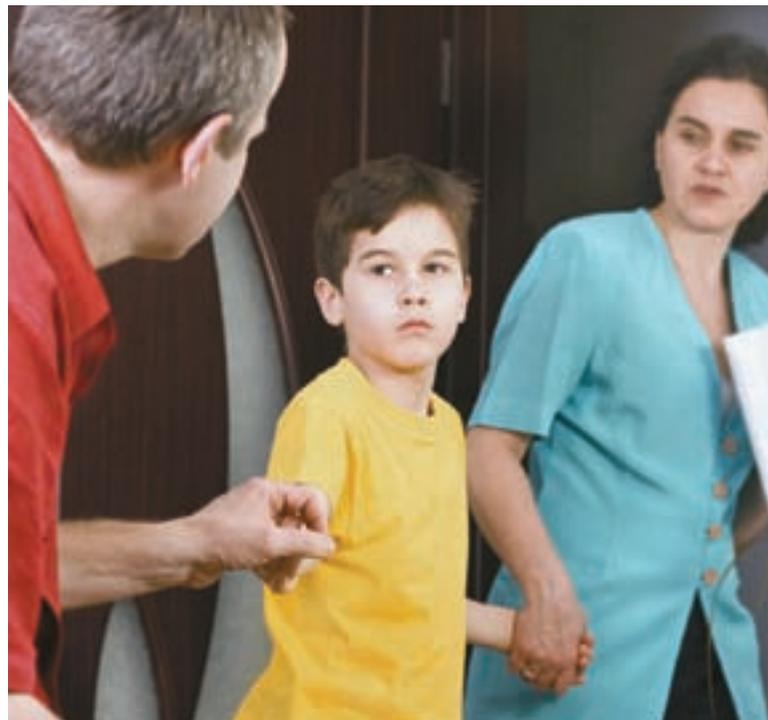
There are some common issues that come up for children when parents are divorced or separated. Some are as simple as who can sign a permission slip for a school trip, and some are more complex, such as who can file for a due process hearing for a disagreement with the Committee on Special Education's program for your child.

In cases of divorce it is a good idea for parents to sit down together or with a mediator to determine who will make education decisions for the children and how any dispute between the parents will be resolved. You may also do this with your respective attorneys.

Depending upon what you agree to, both parents can retain the right to make education decisions for their child, one parent can make all the decisions, or you may decide to have something in-between. For example, both parents may have to agree about major education decisions — such as school placement or agreement with a program for a special education student — but either parent can sign permission slips, tests, contact the teacher, and meet with school personnel about the child's performance.

You should also spell out in your agreement which parent will have access to your child's education records — will it be both or just one?

The school district will look to the court order or the agreement of the parents to determine who has the right to make education decisions for the child and what to do in case there is a dispute between the parents. Usually, in case parents cannot agree, the school district will determine who the custodial parent is based on the agreement or di-



orce decree and allow that parent to make decisions. In special education matters where both parents retain education rights, the school district must hold a due process hearing if one parent disagrees and requests an impartial hearing.

In many cases of divorce, both parents see the child an equal amount of time. As long as your child resides with each parent approximately 50 percent of the time, you and your ex may select the school district your child attends. Your agreement should spell this out so that it is clear that you have agreed to have equal time with your child and that your child may attend school where either you or your ex reside.

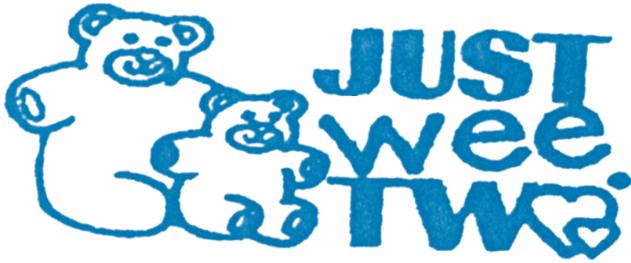
There are some cases in which one or both parents have been ordered by a court to have no contact with their children, which is known as a court-issued order of protection. If your ex has been issued an order

of protection, you must provide it to school personnel. Please make sure that you give this order to the correct personnel. Each school district has different personnel who handle orders of protection, so it is a good idea to call the school principal to ask how this is handled at your child's school. All school personnel who deal with your child should be alerted that there is an order of protection so that your child is safe while at and traveling to and from, school.

As for child support and issues involving college payments, you should consult with your family law attorney. In New York State, children receive child support until the age of 21, not 18.

Deborah Berger is an attorney who concentrates in Education Law. She represents parents and students in Long Island, NY. Visit her online at www.deborahberger.com.

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Bonding with teens

How to connect even when they're pulling away

BY MICHELE RANARD, M.ED.

Have you noticed it's tough getting penciled into a teen's social calendar, because it's often triple-booked? If there is an adolescent living under your roof, then you know it takes a little effort to not drift apart.

Meg, a good friend of mine, is learning to snowboard just to find common ground with her rad kids — which not only affects her vacation choices, but keeps her body in shape! Another friend inspired me when she recently said, "I'm not that interested in golf, but my teen is, so I'm taking lessons, so we'll be able to share it even when I'm old."

Come Together

It's as important as ever to make efforts to connect. Sometimes I feel all I do is service my teens and watch

them disappear with the contents of my wallet! In their defenses, they feel I frequently use my time with them primarily to lecture. So here are 10 tips for parents to create more positive connections with teens:

1 Invite them to bake: Trying a new recipe can be a riot even if your lack of culinary skills is legendary. Think of the drama and the memories! My kids help to bake yeast breads or bagels, and because of the rising time, it means they linger longer than if we were simply throwing in a pizza. It is difficult to feel moody when the whole house smells like heaven.

2 Reminisce: Whether they roll their eyes or not, teens love to hear about precious, naughty, or funny things they did as children. Keep telling the old stories and laugh at yourself when they bring up the moments that were maybe not your finest.

3 Follow a sports team together: Try to have everyone home for the big game or match on TV and, if possible, see your team in person.

4 Shop online: It will be impossible for you not to learn a ton about your child as you both surf his favorite stores' websites and hunt for sales. Ask about bands and/or causes he would like to support (teens are huge supporters of nonprofits that sell merchandise to fund a cause).

5 In a word, bacon: Truly. My sons come running at the smell of bacon. I'm not clogging their arteries every day, and I don't just serve it for breakfast. Teens show up for pork fat. They just do. So share some.

6 Submit to YouTube: Your teens are dying to introduce you to hilarious videos that only kids their age can discover. Laughing together is sweet relief from all the inescapable daily nagging.

7 Welcome their buds: This is one of the best ways to see more of your kids. Frequently, the presence of their friends can loosen them up and better facilitate certain discussions than if you were alone, so take advantage.

8 Hit the road: Sometimes to reconnect, you've got to put miles between your family and the daily grind. Even if it is a day trip, make the commute special and set ground rules they'll love, i.e. no lectures, arguing, or discussing sore subjects like grades and school work.

9 Create moments: Don't wait for a birthday — light candles and play weird music on a Wednesday when it's just spaghetti on the menu. Bake something decadent on a random night, plating it creatively like a restaurant. Surprise them with bowling on a weeknight. Take them for a one-on-one lunch at their favorite restaurant.

10 Write a love note: Ever feel tenderness springing up, but they're not home to absorb it? Write it down. Express gratitude for them and leave the note on their pillow. Even if they don't mention it, it matters.

Michele Ranard has a husband, two teens, and a Master's in counseling.



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JACQUELINE AND
KERRY DONELLI

How do I get my son interested in sports?

Dear Twins,

I was thrilled when I had a son, after having three daughters. But my son, who is now 11, is not into sports at all. In fact, my daughters are all in soccer and basketball leagues. I'm so disappointed — as I always imagined we would be going to games together, talking shop about teams and that sort of father-and-son-thing. Any advice on how to encourage him to join a sport?

— Signed, *Disappointed Dad*

Jacqueline says: It's pretty clear what you want, and what your son wants, are two very different things. And the message you're sending to your son about your disapproval for his lack of enthusiasm for sports is, most likely, destroying his self-esteem. How about talking to your son about what is important to him, about his dislikes and likes, and forming a father-and-son bond around those mutual interests? Give your sports-achieving daughters the love and support they may be seeking from their father instead.

Kerry says: I hope you can find other reasons why you are satisfied with having a son and not focus on the fact that he's not into sports, because inevitably, he will sense this, and it may damage his self-esteem. Instead, find other things you both have in common. Allow him to explore what interests him and find ways to encourage him to do that. Then, be willing to get involved in what interests him. Once you let go of any preconceived notion of what a son should be into, such as sports, you'll be far less disappointed. Embrace other things you might have in common and you will maintain a healthy father-son relationship. Share the commonality of



sports with your daughters.

Dear Twins,

One of the kids in our school carpool is constantly late; consequently making all the kids late for school. What is the best approach to this problem; speaking to the kid or his mom? — Signed, *Late*

Kerry says: I would speak to his mother. Let her know that if he continues to be late, he will have to be out of the carpool, as it is not fair that the other kids have to be late for school. If he continues to be late, then follow through.

Jacqueline says: You seem timid about this situation. You have the right to get your kid to school on time. Talk to both the boy and his mother and straighten this nonsense out once and for all.

Dear Twins,

My husband and I have three sons, ages 16, 15, and 12. We feel very strongly that our youngest may turn out to be gay. Even his older brothers think so, although no one has said this to him. Our concern is not that he might be gay, but that other boys might abuse him or beat him up for

it. (He's very small in stature.) How can we protect him?

— Signed, *Hiding*

Kerry says: Have you asked your son whether the kids at school tease him? While it's good that you are looking out for his welfare, you may be fretting in vain if nothing has happened yet. Instead, continue to love him for who he is. Allow him to explore and embrace himself. The best thing you can do for your son is to develop his self-esteem and encourage self-love. Kids typically don't pick on confident kids.

Jacqueline says: I would start letting your son know that you love and accept him. Learn by asking your son questions such as: do you like school? Are you being bullied? Let him know it is safe for him to open up to you. Be alert to your son's moods. Know his friends. Inquire with his teachers. Kids can be brutal, so communication is key.

Dear Twins,

I "caught" my 11-year-old daughter with her 11-year-old male friend in her bedroom laughing and giggling — and both of them almost naked! The kids tried to tell me it was because it was so hot, but I think they were doing a little "exploring." I made the boy go home, and I called his parents, but they didn't think anything of it! Since when do 11-year-olds fool around? And since when don't their parents care?

— Signed, *Disturbed*

Kerry says: I don't think there's anything to be alarmed about. They probably were curious and were doing a little harmless exploring. You clearly let them know you were not at all happy about it. I would let it go. Chances are they feel ashamed and won't do it again.

Jacqueline says: I disagree with Kerry, they are too young to be fooling around. If this continues, what's next, sex at 12? A baby at 13? My question is for you, Mom: why are you allowing an 11-year-old boy in your daughter's room?

Jacqueline and Kerry Donelli, twin sisters, are multiple award winning filmmakers. They are currently getting their Masters in Mental Health and have a radio show on WBCR-AM also called, "Twice the Advice" — where one twin gives advice and, often, the other completely disagrees! Please e-mail them at TwiceTheAdvice2@gmail.com.



GROWING UP
ONLINE
CAROLYN JABS

Get smart about the risks of Smartphones

Kids want smartphones, but, like other technologies, there are risks that go along with the rewards. Here's some you should know about:

- **Radiation:** All cellphones emit radio waves, and for years, some people have worried their use may be associated with brain tumors. A National Institutes of Health fact sheet — which summarizes recent research — concludes that the largest study done to date found that “overall, cellphone users have no increased risk for two of the most common types of brain tumor.” (The complete fact sheet is available at <http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/factsheet/Risk/cellphones>.)

On a more cautionary note, at National Toxicology Program semi-

nar last fall, experts warned that there aren't yet studies about how cellphone use might impact young brains over time. To be on the safe side, try to limit the amount of time kids spend with phones pressed against their heads. If your child's social life depends upon a lot of cellphone talking, consider getting a headset. Using the device for texting, gaming or other purposes, is less likely to expose children to risk.

- **Hearing loss:** Many smartphones have headphones and music players, and here the evidence is clear: listening to loud music through headphones can cause hearing loss. A study done by researchers at Harvard University found that one in five teens already can't hear whispering.

Getting teens to take this problem seriously isn't easy: if they can hear you when you tell them to turn the volume down, they may actually crank it up.

Once you've gotten your child's attention, put an indelible mark on the cellphone to show when the volume is turned halfway up. If your child sets the device higher, enforce time limits. Offer noise-canceling headphones, because if there's less interference from background sound, your child won't need as much volume.

If you or your child uses Apple devices, check its website for free downloads that will automatically limit volume.

- **Distracted Driving:** The many capabilities of smartphones make it more likely that teens will use them while driving. Even if you can convince your child that it's dumb to text and drive, you may find it harder to make the case against finding a musical selection or GPS directions. Inexperienced drivers need to give their full attention to driving, so all these activities put them at risk. Talking about the risks of distracted driving should be your first step.

If your teen isn't getting the message, you can get applications like Zoomsafer (www.zoomsafer) which blocks signals to a phone in a moving vehicle.

Parents should also help kids think through what they will do if another driver is texting while they are in the car., like offering to text on the driver's behalf. Giving the phone to a passenger is a perfectly reasonable strategy when your child is driving.

- **GPS location:** Cellphones sold in North America have GPS tracking capability so 911 operators can locate users in an emergency. This technology can also be used by parents — and predators. All of the major carriers allow parents to add a service that will provide location alerts and, for that matter, allow you to track your child's movements on a map.

Parents need to think carefully about whether these services support or undermine their efforts to build trust and encourage responsible decision-making.

• • •

Of course, having a smartphone also puts the Internet in your child's pocket, so before you hand one over, you'll want to be confident that he understands how to be safe and responsible in a variety of online environments.

If your child's online skills are still emerging, you may want to invest in nothing more than a simple cellphone that makes emergency calls. Or, consider a monitoring program like CellSafety (www.websafety.com) or Phone Advocate (www.phoneadvocate.com). Both will alert parents if kids stray into forbidden territory, such as sexting or cellphone cheating.

Most of all, remember that, despite their names, smartphones aren't smart. Like other tools, their value always depends upon whether they are used in smart ways by smart people.

Carolyn Jabs, M.A., has been writing about families and the Internet for over 15 years. She is the mother of three computer-savvy kids. Other Growing Up Online columns appear on her website, www.growing-up-online.com.

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NEWBIE DAD

BRIAN KANTZ

What I believe it means to be a dad

Because I write a column about my experiences as a dad, people mistakenly think that I'm a "parenting expert." Excuse me while I stop laughing. Believe me, I'm no expert. I'm just trying my best not to mess things up. Still, I'm often asked what I think it means to be a dad. Well, if you really want to know...

First of all, I think it's clear that the era of the "passive dad" is long gone. It's no longer vogue to pace around in the waiting room at the hospital handing out cigars; dads are invited to be in the delivery room for the birth of their child. That's a great thing. And it's no longer *de rigueur* for a man to come home from work and plop in his easy chair while his wife makes dinner and tends to the children; dads are encouraged to help. That's a great thing, too.

Heck, society no longer mandates that the man of the household work and the woman stay home; based on changing attitudes, better paying jobs for women, and numerous other factors, dads are accepting being the primary caregiver for their children. According to U.S. Census data, about 160,000 American men now call themselves "stay-at-home dads" and 2.9 million American preschoolers are cared for by their dads while their moms work.

This "modern dad" concept shouldn't be looked at as a troublesome burden. It should be viewed as a grand opportunity. It takes work, for sure, but being an involved father is incredibly fulfilling. Better yet, the active involvement of a dad is a pretty good way to ensure the develop-

ment of great children.

Whether you are a stay-at-home dad or a father with a demanding work schedule, there are some specific ways to provide your child with the unique influence of a father's love.

First, creating wonderful children is largely about modeling appropriate behavior. From a very young age, kids pick up on the words and deeds of their parents. If a parent says or does something, then it must be right. "Daddy knows everything" is a typical mantra for children. Be aware of your actions. You don't have to be perfect and you don't have to be Superman, but you should act the way you expect your children to act. Don't berate the Little League umpire if you don't want your child to do the same at the next game.

Second, fathers are so important to their children because they usually offer something a little different than — and complementary to — mothers. Many dads, for example, enjoy being the family comedian or the one to roll on the floor and dig in the dirt with the kids. Dads should relish these roles and connect with their children through play, or whatever other positive method suits their personality. In other words, do what you do best.

"Being silly is one of the great untalked-about joys of fatherhood, don't you think? Kids love to see otherwise reserved and dignified adults making fools of themselves," explained Mick Cochrane, author of the novel "The Girl Who Threw Butterflies" and a father of two. "When you're about to become a father, everyone tells you about the responsibility, the long hours — nobody talks about the belly laughs."

When it comes down to it, all parents just want their children to be happy and healthy. Conveying happiness, joy and hope is so crucial in developing great children. Let your children know that you love them. Leave no doubt about that. Take it on as your goal to provide regular moments of joy in your child's life.

And this has absolutely nothing

to do with the amount of money you spend on your kids. It has to do with recognizing life's simple pleasures — reading to your kids, celebrating a birthday, playing catch in the backyard. Dads can take an active role in all of those moments.

Dan Yaccarino's children's book, "Every Friday," written from the son's perspective, tells the story of a much-anticipated weekly father-son breakfast date. The story is not just about a man buying his son pancakes, it's about the time they spend together in their leisurely walk through the city and the bonding, trust and love that results from their routine. This boy can count on his dad.

Of course, in addition to being there for the joyous times, fathers also need to prepare children to deal with life's disappointments and challenges. Dads can do this by listening to their children, providing appropriate support, and offering advice from their own experiences. Reflect on your own childhood and your relationship with your father. What things did he do well? What aspect of his parenting style can you emulate? What didn't he do well? What aspect can you avoid repeating?

So, jump right in from the start and become involved as a dad. Don't be afraid to make mistakes — and don't be afraid to adapt your parenting style if you find that your current style is not effective. Again, no father is perfect, but you should know that being there for your children is a precious gift in itself. By taking on kid-related tasks (from changing diapers to helping with homework) and house-related duties (from vacuuming to paying the mortgage), you are showing responsibility for your family. And that is something that benefits everyone.

Brian Kantz would like to reiterate: he is not a parenting expert. Still, if you'd like to pay him a large amount of money to talk to your group about parenting, he can make some stuff up. Visit Brian online at www.briankantz.com or drop him a note at thenewbie dad@yahoo.com.

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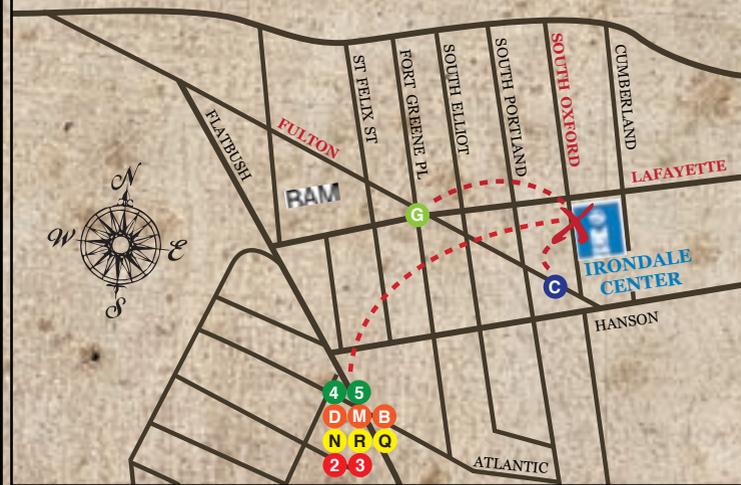
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Going Places

LONG-RUNNING

Learn claymation: Museum of the Moving Image, 35 Avenue at 37 Street; (718) 777-6888; www.movingimage.us; Daily, 1 pm; Now – Sun, Feb. 27; \$10.

Children create their own three-dimensional characters made from clay, then animate them using the same technique used to create popular animated films.

Storytime: Barnes & Noble, 176-60 Union Tpk at Utopia Parkway; (718) 380-7077; www.barnesandnoble.com; Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 am & 7 pm, Free.

Children enjoy stories and a cookie break.

Project posterity: Central Queens YM & YWHA, 67-09 108th Street; (718) 268-5011; www.cqyjcc.org; Tuesdays, 3:30–5 pm, Now – Tues, April 12; Free.

Seniors (55 and older), meet with high school students each week to document their individual life stories.

Class registration: Great Neck Arts Center, 113 Middle Neck Rd. at Maple Drive; (516) 829-2570; www.greatneck-arts.org; Mondays – Thursdays, 9 am–9 pm, Fridays, 9 am–8 pm, Saturdays, 9 am–3 pm, Sundays, 9 am–3 pm, Sun, March 6 – Sat, March 12; Free.

Courses include art, acting, ballet, ceramics, chess, cartooning, drawing, painting, fencing, jazz, mommy and me, musical theatre and dance. For children and adults. Pre-registration required.

FRI, FEB. 25

Kids Week: Fort Totten, Fort Totten; (718) 352-1769; 1 pm; Free.

Children 12 and younger learn history and nature and take home a craft.

SAT, FEB. 26

Global Warming 101: Alley Pond Environmental Center, 228-06 Northern Blvd. 718-229-4000; www.alleypond.com; 10 am–noon; (15 (\$19 non-members).

Children 8 and older learn about the phenomenon and what it means for our future. Children must be with paying adult. Pre-registration required.

Young Chefs: Alley Pond Environmental Center, 228-06 Northern Blvd. 718-229-4000; www.alleypond.com; 10:30 am–noon; \$18 (\$23 non-members).



Simply 'Incredible'

This is one incredible show. On March 6, the New Shanghai Circus come to Queens College's Kupferberg Center for the Arts with "The Incredible Acrobats of China."

The New Shanghai Circus has won more gold, silver, and bronze medals in domestic and international circus competitions than any other Chinese acrobatic company.

Breathtaking and polished to perfection, their singular skills amaze and delight audiences of all ages.

"The Incredible Acrobats of China" at Kupferberg Center for the Arts, Queens College [65-30 Kissena Blvd. at 65th Avenue in Kew Gardens Hills, (718) 544-2996], March 6 at 3 pm. Tickets \$18 for adults, \$12 children 12 and younger. For info, visit www.kupferbergcenter.org.

Submit a listing

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

All you have to do is send your listing request to calendar@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!

Children 7 to 11 make homemade maple granola and fresh fruit parfaits. All materials included. Pre-registration required.

Wild Thing: Barnes & Noble, 176-60 Union Tpk. at Utopia Turnpike; (718) 380-7077; 1 pm; Free.

Take a picture with the creatures from Maurice Sendak's book, "Where the Wild Things Are." Bring your own camera.

Survival guide: Forest Park Visitor Center, Forest Pk Dr. at Woodhaven Boulevard; (718) 846-2731; www.ny-cgovparks.org; 1 pm; Free.

In the four part series learn about the basic elements of wilderness survival: shelter, water, fire, and food.

"The African Drum": The National Black Theater, 2031-33 Fifth Ave. between 125th and 126th streets; (212) 724-0677; www.shadowboxtheatre.org; 2 pm; \$15 (\$20 at the door).

African American folk tales.

SUN, FEB. 27

Mad scientists: Alley Pond Environmental Center, 228-06 Northern Blvd. 718-229-4000; www.alleypond.com; 10:30 am–12:30 pm; \$15 (\$19 non-members).

Children eight to 12 dissect an owl pellet. Snack included. Pre-registration required.

Winter wonderland: Fort Totten, Fort Totten; (718) 352-1769; 11 am; Free.

Take a stroll through the park, plus a nature related scavenger hunt. Supply of snow shoes limited.

Learn to create hand-drawn flip-books: Museum of the Moving Image,

Going Places

35 Avenue and 37 Street; (718) 777-6888; www.movingimage.us; 11:30 am; \$5.

Children learn about moving images and create a hand-drawn flipbook to take home.

The Beauty of Ballet: Queens Theatre in the Park, Flushing Meadows Corona Park; Box Office 718-760-0064; Administration 718-760-0686; www.queenstheatre.org; 1 and 3 pm; Free.

Students from The School of American Ballet perform excerpts from The Nutcracker and The Sleeping Beauty.

TUES, MARCH 1

"The African Drum": 10 and 11:30 am. The National Black Theater. See Saturday, Feb. 26.

Dr. Seuss Day: Barnes & Noble, 176-60 Union Tpk. at Utopia Turnpike; (718) 380-7077; 10:30 am; Free.

Celebrate his birthday with fun activities and favorite Dr. Seuss stories.

Boating lessons: Old Mill Yacht Club, 163-15 Crossbay Blvd. (718) 623-3114; helen-cohen@hok.com; 7:30 pm; \$80.

Flotilla 11-3 of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary presents a seven week course with an exam to follow. Pre-registration required.

WED, MARCH 2

"The African Drum": 10 and 11:30 am. The National Black Theater. See Saturday, Feb. 26.

THURS, MARCH 3

"The African Drum": 10 and 11:30 am. The National Black Theater. See Saturday, Feb. 26.

"The Green Hornet in Tut's Fever": Museum of the Moving Image, 35 Ave. at 37th Street; (718) 777-6888; movingimage.us; 2 pm; Free with museum admission.

The 1940's classic starring Gordon Jones and Key Luke.

FRI, MARCH 4

"The African Drum": 10 and 11:30 am. The National Black Theater. See Saturday, Feb. 26.

"The Green Hornet in Tut's Fever": 2 pm. Museum of the Moving Image. See Thursday, March 3.

SAT, MARCH 5

Nature photography: Alley Pond Environmental Center, 228-06 Northern Blvd. 718-229-4000; www.alleypond.com; 10:30 am-noon; \$54 (\$60 non-members).

For children six to 11. Pre-registration



Classes for everyone

Come and enjoy a week of free classes at The Great Neck Arts Center and welcome its newest director of education, Audrey Dyer. From March 6 through 12, children and adults may sign up for a class in art, acting, ballet (including pointe), ceramics, chess, cartooning, drawing and painting, fencing, jazz, mommy and me, musical theatre, social dance and tap.

The Center has been a staple in the community, producing artists

in all disciplines and has been recognized nationally as a premier venue for art, music, drama, dance, film and literature.

Pre-registration is required for all classes. The Center is open Monday through Thursday, 9 am-9 pm; Friday, 9 am-8 pm; Saturday, 9 am-3 pm; and Sunday, 9 am-3 pm

Great Neck Arts Center [113 Middle Neck Rd. at Maple Drive in Great Neck, (516) 829-2570]. For more information, visit www.greatneckarts.org

required.

Science family day: New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St. 718-699-0005; www.nysci.org; 11 am-4 pm; Free with museum admission.

Join Sid the Science Guy and learn fun stuff.

"Mi bebe es un heroe": Repertorio Espanol, 138 E. 27th St. (212) 225-9920; www.repertorio.org; Noon; \$12.

Bilingual puppet show that teaches the importance of love and family values. For children two and up.

"Fantastic Voyage": Museum of the Moving Image, 35 Ave. at 37th Street; (718) 777-6888; movingimage.us; 12:30 pm; Free with museum admission.

The 1966 Sci-Fi classic.

"The Green Hornet in Tut's Fever": 1, 2 and 3:30 pm. Museum of the Moving Image. See Thursday, March 3.

St. Petersburg Classic Ballet: Queens Theatre in the Park, Flushing Meadows Corona Park; Box Office 718-760-0064; Administration 718-760-

0686; www.queenstheatre.org; 2 and 8 pm; \$42 (\$40 seniors \$25 Students).

The best of Russian classical ballet training and tradition.

"The African Drum": 2 pm. The National Black Theater. See Saturday, Feb. 26.

"Annie": Bay Terrace Jewish Cengter, 1300 209th St. between 82nd Avenue and Union Turnpike; (718) 428-6363. 8:30 pm; \$20 (\$18 seniors and children under 12).

Theater by the Bay presents the quintessential sunshine musical with such favorites as "The Sun Will Come Out Tomorrow" and "It's a Hard Knock Life."

SUN, MARCH 6

Animal care trainee: Alley Pond Environmental Center, 228-06 Northern Blvd. 718-229-4000; www.alleypond.com; 10 am-noon; \$12 (\$16 non-members).

Children eight to 12 learn how to brush, clean and feed the local animals. Snack and certificate provided. Pre-regis-

tration required.

Climate change workshop: New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St. 718-699-0005; www.nysci.org; 1-3 pm; Free with museum admission.

Examine global warming and help create public programming for the museum. Registration required.

The Incredible Acrobats of China: Colden Auditorium, Kupferberg Center for the Arts, Queens College, 65-30 Kissena Blvd. 718-544-2996; www.kupferbergcenter.org; 3 pm; \$18, (\$12 children 12 and under).

"Annie": 3 pm. Bay Terrace Jewish Cengter. See Saturday, March 5.

TUES, MARCH 8

Boating lessons: 7:30 pm. Old Mill Yacht Club. See Tuesday, March 1.

SAT, MARCH 12

Nature photography: 10:30 am-noon. Alley Pond Environmental Center. See Saturday, March 5.

"Jemima Puddle-Duck": Queens Theatre in the Park, Flushing Meadows Corona Park; Box Office 718-760-0064; Administration 718-760-0686; www.queenstheatre.org; 11 am and 1 pm; \$12.

Puppet version of Beatrix Potter's children's classic.

"There's a Dinosaur in the Closet": Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Boulevard; (718) 463-7700; www.flushingtownhall.org; 11:15 am; \$12 (10 members; \$8 children; \$6 member children).

Puppet show for children five and up.

"Time Bandits": Museum of the Moving Image, 35 Ave. at 37th Street; (718) 777-6888; movingimage.us; 12:30 pm; Free with museum admission.

Sean Connery, Shelly Duvall and John Cleese star in this comedy adventure.

Animal workshop: Alley Pond Environmental Center, 228-06 Northern Blvd. 718-229-4000; www.alleypond.com; 1:30-3:30 pm; \$15 (\$20 non-members).

Children ages three to four learn about the different homes animals make for themselves in winter. Must be toilet trained. Pre-registration required.

Family day: Queens Botanical Garden, 43-50 Main Street; (718) 539-5296; www.queensbotanical.org; 2-4 pm; Free.

Enjoy Spring and the Children's garden.

Nature hike: Alley Pond Park, 76th Ave. & Springfield Blvd. (718) 846-2731; 5 pm; Free.

Continued on page 44

Going Places

Continued from page 43

Search for bats, raccoons, and other creatures of the night. Bring your own flashlight.

"All of Me": Kupferberg Center - Queens College, 65-30 Kissena Blvd. at 64th Avenue; (718) 793-8080; www.kupferbergcenterarts.org; 8 pm; \$38 (\$36 students and seniors).

Linda Eder brings her signature blend of songs from pop and country music legends.

"Annie": 8:30 pm. Bay Terrace Jewish Center. See Saturday, March 5.

SUN, MARCH 13

"Time Bandits": 1 pm. Museum of the Moving Image. See Saturday, March 12.

"There's a Dinosaur in the Closet": 2:15 pm. Flushing Town Hall. See Saturday, March 12.

MON, MARCH 14

Poetry slam: Barnes & Noble, 176-60 Union Tpk. at Utopia Turnpike; (718) 380-7077; 7:30 pm; Free.

Share your original works and listen to others. Hosted by Susan Yang.

TUES, MARCH 15

Poetry workshop: Barnes & Noble, 176-60 Union Tpk. at Utopia Turnpike; (718) 380-7077; 7:30 pm; Free.

Get helpful hints on honing your craft.

SAT, MARCH 19

"The Very Hungry Caterpillar": Barnes & Noble, 176-60 Union Tpk. at Utopia Turnpike; (718) 380-7077; 11 am; Free.

Eric Carle's favorite fuzzy insect.

Animal workshop: Alley Pond Environmental Center, 228-06 Northern Blvd. 718-229-4000; www.alleypond.com; 1:30-3:30 pm; \$15 (\$20 non-members).

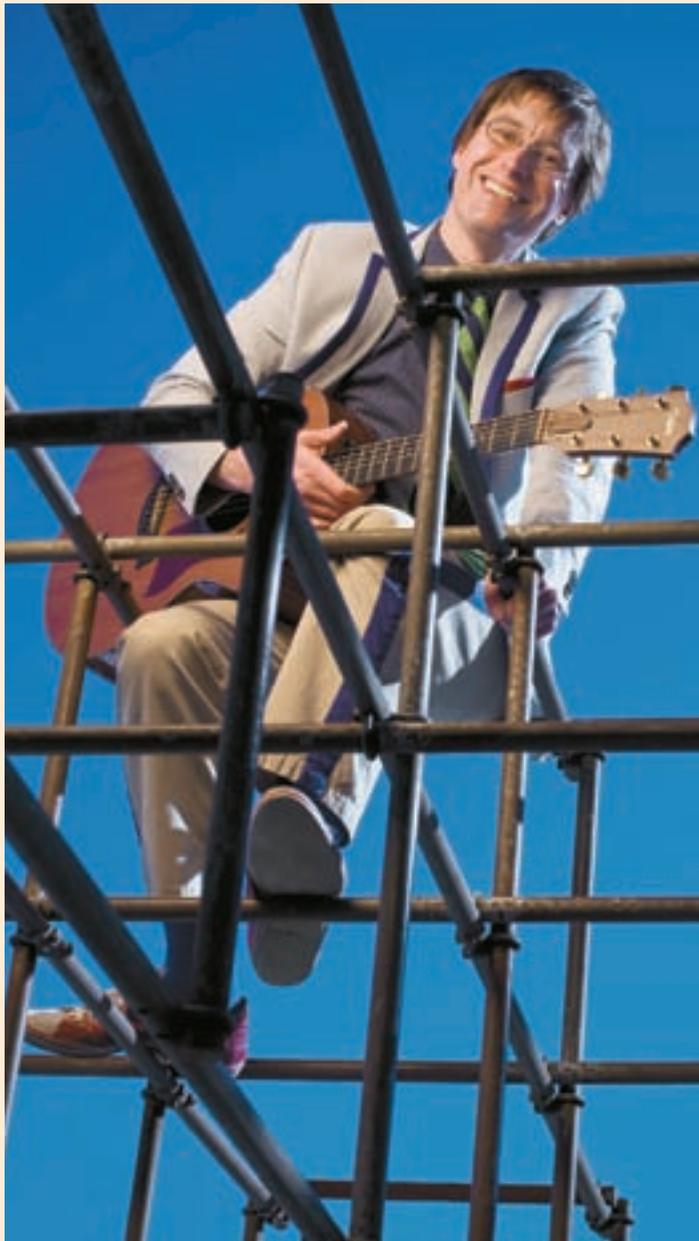
Children ages five to six learn about the different homes animals make for themselves in winter. Pre-registration required.

"Sol y Canto- Twice as Many Friends": Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Boulevard; (718) 463-7700; www.flushingtownhall.org; 2:15 pm; \$12 (\$10 members; children \$8, \$6 member children).

Bilingual, interactive fiesta of original music.

Meet the Composer: LeFrak Concert Hall, Queens College, 65-30 Kissena Blvd. 718-793-8080; www.kupferbergcenterarts.org; 3 pm; \$12.

Find out who the mystery composer



Skip naptime for this

Dubbed "kid-rock royalty" by the Chicago Tribune, we say that Justin Roberts could be in the running for king.

The Grammy nominee has been compared to James Taylor, Elvis Costello, Loudon Wainwright III, and even Green Day, but Roberts sings comical lyrics that get to the heart of what it's like to be a kid, from the horrors of school-picture day to monsters under the bed.

On March 26, he brings his Not Ready for Naptime Players to Symphony Space, where he's a favorite year after year. Go see why.

Justin Roberts and the Not Ready for Naptime Players at Symphony Space's Peter Jay Sharp Theatre [2537 Broadway at 95th Street in Manhattan, (212) 864-5400], March 26 at 11 am and 2 pm. Tickets \$25, \$27 day of show for adults; \$13, \$17 day of show for kids. For info, visit www.symphonyspace.org.

is. Presented by the Lawrence Eisman Center for Preparatory Studies in Music.

SUN, MARCH 20

March for Earth: Queens Botanical Garden, 43-50 Main Street; (718) 886-3800 X204; www.queensbotanical.org; call for times. Free.

Enjoy the first day of Spring and volunteer to keep the gardens beautiful. Pre-registration required.

Scavenger hunt: Kissena Park, Rose and Oak avenues; (718) 846-2731; www.nycgovparks.org; 11 am; Free.

Children of all ages hunt for hidden treasures throughout the park.

"Annie": 3 pm. Bay Terrace Jewish Center. See Saturday, March 5.

Laurie Halse Anderson: Leonard Nimoy Thalia, 2537 Broadway at West 96th Street; (212) 316-4962; www.symphonyspace.org; 4 pm; \$15 (\$12 members).

The author talks about her books "Speak" and her newest release, "Forge" the sequel to "Chains".

SAT, MARCH 26

Justin Roberts and the Not Ready for Naptime Players: Peter Jay Sharpe Theatre, 2537 Broadway at West 96th Street; (212) 864-5400; www.symphonyspace.org; 11 am and 2 pm; \$13-\$27.

This Grammy award winning nominee presents his high energy pop sound that will get everyone, including mom and pop, on their feet dancing and singing along.

"Annie": 8:30 pm. Bay Terrace Jewish Center. See Saturday, March 5.

SUN, MARCH 27

"Annie": 3 pm. Bay Terrace Jewish Center. See Saturday, March 5.

TUES, MARCH 29

"Sesame Street": Barnes & Noble, 176-60 Union Tpk. at Utopia Turnpike; (718) 380-7077; 10:30 am; Free.

Activity sheets, stories and fun.

SAT, APRIL 2

"Rocknoceros": Thalia Theatre, 2537 Broadway at West 96th Street; (212) 864-5400; www.symphonyspace.org; 11 am; \$10.

Featuring the talents of Coach Cotton, Williebob and Boogie Woogie Bennie. It's a rocking good time for everyone.

"Mi bebe es un heroe": Noon. Repertorio Espanol. See Saturday, March 5.



Going Places

March events at Queens Libraries

Tots and teens can enjoy exciting and educational events all month long at the Queens Library, and — best

of all — it's all free.

For additional information visit a branch near you or online at www.queenslibrary.org.

LONG-RUNNING

Book buddies: Hillcrest, 187-05 Union Tpke. (718) 454-2786; Tuesdays, 3:30 pm, Now – Tues, March 29; Free.

Tweens 12 and up read to younger children and enjoy stories.

Teen tuesdays: Hillcrest, 187-05 Union Turnpike; (718) 454-2786; Tuesdays, 4 pm, Now – Tues, June 21; Free.

Play games, do crafts, listen to music and hang with friends.

Laptop for teens: Hollis, 202-05 Hillside Ave. (718) 465-7355; Mondays – Thursdays, 4 pm, Now – Thurs, March 31; Free.

Play games and learn the basics.

Knights of Queens: Queens Village, 94-11 217 St. at 94th Avenue; (718) 776-6800; Wednesdays, 3:30 pm, Now – Wed, March 30; Free.

Children six to 16 learn chess basics. Equipment provided.

Drama Posse: Hillcrest, 187-05 Union Tpke. (718) 454-2786; Thursdays, 3 pm, Now – Thurs, March 24; Free.

Get your acting chops on. Weekly rehearsals required. Performance 3/24/11.

Girl Scouts: Queens Village, 94-11 217 St. at 94th Road; (718) 776-6800; Thursdays, 4 pm, Now – Thurs, April 28; Free.

Informational meeting.

Teen happy hour: Flushing, 41-17 Main St. (718) 661-1200; Fridays, 3:30 pm, Now – Fri, March 25; Free.

Friends, board games, video games and music.

Game players club: Hillcrest, 187-05 Union Tpke. (718) 454-2786; Fridays, 4 pm, Now – Fri, May 27; Free.

Board games for children six to 14.

Math help: Flushing, 41-17 Main St. (718) 661-1200; Saturdays, 10 am, Free.

Tutoring for children in grades four to 8.

Tutoring: Bayside, 2124-20 Northern Blvd. (718) 229-1834; Mondays, 3:30–5 pm, Saturdays, 10 am–noon, Free.

Teen volunteers offer homework help.

Open mic: Central Library, 89-11 Merrick Blvd. (718) 990-0700; Sundays, 2 pm, Now – Sun, April 10; Free.

Guest readers offer prose and poems.

Teen chess club: Bayside, 214-20

Northern Blvd. (718) 229-1834; Mondays, 6 pm, Now – Mon, June 20; Free. Volunteer instructors teach beginners.

TUES, MARCH 1

Picture book time: Glen Oaks, 256-04 Union Tpke. at 256th Street; (718) 831-8636; 11 am; Free.

Circle of Friends is for children ages three to five and includes songs, arts and crafts.

"Dungeons and Dragons": Baisley Park, 117-11 Sutphin Blvd. at Foch Boulevard; (718) 529-1590; 4:30 pm; Free.

Children nine and up play fantasy role games. Pre-registration required.

Nutrition workshop: Ridgewood, 20-12 Madison St. at Forest Avenue; (718) 821-4770; 4:30 pm; Free.

Sip teachers share tips for healthy eating and how to manage and maintain a healthy weight. For children 11 to 14.

WED, MARCH 2

Mother Goose time: Bayside, 214-20 Northern Blvd. at 215th Street; (718) 229-1834; 10:15 and 11:15 am; Free.

Interactive program for children two and one-half years old. Pre-registration required.

Dr. Seuss Day: Pomonok, 158-21 Jewel Ave. at Parsons Boulevard; (718) 359-1102; 10:30 am; Free.

Celebrate with stories and crafts. For children infant to three years and their caregivers.

Picture story time: Lefrak City, 98-30 57th Ave. at Junction Boulevard; (718) 592-7677; 10:30 am–Noon; Free.

For children 18 months to five years.

Crafts: Queens Public Library at Steinway, 21-45 31st St. at 21st Avenue; (718) 728-1965; 11 am; Free.

For children two to four years old.

Crochet: Astoria, 14-01 Astoria Blvd. (718) 278-2220; 4 pm; Free.

Teens make their own creations.

Crochet: Bayside, 214-20 Northern Blvd. at 215th Street; (718) 229-1834; 4 pm; Free.

Teens make their own creations.

THURS, MARCH 3

Comic Book workshop: Far Rock-

away, 1637 Central Ave. at Mott Avenue; (718) 327-2549; 3 pm; Free.

Create your own superheroes with illustrator Neil Numberman.

Hatha Yoga: Queensboro Hill, 60-05 Main St. at 63rd Avenue; (718) 423-7004; 4 pm; Free.

For beginners. Wear comfortable clothing and bring a mat.

FRI, MARCH 4

Game day: Bay Terrace, 18-35 Bell Blvd. at 23rd Avenue; (718) 423-7004; 2:30 pm; Free.

Checkers, chess and other board games.

Comic Book workshop: 3 pm. Far Rockaway. See Thursday, March 3.

Chess club: Auburndale, 25-55 Francis Lewis Blvd. at 45th Drive; (718) 352-2027; 3:30 pm; Free.

Master Paul gives hints on the game.

Fashion workshop: Corona, 38-23 104th St. between 38th and 39th avenues; (718) 426-2844; 4 pm; Free.

Children 11 to 14 create their own trends and designs.

Intergenerational plant project: Hollis, 202-05 Hillside Ave. (718) 465-7355; 4 pm; Free.

Children six and older along with senior adults participate together in writing, memories and plants. Pre-registration required.

Game time: Bellerose, 250-06 Hillside Ave. at 249th Street; (718) 831-8644; 4 pm; Free.

For teens.

SAT, MARCH 5

Piano concert: Flushing, 41-17 Main St. (718) 661-1200; 2 pm; Free.

Aquarius Duo performs the works of Dvorak, Faure, Mozart and Tchaikowsky.

Zumba: Long Island City, 37-44 21 St. at 43rd Avenue; (718) 752-3700; 3:30 pm; Free.

SUN, MARCH 6

Klezmer concert: Central Library, 89-11 Merrick Blvd. (718) 990-0700; 3:30 pm; Free.

Isle of Klezbos performs.

MON, MARCH 7

DIY project: Flushing, 41-17 Main St. (718) 661-1200; 4:30 pm; Free.

Learn to accessorize. Supplies provided.

TUES, MARCH 8

Stage workshop: Bay Terrace, 18-36 Bell Blvd. at 23rd Avenue; (718) 423-7004; 3:30 pm; Free.

For budding actors.

Watercolor workshop: Rosedale, 144-20 243rd St. at 145th Avenue; (718) 528-8490; 4 pm; Free.

Children seven to 12 get the basics from artist Margo Clarke. Pre-registration required.

"Dungeons and Dragons": 4:30 pm. Baisley Park. See Tuesday, March 1.

Nutrition workshop: 4:30 pm. Ridgewood. See Tuesday, March 1.

WED, MARCH 9

Mother Goose time: 10:15 and 11:15 am. Bayside. See Wednesday, March 2.

Picture story time: 10:30 am–Noon. Lefrak City. See Wednesday, March 2.

Crafts: 11 am. Queens Public Library at Steinway. See Wednesday, March 2.

Magic show: Fresh Meadows, 193-20 Horace Harding Expy. (718) 454-7272; 4 pm; Free.

Learn the tricks of the trade.

Crochet: 4 pm. Astoria. See Wednesday, March 2.

Crochet: 4 pm. Bayside. See Wednesday, March 2.

THURS, MARCH 10

Hatha Yoga: 4 pm. Queensboro Hill. See Thursday, March 3.

Swing concert: Cambria Heights, 218-12 Linden Blvd. at 221st Street; (718) 528-3535; 6:30 pm; Free.

Carl the Music Man and Teri-Ann perform jazz, blues, calypso and rock and roll.

FRI, MARCH 11

Game day: 2:30 pm. Bay Terrace. See Friday, March 4.

Chess club: 3:30 pm. Auburndale. See Friday, March 4.

Watercolor workshop: St. Albans, 191-05 Linden Blvd. (718) 528-8490; 4 pm; Free.

Children seven to 12 get the basics from artist Margo Clarke. Pre-registration required.

Intergenerational plant project: 4 pm. Hollis. See Friday, March 4.

Continued on page 46

Going Places

Continued from page 45

Game time: 4 pm. Bellerose. See Friday, March 4.

SAT, MARCH 12

Horror and science fiction: Flushing, 41-17 Main St. (718) 661-1200; Noon; Free.

Meet author Al Vermette and the staff of "Blood Moon Rising" horror magazine.

MON, MARCH 14

Irish music: Flushing, 41-17 Main St. (718) 661-1200; 6 pm; Free.

Shannon Breeze performs traditional and contemporary songs.

Family night: South Jamaica, 108-41 Guy R. Brewer Blvd. between 108th and 109th avenues; (718) 739-4088; 6 pm; Free.

For all ages. Board games, Wii and light refreshments served.

"The Paranormal Adventurers": South Ozone Park, 128-16 Rockaway Blvd. at 128th Street; (718) 529-1660; 6:30 pm; Free.

Authors Joseph Flammer and Dianne Hill take you on a journey of ghosts and famous graveyards.

TUES, MARCH 15

Book club: Long Island City, 37-44 21st St. between 49th Avenue and 47th Road; (718) 752-3700; 10 am; Free.

"The Sea Wall" by Marguerite Duras" is this month's title.

Puzzle day: Lefrak City, 98-30 57th Ave. at Junction Boulevard; (718) 592-7677; 4 pm; Free.

For children six to 12 years old.

"Dungeons and Dragons": 4:30 pm. Baisley Park. See Tuesday, March 1.

Nutrition workshop: 4:30 pm. Ridgewood. See Tuesday, March 1.

WED, MARCH 16

Mother Goose time: 10:15 and 11:15 am. Bayside. See Wednesday, March 2.

Picture story time: 10:30 am–Noon. Lefrak City. See Wednesday, March 2.

Crafts: 11 am. Queens Public Library at Steinway. See Wednesday, March 2.

Swing concert: North Forest Park, 98-27 Metropolitan Ave. (718) 261-5512; 1 pm; Free.

Carl the Music Man and Teri-Ann perform jazz, blues, calypso and rock and roll.

Arts and crafts: Queens Village, 94-11 217 St. at 94th Avenue; (718) 776-6800; 4 pm; Free.

Kids create a St. Patrick's project.

Crochet: 4 pm. Bayside. See March 2.

Puppets do Potter

Two of Beatrix Potter's most beloved stories come to life this month at Queens Theatre in the Park.

On March 12, the Hudson Vagabond Puppets perform "Jemima Puddle-Duck" and "The Story of the Fierce Bad Rabbit" in a puppet ballet filled with astonishing costumes and masks and set to music by William Walton.

It's an imaginative performance that does justice to Potter's vivid children's classics.

"Jemima Puddle-Duck" and "The Story of the Fierce Bad Rabbit" at Queens Theatre in the Park [Flushing Meadows Corona Park, beside the Queens Museum, the Ice Skating Rink and the Unisphere, (718) 760-0064], March 12 at 11 am and 1 pm. Tickets \$12. For info, visit www.queenstheatre.org.



THURS, MARCH 17

"The Storyteller's Candle": Corona, 38-23 104th St. (718) 426-2844; 4 pm; Free.

Read author Lucia Gonzalez's book about the first Latina librarian Pura Belpre and watch a puppet show.

Hatha Yoga: 4 pm. Queensboro Hill. See Thursday, March 3.

Trivia contest: Steinway, 21-45 31st St. at 21st Avenue; (718) 728-1965; 6 pm; Free.

Share knowledge of St. Patrick's Day.

FRI, MARCH 18

Science lab: Central Library, 89-11 Merrick Blvd. (718) 990-0700; 11 am; Free.

Game day: 2:30 pm. Bay Terrace. See Friday, March 4.

Chess club: 3:30 pm. Auburndale. See Friday, March 4.

Image seminar: Rosedale, 144-20 243rd St. at 145th Avenue; (718) 528-8490; 4 pm; Free.

Teens get helpful hints about their attitude and personal perspective. Pre-registration required.

Game time: 4 pm. Bellerose. See Friday, March 4.

SAT, MARCH 19

Family resource day: Flushing, 41-17

Main St. (718) 661-1200; 11 am; Free.

Representatives from various community groups offer advice to parents on summer camps, child care programs and educational programs.

SUN, MARCH 20

Open mic: Central Library, 89-11 Merrick Blvd. (718) 990-0700; 2 pm; Free.

Featured reader Nicole Cooley.

MON, MARCH 21

Animal workshop: Corona, 38-23 104th St. between 38th and 39th avenues; (718) 426-2844; 3 pm; Free.

Children six to 10 learn about animals and which ones make the perfect pet. Space is limited.

Animal workshop: Jackson Heights, 35-51 81st St. between 35th and 37th avenues; (718) 889-2500; 4:30 pm; Free.

Children six to 10 learn about animals and which ones make the perfect pet. Space is limited.

Irish music: Sunnyside, 43-06 Greenpoint Ave. (718) 784-3033; 6 pm; Free.

Traditional and contemporary songs.

TUES, MARCH 22

"Dungeons and Dragons": 4:30 pm. Baisley Park. See Tuesday, March 1.

Nutrition workshop: 4:30 pm. Ridgewood. See Tuesday, March 1.

WED, MARCH 23

Mother Goose time: 10:15 and 11:15 am. Bayside. See Wednesday, March 2.

Picture story time: 10:30 am–Noon. Lefrak City. See Wednesday, March 2.

Crochet: 4 pm. Bayside. See Wednesday, March 2.

THURS, MARCH 24

Book club: Poppenhusen, 121-23 14th Ave. at College Point Boulevard; (718) 359-1102; 3:30 pm; Free.

For children in grades four to six.

Hatha Yoga: 4 pm. Queensboro Hill. See Thursday, March 3.

FRI, MARCH 25

Game day: 2:30 pm. Bay Terrace. See Friday, March 4.

Chess club: 3:30 pm. Auburndale. See Friday, March 4.

Game time: 4 pm. Bellerose. See Friday, March 4.

MON, MARCH 28

Arts and crafts: Hillcrest, 187-05 Union Tpke. at 188th Street; (718) 454-2786; 6 pm; Free.

Children six–14 create a spring project.

Craft club: Long Island City, 37-44 21st St. between 49th Avenue and 47th Road; (718) 752-3700; 6 pm; Free.

All ages.

TUES, MARCH 29

"Dungeons and Dragons": 4:30 pm. Baisley Park. See Tuesday, March 1.

WED, MARCH 30

Mother Goose time: 10:15 and 11:15 am. Bayside. See Wednesday, March 2.

Crochet: 4 pm. Bayside. See Wednesday, March 2.

THURS, MARCH 31

Arts and crafts: Cambria Heights, 218-13 Linden Blvd. (718) 528-3535; 3:30 pm; Free.

Children in grades three to five decorate a mini skateboard. Pre-registration required.

Hatha Yoga: 4 pm. Queensboro Hill. See Thursday, March 3.

Sci-Fi workshop: Hillcrest, 187-05 Union Tpke. at 188th Street; (718) 454-2786; 6 pm; Free.

Time travel: Is it real? for teens 15 and older. Light refreshments served.

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It figures

BY CYNTHIA WASHAM

FOOD FACTS

19 Percent increase from 2008 to 2009 in the number of U.S. households growing their own produce.

\$530 Money for produce, per season, that a family can save from investing \$70 in a home garden.

Two Times more likely preschoolers are to eat fresh produce if it's home-grown and not store-bought.



96 Percent of 4th through 6th graders who enjoy working in the garden.

98 Percent who enjoy taste-testing fresh fruits and vegetables.

60 Percent of children who consider watermelon their favorite fruit.

30 Percent whose favorite is apples.

25 Percent of children's daily intake of vegetables that comes from French fries.

40 Percent of their fruit intake that comes from juice.



RATING RIDES

Four Percent of children whose favorite amusement park ride is the merry-go-round.

55 Percent whose favorite is the roller coaster.

1884 Year the U.S.'s first roller coaster, the Switchback Railway, opened in Coney Island, Brooklyn.

1912 Year the world's oldest continuously operating roller coaster opened, in Melbourne, Australia.



Photo by Gregory P. Mango

Sources: Real Simple, Parenting, Journal of the American Dietetic Association, Scholastic.com

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New & Noteworthy



Tutu cute

It doesn't get much cuter than this.

Your little princess will be ready for her close-up in this tiny tutu by Bijou Baby Boutique. With 30 colors to choose from, you can find the one that's perfect for her as a photography prop or just for playtime.

The tutu also comes with a matching hair accessory, featuring a soft, stretchy headband with a removable flower hair clip. The set is tailored for babies newborn to 24 months.

Tutu by Bijou Baby Boutique, \$18.50. For info, visit www.etsy.com/people/BijouBabyBoutique.



T is for trendy

These are some artful tees.

Bushwick-based Soft Clothing has launched a Brooklyn Artists Tee Series, inspired by the street art scene and the artists surrounding its design studio.

Soft Clothing commissioned three of those local artists to create the shirts, and the result is imaginative play with patterns, photographs, and mixed media printed on long-sleeve cotton jerseys. Choose from three

prints — ranging from a sailboat to cavorting kids — but don't wait long. These tees are available for a limited time only.

Brooklyn Artists Tees are \$18.50 each and available at Sprout Kidz [849A Union St. at Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 398-2280] and online at www.softclothing.net.

Bring in this funk

"Groove" to this funky new children's CD.

"Groove Kid Nation: The Wheels on the Bus" features classic children's songs redone as soul foot-stompers. There's "Itsy Bitsy Spider," "The Alphabet Song," and, of course, "The Wheels on the Bus," as well as original material.

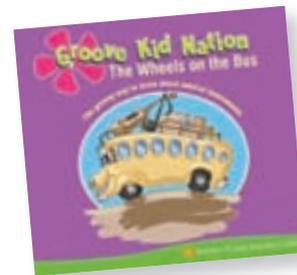
The CD is the brainchild of musician Rodney Lee, who wanted to

create what he could not find for his son: music reminiscent of growing up in the funk-filled, soul-infused 1960s and '70s.

Each tune features a whimsical animal character performing a solo on its instrument, and an enclosed 10-page booklet features illustrations of

these new animal friends.

"Groove Kid Nation: The Wheels on the Bus," \$15.98. For info, visit www.groovekidnation.com.



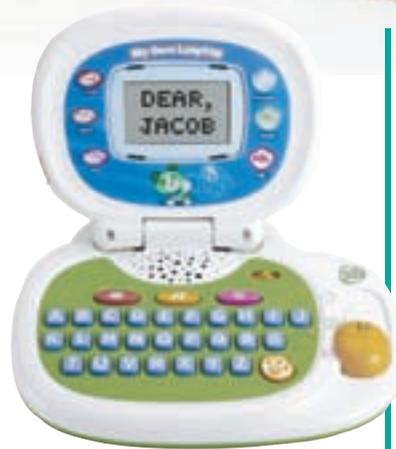
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Choose and download songs — internet connection required — to create your child's customized playlist. On their Leaptop, kids can explore the alphabet, pretend play, music, animals and computer literacy with six learning activity stations. And you can connect to the online LeapFrog Learning Path for learning ideas and insights.

The devices come in two colors — green or purple — and are geared towards children 2- to 4-years-old. It's a nice introduction



to computers — and safer than letting them use yours.

My Own Leaptop by Leap Frog, \$24.99. For info, visit www.leapfrog.com.



Baking fun

For a delicious read on-the-go, without the hassle of bringing a bulky book with you, check out "Maid Marian Muffins."

Jamie and Jessica Vander Salm's light-hearted tale reveals a muffin fan's journey from mere admirer to Brooklyn baking sensation. It's based on the real-life adventures of co-author Jessica, Brooklyn's one-and-only bicycling baker, with over 36 pages of hand-drawn illustrations by Ana Benaroya.

But it's only for the technologically savvy. "Maid Marian Muffins" was created strictly for use on the iPod Touch, iPhone and iPad.

"Maid Marian Muffins," \$2.99 for iPad, \$1.99 for iPod Touch and iPhone. For info, visit www.maidmarianmuffins.com.



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SATURDAY, MARCH 12TH, APRIL 16TH HEALTHY KIDS DAY AND MAY 14TH - FROM 10AM-3PM

It's not too early to register. But hurry, space is filling fast!
Take advantage of our 10% Early Bird and Sibling Registration Discounts.

QUEENS

Cross Island YMCA	(718) 479-0505	YMCA Beacon @ JHS189	(718) 961-6014
Flushing YMCA	(718) 961-6880	YMCA Beacon @ JHS194	(718) 747-3644
Jamaica YMCA	(718) 739-6600	YMCA Beacon @ MS210	(718) 659-7710
Long Island City YMCA	(718) 392-7932		
Ridgewood YMCA			
@ Covenant Lutheran Church	(212) 912-2180		

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT YMCANYC.ORG



New York City's YMCA
We're Here for Good.



Financial assistance is available.