

To Do Around Ann Arbor – Keeping Families Together

This list was compiled by the Family Life Ministry at Zion Lutheran Church in Ann Arbor, MI. We invite you to visit us with your family – please see our web site at <http://www.zlc-aa.org/> or call 994-4455 for more information.

Places to Go

Ann Arbor Airport – Take a picnic and watch small aircraft depart and take off. There are picnic tables present (and a playground down the main road to the left and soccer fields right next door for throwing around a Frisbee or ball). Football game days are especially interesting because of the banner towing... 994-2841

<http://www.ci.ann-arbor.mi.us/PublicServices/Fleet/Airport/airport.html>

Ann Arbor Art Center – Several parents have recommended it. They offer art and ceramics classes and they do have information about tuition grant applications for classes on their website. 117 West Liberty Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48104, Heart of Downtown, 734-994-8004

<http://www.annarborartcenter.org/>

The Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum – This museum offers regular exhibits that allow children to learn about math and science while having great fun. We haven't heard of a disappointed child or parent yet! The preschool room is fantastic! 995-5437 (information recording), 995-5439 (group reservations)

<http://www.aahom.org/>

Ann Arbor YMCA – Youth programs and classes include camps, dance, gymnastics, swimming, fencing, martial arts, and yoga. Course brochures available on-line. Classes run in eight-week sessions with open enrollment. Fees vary. Classes open to nonmembers; members receive significantly reduced rates and priority enrollment. Teen membership (ages 12–17) \$10/month, family membership \$68/month, plus varying fee to join. Some financial assistance available. 400 W. Washington, 996–9622

<http://www.annarborymca.org>

Bixby Marionettes Exhibit – 141 East Michigan Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48176, Culture and Commerce Center- Saline, MI, 734-429-0807, This collection of incredibly crafted marionettes was donated by Mr. Bixby, a lifelong resident of Saline. His "Meredith Marionettes Touring Company" toured the Midwest and the South for more than 40 years. The exhibit is open Monday through Friday from 9-5. Phone: 429-4494

The Botanical Gardens – The Botanical Gardens are also great place to go. The trails and garden are free and are great in spring and summer (even smaller strollers can work for a ways on the trails). The inside conservatory is an awesome breath of fresh air in the winter! (Free admission to the conservatory on Fridays between 12-4:30!). 998-7061

http://sitemaker.umich.edu/mbgna/plan_your_visit

Briarwood Dollar Theatre – Although they do not have family afternoons like Quality 16 Theater once had, they do offer movie tickets for \$1 before 6 pm and \$1.50 after 6 pm. The manager told me they are trying to get a family day going but, in the meantime, they do not dim the lights all the way during G movies. 994-5688.

http://www.teichertheaters.com/briarwood_dollar_movies_4

Cobblestone Farm – (circa 1845) 2781 Packard, Ann Arbor, MI 48104, 734-994-2928, This living history museum located within a pioneer Classic Revival Michigan farm house depicts early Ann Arbor settler life and the past rural life in Washtenaw County. A 100 year old log cabin is on site. Also, this city-owned historic farm re-creates mid-19th-century rural life. Weekly full- and half-day summer camps give children experience in such pioneer activities as building a log cabin, churning butter, and hand-dipping candles.

<http://www.ci.ann-arbor.mi.us/CommunityServices/Parks/parks.html>

Domino's Farm – Domino's Petting Farm is conveniently located in Ann Arbor and is a perfect setting for people of all ages to learn about farming and farm animals. Picnic tables available and hay rides. Open all year! (Great for birthdays too) Phone: 998-0182, 930-3188
<http://www.pettingfarm.com/>

Fantasy Forest – This is a newly opened place that has play and exploration areas for children, as well as seating, coffee, and free wireless for parents.
<http://www.fantasy-forest.com/>

Gymboree Play and Music – Located in Brighton. Classes for 0-5 years. Ravine Plaza, 455 East Grand River, Suite 103, Brighton, MI 48116
<http://www.gymboreeclasses.com>

Jump City – Indoor arena filled with "jump" toys. You can rent it for parties, but they also have Pop-n-Play on Tuesdays and Fridays (longer hours during school holidays). Socks required! 2825 Boardwalk, Ann Arbor, 995-5055
<http://www.jump-city.com/index.html>

Kindermusik – Music and movement classes for parents and their children ages newborn–7 years. Several instructors in the Ann Arbor area; local class locator on website.
<http://www.kindermusik.com>

Leslie Science Center – Wonderful facility with loads of trails, raptors outside (can see anytime), a critter house (open on Sundays from 12-3pm – free) and Tot Times every other Friday. Many events through the year and during the summer for kids of all ages. Their nature camps are great! Great place for birthdays too.
http://www.ci.ann-arbor.mi.us/CommunityServices/Parks/LeslieScience/leslie_main.html

Nichols Arboretum – Nichols Arboretum is free. I like to take the kids there to run around in the front park or walk down (not stroller friendly) the trails to large grassy areas or the river. Peonies gardens bloom in June and are great for informal family photos! 998-9540
http://sitemaker.umich.edu/mbgna/plan_your_visit

Rainbow Creation – Paint your own ceramic store. They do host summer camps for kids. 283 S. Zeeb in Ann Arbor. Phone: 665-1910
<http://www.rainbowcreationinc.com/storeinfo.htm>

Scrap Box – Children preschool age & older can browse through a warehouse of surplus stuff, filling a grocery bag (\$3 or \$5 per bag) with junk and scrap materials to use in craft projects. Birthday parties or field trips by appointment. Tues.–Fri. 10 a.m.–6 p.m. Sat. 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Call for holiday closings. 581 State Circle, Ann Arbor, 994-0012
<http://www.scrapbox.org>

Showcase Cinemas – Has 'baby movies' every other Thursday @10am. They play first run movies, but with the lights up a little and volume down. Diaper changing stations in front. It is really great to go with babies that aren't mobile. Call 973-8380 for more details.

Tour de Kids – Annual bicycle race on Father's Day for ages 3–12. Separate races for each age and gender. E-mail: jeff@outdoorathlete.com Jeff Herron, 332–3786
<http://www.tourdekids.org>

U of M Museum of Natural History – If you haven't been yet, this website will tell you a little bit about our very own Museum of Natural History. They have great permanent exhibits and planetarium shows, as well as rotating exhibits that they feature on their website. Phone: U of M information – 764-1817.
<http://www.exhibits.lsa.umich.edu/New/Welcome.html>

Urban Toddler – This is a newly opened play space and boutique. It has various play areas for different ages and classes too (even toddler ballroom dancing!). Coffee and free wireless for parents. Located in Saline.
<http://www.myurbantoddler.com/>

Whirly Ball of Ann Arbor – 640 Phoenix Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48104, 734-975-6909, Bring the whole family for a fun and exciting game of Whirly Ball, a combination of basketball and Jai-Alai that is played from an electronic bumper car.
<http://www.annarbor.org/pages/whirlyball.html>

Wide World of Sports – Soccer and Lacrosse leagues and more. Classes starting at 2 years old and up, up, up! Camps galore.
<http://www.wideworld-sports.com/index.asp>

Wild Swan Theater - Does fabulous theater productions for children and families. 668-7292, 995-0530,
<http://www.wildswantheater.org>

Zap Zone Family Fun Centre – Laser Tag, Arcade and Snacks. They do host birthday parties and lock-ins. 2809 Boardwalk, Ann Arbor, MI, (734)930-6670
<http://www.zap-zone.com/mainsite.htm>

Story Times

Barnes and Noble Story Times – Every Wednesday & Thursday. Storytelling programs and craft activities for kids. Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973-1618.

Borders in Arborland – 11am every Friday at Arborland location. Free. Includes story time, small snack (sometimes just candy), craft and prizes each week. 734.677.6948

Borders Express Story Times – 11 a.m. every Saturday at the mall location. Free, 669-0875.

Mother Goose Story Time – at Hollander's in Kerrytown, held the first Sunday of the month at 2pm. It is free and open to the public. For more information, call 734-769-3115.

Nicola's Books – Every Saturday at 11am. Storytelling program for kids. Nicola's, Westgate Shopping Center. Free. 662-0600.

Shaman Drum Bookstore Children's Hour – Thursdays at 11am for kids 2-6. Free. Call 662-7407

Zion Lutheran Story Time -- We meet Tuesdays at 9:30am in the Ark at Zion Lutheran. The Ark room is on the upstairs level and has a Noah's Ark painted on the door. We have open play for about half an hour, then a story and craft/activity...Plus a light snack! So invite a friend and come along! Free. Contact Jennifer Bergman jenjoy@ucar.edu or 994-4455

Playgroups Around Town

Ann Arbor Library Play Days for Babies and Preschool Story Times – 327-8301

<http://www.aadl.org/events/list/?search=playgroups>

<http://www.aadl.org/events/list/?search=storytime>

See the above links as times vary on library branch. Also, main library branch is an awesome place to go on a rainy day. The kids' room has a fish tank, computers, puzzles, art projects, tons of books and an open play area that is usually deserted.

First Steps Program – Very reasonable prices program run by Ann Arbor Public Schools. Offers play groups and classes for kids aged 0-5. Also parent mentors available. Great way to meet other moms!

<http://www.aaps.k12.mi.us/firststeps.home/home>

MOPS Program – There are 5 local MOPS groups around the Ann Arbor area. These are great Christian support groups for moms that meet several times a month. Childcare is included in the dues. For more information see <http://www.mops.org/>

Washtenaw Recreation Center – Drop-in open playtime for infants to 5 years old. Children must be accompanied by an adult. The cost for \$4 per child, with no fee to adults who attend with children. Program runs October through April, Tuesdays & Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m. The program is held in the east gym and has many things for young children to do. Among the available toys are a playhouse, parachute, four-foot basket and several toy trucks. Come enjoy the fun and meet new friends. 2960 Washtenaw at Platt Road. 971-6337.

http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/parks_recreation/mlm/pr_pktotttime.html

Events Each Week

Ann Arbor Observer is a wonderful source of daily events around the area for kids, families and adults too.

<http://www.annarborobserver.com/subscribe.html>

Arbor Web – To Do List each week for Families—Web Version of Ann Arbor Observer

<http://www.arborweb.com/eventindex.fk.html> or <http://www.arborweb.com/cg/t0059.html>

Things to Do in Chelsea MI. Chelsea Chamber of Commerce , 475-1145,

<http://chelsea.surelutions.com/>

Parks and Rec

Ann Arbor Parks (and Rec) – 147 across the city

<http://www.ci.ann-arbor.mi.us/CommunityServices/Parks/parks.html>

Ypsilanti Parks (and Rec) – LOTS

<http://cityofypsilanti.com/services/recreation/recparksfacility>

Saline Parks (and Rec)

<http://www.city-saline.org/parks>

Dexter parks (and Rec) – 5 parks

<http://www.villageofdexter.org/Parks%20&%20Rec%20Page.htm>

Clothing Stores

At the Mall – Gymboree, Children's Place, Gap Kids, Stride Rite + Department Stores. A great play area with running space outside JC Penney.

<http://www.shopbriarwood.com/>

Children's Orchard – A resale shop where you can sell them your children's clothes and buy modern name brands like Old Navy and the Gap. 2216 South Main Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48103, (734) 995-8889

<http://www.childrensorchar.com>

Old Navy – Fairly inexpensive children's clothing. 3655 Washtenaw Ave, Ann Arbor, 48104 (734) 677-3251

<http://www.oldnavy.com>

Once Upon a Child -- A resale shop where you can sell them your children's clothes and buy modern name brands like Old Navy and the Gap. Also has maternity clothes, baby furniture, toys and books.

3426 Washtenaw Ave. Ann Arbor, MI 48104 (734) 971-6822

<http://www.ouac.com>

For additions to this list, please email Jennifer Bergman at jenjoy@ucar.edu

We have done our best to provide correct information, but please verify prices, times and directions using the web sites or phone numbers listed.

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