



Ebenezer
CHILD CARE FROM THE HEART

Parenting Tip: Educational Family Fun Activities

Just because it's summer, your children don't need to take a vacation from learning.

According to Samantha Stern, training and development director at Ebenezer Child Care Centers, "It's important to make sure that your children continue to learn throughout the summer, and it's easy to find many fun, educational activities that you can do to make sure they stay engaged in learning."

Participating In Public Library Summer Reading Programs

Stern suggests that, when the weather gets hot, you head indoors to one of Milwaukee's wonderful public libraries. All locations offer books that you can check out free of charge as well as other fun activities such as story hours. During summer, all of the Milwaukee public libraries host a Super Reading Program where children keep track of the minutes they read either to themselves or to someone else or when someone reads to them. For each hour of reading they complete, children fill in a box inside a special folder. Prizes are awarded based on how much they read. For more information visit http://www.mpl.org/summerreading/superreader_index.htm.

Visiting Museums

Stern says that families in Milwaukee should consider themselves lucky with the abundance of great museums in the region. The Milwaukee Public Museum offers interesting and educational exhibits on Africa, Asia, Europe, the Arctic, South and Middle America, the Pacific Islands, and a Costa Rican Rainforest. It also has a great exhibit that allows families to step back in time to the turn-of-the-century on the Streets of Old Milwaukee. In addition, the museum houses the world's largest-known dinosaur skull and a life-sized replica of Tyrannosaurus Rex. Plus, there is a live free-flying butterfly exhibit that children just love. For more information, visit <http://www.mpm.edu/>.

The Betty Brinn Children's Museum is a great hands-on exploratory for children under age eight. The museum features It's Artastic!, where children can explore the visual, language, and performing arts; It's Your Move!, Raceways, and On A Roll, where children can experiment with gravity, acceleration, and momentum; The Let's Play Railway!; A Trading Place, where children can role-play jobs in the community;

WBB-TV, a mock-TV studio; and Betty's Busy Backyard, especially designed for infants and toddlers. For more information, visit <http://www.bbcmkids.org/>.

Discovery World Museum on Milwaukee's lakefront connects innovation, science, technology, and the environment with exploration through interactive exhibits. The museum includes the Reiman aquariums which feature aquatic life from the Great Lakes, North Atlantic, and the Caribbean. There's also a Les Paul's House of Sound exhibit where families can experience Les Paul's life, his amazing personal collection, and the technology that has shaped modern music. Plus, there is the Johnson Control's TechnoJungle where families can join in the hunt for the next great idea by exploring the tangle of technology, inventions, and ideas. For more information, visit <http://www.discoveryworld.org>.

Exploring Nature and Learning About the Great Outdoors

If being outside is more your idea of fun, Wisconsin has 42 state hiking trails that offer families a wonderful way to get up close with nature and learn about the great outdoors. In addition, Wisconsin's state parks, forests, and recreation areas are offer endless adventures and opportunities for learning about forests, prairies, lakes, rivers, hills, and valleys. You'll find campgrounds, trails, historic and archaeological sites, places for solitude, and places to explore nature all around you. For more information, go to <http://dnr.wi.gov/>.

Ebenezer Child Care Centers will be hosting a **FREE Family Fun Night** on "Fun & Educational Family Activities" on **Tuesday, July 13th**, from **4:30-6:30 p.m.** at their Mequon Center located at 10333 North Enterprise Drive in Mequon.

Parents are always looking for new activities to do as a family. Come to our July Family Fun Night to discover leisurely pursuits that you and your children will find not only fun but enriching! Activities for this Family Fun Night will include playing board games, doing a cooking experience, and planting flowers. In addition to the activities, you will have the opportunity to enjoy dinner on us! Registration is required. Please call 414-643-5070 to register.