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# April 2022

# CONTENTS

## COLUMNS

- 10 The Learning Curve.** Train Those Brains! Growth Mindset in Kids
- 14 Lifelines.** What Your Child Needs To Know About Dogs
- 15 Family Matters.** Understanding the Child With Autism  
*Family Matters can be found in Spanish at austinfamily.com.*
- 24 Just for Grins.** Stalling for Summer

## calendar

- 23 Calendar**  
Check [www.austinfamily.com](http://www.austinfamily.com) for daily updates.

## In every issue

- 4 Austin in Action.** News and Notes
- 6 Play It Safe.** Recalls on Consumer Products
- 7 Smart Screen Time.** Springtime and Screen Time  
*Smart Screen Time can be found in Spanish at austinfamily.com.*
- 9 Places To Go & Things To Do.** Celebrating Our Earth

## extras

- 6 Reader's Poll Favorite Ballot**
- 12 Education Guide**
- 17 Camp Guide**



## FILM REVIEW

By Jack Kyser

### Apollo 10 1/2

Read online at: [www.austinfamily.com/films](http://www.austinfamily.com/films)



Cover kid Jayden is 11 years old and does all he can to protect the environment.  
Photo by Karen Andrews of Jordan Ashley Photography.



## 8

## Four Family-Fun Ways To Act on Climate

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

ANNETTE LUCKSINGER

*Lucksinger is a mom of two and author of the guidebook and app "Exploring Austin With Kids."*

Each of the articles in this month's issue contributes to an underlying theme – the roles that community support and understanding play in improving life, whether it be that of a friend, school classmate or the planet itself. So, this spring, why not lend a listening ear and open yourself up to learning something new?

On a related note, our education column offers tips on how to develop a growth mindset starting at an early age. It's an inspiring read that will make you and your children want to take on the world.

Both our Earth Day article "Four Family-

Fun Ways To Act on Climate" and this month's "Places To Go, Things To Do" column take on the topic of climate change. They show ways to empower kids to take action to protect our planet, while having fun doing it. Bonus points if you connect with others in the process.

If your little tree-huggers embrace these activities and want enough Earth Day action to last all month, check out the calendar and "Austin in Action" sections. Both are filled with earth-friendly, outdoor activities and events, from Squirrel Fest in Pease Park to citywide cleanups.

Happy spring, Austin,

Think you can't picnic and PBS?  
**Think again.**

With outdoor-friendly apps from PBS Kids, there are plenty of springtime adventures just waiting to happen. Explore more at [AustinPBS.org](http://AustinPBS.org).

Austin

# Austin IN ACTION

GO TO [AUSTINFAMILY.COM](http://AUSTINFAMILY.COM) FOR WEEKLY UPDATES OF AUSTIN IN ACTION NEWS

## Private School Scholarships

Kirby Hall, a private college preparatory school serving students in pre-K4 through 12th grades, has initiated a new program to offer a unique experience to academically-motivated students who may never have considered pursuing a private school education.

Kirby Hall School's executive director Helen Roberts explains that the Open Door campaign will offer "the opportunity of an exceptional private school and inclusive education to any child who is enthusiastic about learning regardless of their financial standing."



The Open Door campaign will provide full-tuition scholarships for students seeking admission to Kirby Hall's middle school program. For the upcoming 2022-2023 school year, ten scholarships will be available on a first-come basis to those applying for sixth grade. All application, enrollment, facilities and tuition fees will be covered for the entire three years of middle school.

To be eligible, students must meet standard admissions criteria and demonstrate that they are academically suited to the advanced curriculum. Visit [kirbyhallschool.org](http://kirbyhallschool.org) to learn more about admissions and the Open Door scholarships.

## Students Make Wishes Come True

For the sixth year, members of Cedar Valley Middle School's National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) led a fundraiser to bring cheer to children with life-threatening illnesses. They organized a carnival and walk with Kids for Wish Kids, part of the Make-A-Wish Foundation.



Students from Cedar Valley Middle School raised funds for the Make-a-Wish Foundation to grant the wishes of three children. Courtesy of Round Rock ISD.

Students projected that the student-planned event would raise \$10,000, enough for two children to receive their wishes: one to travel to tour colleges and another to go on a family trip to Walt Disney World. This year, however, they surpassed their goal, raising over \$15,000 – enough to fulfill a third child's wish. The wish recipients received their wishes at a school pep rally where they were guests of honor.

## Sustainable School Cafeterias

Round Rock Independent School District is piloting a composting program at three schools where nearly every lunch item, from the flatware to the trays, are composted or recycled. Sklyer Amdur, Chef Manager at Round Rock ISD, says, "Everything students pick up will be either recycled or composted."

So far, the program has focused on education, with students learning how to separate items as well as what happens to the different types of waste after being picked up. Students sort



## by the numbers

**#1**  
Austin's Capitol 10,000 is the largest 10K in Texas  
source: [cap10k.com](http://cap10k.com)

**93**  
Number of years Austin's Kite Fest has been flying  
source: [abckitefest.org](http://abckitefest.org)

**70%**  
The average number of recycled materials in Austin's City Hall  
source: [emporis.com](http://emporis.com)

leftover items into buckets for landfill trash, compost or Styrofoam. Trash and compost are picked up while Styrofoam cafeteria trays are processed through an on-site machine and converted back into petroleum.

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The ABC Kite Fest returns to Zilker Park. Courtesy of Business Wire.

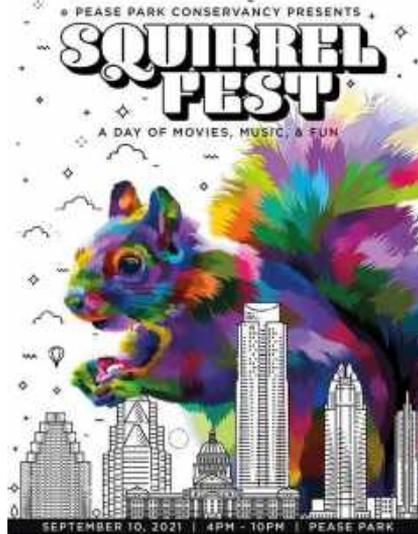
### Go Fly a Kite!

One of Austin's beloved traditions, the ABC Kite Fest, will return to Zilker Park on April 3 for kite flyers, families and outdoor enthusiasts of all ages. With thousands of bright kites filling the Austin skyline, the Kite Fest is now the largest and longest-running festival of its kind.

This year's event will include a kite showcase and community kite contest, children's concert, pet zone, local food and drink vendors and more. Proceeds from the ABC Kite Fest benefit Communities in Schools of Central Texas and the Moss Pieratt Foundation. For the schedule, transportation details and additional information, visit [abckitefest.org](http://abckitefest.org).

### Squirrel Fest

Squirrel Fest, presented by Pease Park Conservancy and H-E-B, will be a day of music, fun and a movie in the park – to celebrate the newly revitalized 7-acre Kingsbury Commons. This free, family-friendly festival will feature live music, children's activities, a marketplace and food vendors, in addition to the Kingsbury Commons park amenities.



## Things To Celebrate

**April 3**

ABC Kite Fest  
Zilker Park

**April 9**

Squirrel Fest  
Pease Park

**April 22**

EarthDay

The recently remodeled park now includes a state-of-the-art water feature, a new nature-themed playground area, a bocce court, renovated basketball courts and an innovative treescape. Stay until dark to watch the movie "Zootopia" on the Great Lawn. The event takes place on April 9 from 4-10 p.m. For details, see [peasepark.org/squirrel-fest](http://peasepark.org/squirrel-fest).



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## Play it product recalls **SAFE** Government Recalls

### Wooden Teethers, Infant Walkers and Drinking Cups



Bebe au Lait is recalling  
8,600 **wooden teethers**  
due to the potential for the  
string that connects the  
beads on the teethers to come untied,  
releasing the beads. This can pose  
a choking hazard to young children.  
The recall involves 12 different styles of  
wooden teethers that are stamped with  
"Bebe au Lait" and one of the following  
date codes: 02-2019, 10-2020 or 03-  
2021. The products were sold at Target  
and various other stores nationwide as  
well as online at Bebeaulait, Zulily and  
other websites from May 2019 through  
October 2021 for about \$15. Consumers  
should immediately take the teethers  
away from children and contact Bebe au  
Lait for instructions on how to receive a  
full refund or store credit. Consumers can  
also fill out a form for a store credit  
at [bebeaulait.com/recall](http://bebeaulait.com/recall).



Zeno has issued a recall for  
over 1,300 **infant walkers**  
because they fail to meet  
federal safety standards.

They can fit through a  
standard doorway and are not designed  
to stop at the edge of a step. The walkers  
also have leg openings that allow a child  
to slip down until the child's head can  
become entrapped at the neck. Babies  
using these walkers can be seriously  
injured or killed. This recall involves Zeno  
collapsible infant walkers with adjustable  
height settings. They were sold exclusively  
online at Walmart from October 2018 to  
August 2021 for between \$130 and \$160.  
Consumers should immediately stop using  
the recalled infant walkers and contact  
Zeno at [cs@zeno999.com](mailto:cs@zeno999.com) for a refund.



About 169,000 steel **drinking  
cups** in the Lovevery's  
Inspector Play Kits are being  
recalled. The handle can  
detach from the steel cup

and pose a choking hazard to young  
children. Only cups with a handle are  
included in this recall. They were sold  
online at [lovevery.com](http://lovevery.com) for about \$80 from  
July 2018 through July 2021 as part of the  
Inspector Play Kit for children. Consumers  
should stop using the recalled item and  
contact Lovevery for a free replacement.



# Springtime & Screen Time

Ah, it's springtime, when the plants are in bloom, the animals are frolicking, and young minds turn to... exactly what they were doing all winter.

No! That's not right! We want to shake things up! But our kids are not always ready to follow our lead, especially if they have developed some well-worn habits.

With my own kids, I have tried the tactic that my parents used on me: "Go outside and don't come in until dark." But I think our kids are much better at identifying hypocrisy than we were, so that message usually doesn't go anywhere. Sometimes, we just have to accept our roles as role models and get up and out for some badly needed outdoor time. If your home is like mine, there may be groans and cries of, "Are we done now?" Yet, in the end, everyone is glad to have made the extra effort.

If you are amenable to the idea of using smart devices in outdoor activities, Pokémon Go will surely have kids roaming neighborhoods in greater numbers. PBS Kids has the free Nature Cat Outdoor Adventures app (phone and tablet), which encourages outdoor explorations and observations. WGBH, the PBS station in Boston, has created a whole series of free science-oriented apps for iPads called Early Science with Nico and Nor. It includes a Plants Journal app for tracking progress in the garden, or budding filmmakers can make this spring's next great action film!



**SMART SCREEN TIME**

BENJAMIN KRAMER

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

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- Sarah F. (6yrs old)

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# Four Fun Ways To Act on Climate Change

**This Earth Month**, plant the seeds for family climate action all year long. Three years ago I started a meetup for Austin parents around climate change. I was worried for my kid's future – for all kids' futures – and felt tired of watching helplessly from the sidelines.

What I didn't expect was how climate activism would benefit my family physically and mentally – and it has come with a side of fun. At age 42, I hopped on my first bike since I was a teenager. Now family bike rides are a weekend ritual. I've made new parent friends who have shared their favorite learning-to-read apps, alongside their concerns about climate change. Best of all, my son has been by my side from the start: he's seen me model civic engagement and has joined in on climate conversations and trash pick-ups.

Below are four family-centered ideas that you can customize to your kids' ages and interests. What they share is an emphasis on fostering closeness, connection and community. Certainly, individual household actions like making recycled art with kids or planting a garden can develop crucial values around sustainability. But in my experience, something truly magical happens when we come together on climate change.

Busy parents, take note: you don't have to do it all! Choose one item that fits your family's priorities, budget and schedule. Try it out. Then be open to what comes next.

**Clean up your act** – Park and creek clean-ups like those organized by Keep Austin Beautiful and Austin Parks Foundation are an active, hands-on way to get outside and connect helpers as young as three years old with environmental action.

**Try alternative transportation** – bike, bus, stroll and scooter. Transportation counts for 40% of Austin's carbon emissions. Eliminating short trips by car not only lowers our footprint, it also provides exercise, bonding time and a greater

sense of place. Commit to one family outing each week: pledge to bike to school on Fridays or to visit the neighborhood park by foot, scooter or wagon. If you have younger kids, invest in a bike seat, cargo bike or trailer, if your budget allows.

**Amplify kids' voices** – and follow their lead. Empower your kids to speak out on what matters to them. Is your child passionate about protecting an endangered species or reducing plastic consumption? Connecting kids to specific actions can help alleviate worry and boost their sense of agency. Your job is to offer them the tools to express themselves and make an impact.

**Challenge them to organize a fundraiser** at a local park, or partner with your kid's school to raise funds as a class.

**Send your kids outside to create a message** for neighbors with sidewalk chalk.

**Contact government leaders.** Take a few minutes to prepare some talking points, then call your representative's office together. Or send handwritten notes or drawings to a government official, then share on social media with the hashtag #FridaysForFuture.

**Get outside** – At one of our meetups, Families in Nature director Heather Kuhlken observed, "If kids and parents don't love nature, why would they ever vote to save a park or a species?" Pure joy and presence in the outdoors can go a long way toward nurturing kids' lifelong environmental values. Make outdoor fun a collective experience by joining a nature-based group. Check out the Children in Nature Collaborative of Austin (CINCA) for a great list of local groups and resources.

EILEEN MCGINNIS

*McGinnis is founder of The Parents' Climate Community, an Austin-based meetup supporting caregivers, families and allies to act on climate change.*



*Parents' Climate Community members participate in It's My Park Day with Ghisallo Cycling Initiative. Photo courtesy of Eileen McGinnis*



# Celebrating Our Earth

Each month, topics in this column alternate between fun, new places to go and family-friendly things to do at home. This month, the YMCA shares an earth-themed art project for the yard and a yoga stance. Give both a try!

The first Earth Day in 1970 brought 20 million people together to learn about environmental challenges facing our planet. Now, every year on April 22, people all over the world celebrate Earth Day to raise awareness on issues like pollution, waste and deforestation.

Students in Extend-A-Care YMCA afterschool programs engage in environmentally-themed activities all month long, and YOU CAN, TOO with your family. Activities such as picking up litter, planting trees and being active outside are great ways to be a planet hero and celebrate. Here are a couple of additional suggestions:



Photo courtesy YMCA

## Recycled Plastic Art

Recycling is how we take trash and transform it into new products. This project teaches kids about the concept through a hands-on activity.

### Materials Needed:

- Empty plastic water bottles, cleaned with labels removed
- Colorful permanent markers
- Scissors

Give each artist a water bottle. Make sure bottles are clean and dry on the outside. Once the bottles are ready, get to coloring them! Permanent markers are a must for this step. Washable ink will not adhere to the plastic.

After the coloring is complete, it's time to turn your bottles into spirals. With the scissors, remove the flat bottom of



Photo courtesy YMCA

the bottle and recycle it (or save it for a future craft project).

Starting at the cut edge, snip around and around, from the bottom of the bottle to the top, to create a spiral. Stop cutting when you get to the smooth, rounded "shoulders" of the bottle.

Take your art piece outside. Holding the lip of the bottle, watch your colorful wind spirals bounce and dance in the breeze.

## Tree Pose

Nothing gets you in tune with nature more than finding a quiet spot outdoors where you can calm your body and mind and become one with the elements. Head outdoors with your kids and try this classic yoga pose – it's easy and yet oh-so-challenging at the same time.

Begin standing straight with your hands at your heart. Find a focus point with your eyes.

When you are ready, shift your weight to

your left foot and turn your right knee out to the side.

Rest your right heel on your left ankle, keeping your toe on the floor.

If you are feeling balanced, try lifting your right foot up to rest on the middle of your calf. Slowly grow your arm branches up to the sky. Your arms should be straight with your shoulders. Relax your shoulders and pull them down away from your ears.

You can bring your hands together over your head to make a pine tree or keep them apart to create an oak tree. Balance in the pose for 3-5 minutes, taking slow, deep breaths.

## YMCA

*Families can enjoy nature up close at Family Play Day, Saturday, April 30, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at YMCA Camp Moody in Buda. Grab your friends and family for this free community event with everything from canoeing to family yoga and angler education to the challenge course! Visit [AustinYMCA.org](http://AustinYMCA.org) for details.*



## THE Learning curve

ALISON BOGLE

*Bogle is a writer living in Austin with her husband and three children. A former fourth grade teacher, she now enjoys writing about children and education. You can also catch her talking about articles from Austin Family magazine each Thursday morning on FOX 7 Austin.*

**What if you could help your child be more resilient,** see failures as opportunities instead of stop signs, have a greater sense of self-confidence, and be a more curious, engaged learner? You can – by helping your child to develop a growth mindset rather than a fixed mindset!

People with a fixed mindset believe that their abilities are just that – fixed. To them, there is little point in working to improve their mental or physical abilities because they believe that their skills, talents and intelligence cannot change.

People with a growth mindset believe

# Train Those Brains! Growth Mindset in Kids

that their abilities can grow over time. They believe that applying effort and persistence can have a direct effect on their success. They are open to feedback because they believe they can improve by trying new methods, and they see mistakes as learning opportunities rather than signs of failure.

### The brain works like a muscle

Start by talking to your child about the idea of a growth mindset versus a fixed mindset. The brain is made up of billions of neurons that transmit messages to each other. As we learn something new, the brain strengthens these connections between neurons. Practice and effort translate into stronger neural pathways that allow new skills to become easier to acquire over time. Teach your child that he can actually grow his brain by trying new things and not giving up when something is difficult. When children learn that the brain acts like a muscle that they can build and make stronger, they get excited to try and improve.

### Model a growth mindset

One of the best ways to teach a growth mindset is to adopt one yourself. Our children are always observing us. Many of their attitudes, behaviors and ideas come from those demonstrated by the important adults in their lives.

When you face a challenge, narrate your thinking out loud so they can learn from your resilient attitude. You might say something like, “Wow! This is really difficult. I guess I need to keep practicing so I can improve.” Or you might comment, “Whew! This is really tricky. I’m going to take a short break and then try it a different way.” While it might be tempting to hide your mistakes from your children, by showing your struggles, you are demonstrating that challenges are just a part of life and not a reason to quit. Talk about what you’ve learned from your mistakes so you can model using them as a vehicle for growth and improvement.

## Praise the process, not the product

"You are so smart!" and "Great job!" are examples of "product praise," as they praise the outcome of the effort, not the effort itself. Product praise tends to come easiest to parents, but by using this type of praise, we can inadvertently send the message that the only important part of the experience is the final result. When a child needs to work harder at something to develop the skill, she may be more likely to give up if she isn't achieving the end result that she wants.

By praising the process, children can feel proud of the progress they have made. You might say, "Wow! I see how hard you've been working to learn to tie your shoes and you have already figured out the first part. You're really sticking with it and learning!" The key is to shift the focus to effort. For example, "Last year you couldn't even dribble a basketball with your left hand, but since you've been practicing, you can almost dribble as well as you can with your right!"

## Add "yet" to your vocabulary

Teach your child to use positive self-talk when getting discouraged. When faced with a challenge, one of the easiest ways to help your child switch out of a fixed mindset into a growth mindset is to add the word "yet." It works especially well with sentences that include "can't" or "don't" because it reverses the negativity. For example, "I can't do multiplication" becomes "I can't do multiplication yet." Just one little word changes the whole situation from one that feels hopeless to one that still holds possibility for growth.

## Make a growth folder

Give your child a paper folder and let him draw a picture on the cover or write a short story that illustrates his idea of success. Every so often, add an example of success that came as a result of a growth mindset to the folder. It might be a good grade on a math test that was a result of hard work and studying, or it could be a drawing of learning to ride a bike. Periodically go through the folder together and relive the examples of growth. You can talk together about what helped your child to achieve each success. When school, extracurriculars or life in general feels hard, flip through the folder together to



help your child remember that times of growth and progress often come after struggles or challenges.

By teaching our children about the benefits of having a growth mindset,

we will be helping them to be more confident, resilient and persistent. Rather than being a reason to give up, failure will simply become an invitation to keep trying, or to try a different strategy, until success is achieved. Not only will we be helping them in childhood, but these skills will be carried into adulthood and will serve them well in all aspects of life.



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# What Your Child Needs To Know About Dogs

## LIFELINES

BRENDA SCHOOLFIELD

*Schoolfield is a freelance medical writer based in Austin.*

Here's a "safety talk" to have with your child: what to do when interacting with dogs. You've probably had many conversations about how to cross the street, how to deal with strangers and other safety concerns. But what are you teaching her about staying safe around dogs — your family's or someone else's?

About 4.7 million people are bitten by dogs every year in the US. According to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), children are the most common victims of dog bites. In fact, dog bite injury is one of the top nonfatal injuries to children. By teaching your children appropriate ways to interact with dogs, however, you can help your children avoid such situations.

### How To Prevent a Bite

All dogs can bite if provoked, but most dog bites can be prevented. Never let young children play with a dog unsupervised, even the family pet. Remember that just because a dog is part of the family doesn't mean she won't bite. Educate your child about how to behave around all dogs, both familiar and unfamiliar.

If the dog is unfamiliar, ask the owner for permission before petting. Don't be surprised if the answer is "no." Many dogs are not socialized and can become aggressive around strangers. Don't think that a dog will be friendly because of the breed or how cute it is. If the owner does give permission to pet the dog, let the dog see and sniff you first.

### Then follow these tips:

**DON'T disturb a dog who is eating.** Many dogs are food aggressive and will bite if you take away their bone or that hot dog you dropped.

**DON'T bother a dog who is sleeping** or with her puppies.

**DON'T pull a dog's ears,** immobilize a dog's head with both hands or pull a dog's tail.

**DON'T put your face next to a dog's face** and stare at him nose to nose.

**DON'T make loud noises next to a dog,** such as screaming or blowing a loud horn.

**DON'T try to "ride" a dog.**

**DON'T tease a dog.**

**DON'T reach through a fence** to pet a dog.

**DON'T play aggressively with a dog,** such as rolling around.

**DON'T go after a dog** who doesn't want to play anymore. The dog may try to hide or go to his bed to get away.

### If a Bite Happens

Dog bites can be serious. In fact, the AVMA says one in five dog bites require medical attention. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends contacting your pediatrician for any animal bite that breaks the skin. Your child might need a tetanus shot or antibiotics. The CDC recommends the following care for dog bites.

#### For minor wounds:

Wash the area thoroughly with soap and water. Apply an antibiotic cream. Cover the wound with a clean bandage.

Get medical care if the child develops a fever, the wound become red, painful, warm or swollen, or if the dog that bit the child starts acting strangely.

#### For deep wounds:

Apply pressure to stop the bleeding. Use a clean, dry cloth, if available. If you don't stop the bleeding or if the child feels faint or weak, call 9-1-1. Get medical care right away.

### Disease Risk

Dog bites can cause problems from the spread of germs. The most serious disease is rabies, which can be spread through a bite from an infected animal. If not treated early, rabies is almost always fatal. Dogs are supposed to have routine rabies vaccinations.

If you do not know for sure that the dog that bit your child is current with its rabies vaccine, get information so that the authorities can find out. Obtain the dog owner's name, address and phone number. Ask for the dog's veterinarian contact information for verification of rabies vaccination.

### Reporting in Texas

Texas has reporting requirements for animal bites. Call 3-1-1 to report the incident if your child did not need emergency care. Most animals that have bitten a person must either be quarantined or

observed. All animal bites must be reported to Animal Protection. Owners of the dog involved must provide a current rabies vaccination certificate.





## FAMILY MATTERS

BETTY RICHARDSON

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

# Understanding the Child With Autism Spectrum Disorder

**Q** I'm the father of a 3-year-old son, who recently has been diagnosed as on the autism spectrum. His mother died last year, so I'm the sole one responsible for getting him what he needs to succeed in life. I've learned about a special education program in the school system that starts at age 3 for kids with learning disabilities, including autism. Can you tell me what adjustments at home would be helpful, and how I can prepare my son to shift into a public school system from the day care where he goes now?

**VISIT [austinfamily.com](http://austinfamily.com)  
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Entender al Niño con Autismo**

**A** You mentioned a special education program in the school system for students with learning disabilities. You might refer to the article "Special Education 101: Meeting Your Child's Needs." It offers a good understanding of the program and the process for assessing the level of school support that will help him succeed.

Let me now address your other questions and hopefully add a bit of encouraging news as well. As you noted, autism is on a spectrum and severity levels vary among children. Early signs of autism spectrum disorder

generally include delayed milestones, social awkwardness, and difficulty with verbal and nonverbal communication. The child will tend not to smile, offer eye contact or imitate others (such as waving goodbye). Children with autism tend to have delayed or lost speech and lack empathy.

Regarding adjustments you can make at home, like neurotypical kids, children on the autism spectrum almost always like consistency and routines. They don't like change. Routines are usually comforting, so avoid interrupting repetitive behaviors. Children with autism often don't like to stop what they are doing and move to a new activity. You can ease such transitions with warnings. For example, you might say, "In 10 minutes, we will do X." Then give reminders as the activity time nears its end. To help with social skills, talk to your child as much as you can. Model social skills for him. It is crucial to provide opportunities to parallel play with other children too.

To help with the transition from day care to public school, take your son to the new school a few times. Show him the classrooms and introduce him to teachers. With permission, take pictures to show him at home. Talk about school and what to expect. Talk, talk, talk. The more you talk to and with him, the better. You might also benefit from finding a group of parents of

children with autism who can share their experiences, or join an autism association, such as [autismspeaks.org](http://autismspeaks.org) and [autismsociety.org](http://autismsociety.org). They can provide support and answer your questions. I also recommend the books "The Way I See It" by Grandin Temple and "The Loving Push" by Debra Moore.

People with autism often have what some experts call "islands of brilliance." One highly successful businessman with autism was able to build whole ships in his mind. He saw the proper dimensions of every aspect of the ships. I recently connected with the mother of a boy with autism. He had been able to read at two years old. She stresses the importance of talking with her son. Lots of work with speech therapists and her own conversations with her son have improved his speech and socialization skills. Be watching for special interests and skills that your son has and help him make use of those skills and interests.

Of course, it is more difficult when a child with severe autism lacks interests. In that case, caregivers will work very hard to get small gains. With professional help, a child can still show improvement.

Father, you have a challenge to maximize your son's potential. The more effort and time you spend with him, the more likely it is that he will succeed in life.

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 Early Drop-Off (8-9) \$50  
 \$100 deposit per week/per child  
 10% sibling discount

May 31 - June 3 Carnival  
 JUNE 6-10 Under the Big Top  
 \*JUNE 13-17 Cirque 'du Jump!  
 \*JUNE 20-24 80 Days Around the World  
 \*JUNE 27-JULY 1 Medieval Madness  
 \*JULY 5-8 Renaissance Revival  
 JULY 11-15 Fairytale Adventure  
 JULY 18-22 Pirates!

JULY 25-29 Shipwreck  
 AUGUST 1-5 Rainforest Funfari  
 AUGUST 8-12 Hawaiian Luau



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 Phone: 512-593-6226

**Camp Latinitas CALENDAR 2022**

**JUNE / JULY**

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>CINE CHICA</b> JUNE 27TH - JULY 1ST							2
<b>DESIGN CHICA</b> JULY 4TH - 8TH							
<b>POWER CHICA</b> JULY 12TH - 16TH							
<b>HEALTHY CHICA</b> JULY 18TH - 22ND							
<b>GAME CHICA</b> JULY 25TH - 29TH							
<b>IN PERSON AND VIRTUAL CAMPS OFFERED</b>	24						30

SIGN UP FOR IN PERSON CAMPS! 

SIGN UP FOR VIRTUAL CAMPS! 



### YMCA OF AUSTIN SUMMER DAY CAMP

Enjoy field trips, swimming, games and more in a character-building environment.  
Locations in Austin, Hays, Manor and Round Rock, 512-236-9622  
www.austinyymca.org  
Ages 4-13

### OVERNIGHT CAMPS

#### SUGAR & SPICE RANCH CAMP

We help bond mothers and daughters through horses. 884 Rikki Drive, Bandera 830-460-8487 Ages 5 and up  
www.texas-horse-camps.com

### YMCA CAMP TWIN LAKES

We give campers the chance to reconnect with the simple joys of being a kid. 1902 S. Bell Blvd., Cedar Park 512-792-2639 www.ymcagwc.org  
Ages 5-14

### SPECIAL NEEDS CAMP

#### RED ARENA SUMMER CAMP

Kids of ALL ability levels can join in the fun with trail rides, hands-on horse care, gross motor games with the mini horses, fine motor crafts and lots of social skills. Dripping Springs, 512-221-5036  
www.redarena.org Ages 5-18



## Creative Writing Summer Camp

Summer programs led by professional writers inspire a love of reading and writing, strengthen language skills, and exercise creativity.



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2022  
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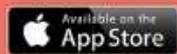
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# April 2022

Go to [austinfamily.com](http://austinfamily.com) for expanded listings.

## calendar

Any family-friendly events can be posted at [austinfamily.com](http://austinfamily.com) and will be made live once approved. Certain restrictions apply.

### Fri 1

**Movie in the Park.** 8 p.m. "The Croods: A New Age" (rated PG). Bring chairs or blankets and your snacks and coolers. Elizabeth Milburn Park, 1901 Sun Chase Blvd., Cedar Park. FREE. [cedarparktexas.gov](http://cedarparktexas.gov).

### Sat 2

**Telling a People's Story.** For the first time, African-American children's illustrated literature is the focus of a museum exhibition featuring art produced for books. Pflugerville Public Library, 1008 W. Pfluger St. [library.pflugervilletx.gov](http://library.pflugervilletx.gov).

### Sun 3

**Board Game Afternoon.** 2-6 p.m. All levels of board gamers are welcome at this come and go program. Pflugerville Recreation Center, 400 Immanuel Road. FREE. [parks.pflugervilletx.gov](http://parks.pflugervilletx.gov).

### Wed 6

**High Noon Talk: Educating the Enemy.** Noon to 1 p.m. Discover an untold history and what it revealed in post-war Texas. Bullock Texas State History Museum, 1800 Congress Ave. FREE. [thestoryoftexas.com](http://thestoryoftexas.com).

### Thu 7

**Starry Night at Girlstart.** 5-7 p.m. Girlstart's STEM studio and mini planetarium is a unique space for families to explore astronomy. Girlstart, 1400 W. Anderson Lane. FREE. [girlstart.org](http://girlstart.org).

### Fri 8

**Community Cinema & Amphitheatre Movie Night.** 7-10 p.m. "Sing 2" (rated PG). Grab chairs and a blanket, bring family and friends, and enjoy this special screening. Come explore Community First! Community First Village, 9301 Hog Eye Road. \$5-\$40. [mlf.org](http://mlf.org).

### Sat 9

**Free Easter Egg Coloring Event.** 9-11 a.m. Come decorate Easter eggs and enjoy the fun. Wolf Ranch Farmers Market, 1015 W. University Ave., Georgetown. FREE. [wolfranchtowncenter.com](http://wolfranchtowncenter.com).

**Family Nature Fest.** 1-4 p.m. Family Nature Fest focuses on connecting families with nature through a variety

of activities, demonstrations and environmental education. Garey Park, 6450 Ranch Road 2243, Georgetown. [visit.georgetown.org](http://visit.georgetown.org).

**EGGstravaganza Egg Hunt.** 2-4 p.m. Grab your basket and come on down to Lakeway City Park to celebrate our yearly EGGstravaganza event. Bunny photos, chalk art and egg hunts (by age). City Park, 502 Hurst Creek Road. FREE. [lakeway-tx.gov](http://lakeway-tx.gov).

### Sun 10

**Eggstravaganza.** Noon to 4:30 p.m. Come out to Benbrook Ranch Park as we disperse 30,000 eggs across nine separate egg hunts. Leander Public Library, 1011 S. Bagdad Road. FREE. [leandertx.gov](http://leandertx.gov).

**CAP10K.** 7 a.m. Everything's bigger in Austin. Largest 10K in Texas. Show up to run or support other runners. Starts in front of Capitol. [www.cap10k.com](http://www.cap10k.com).

**Cedar Park Egg-Stravaganza.** 2-4 p.m. Join the Parks and Recreation Department for the Cedar Park Egg-Stravaganza. Egg hunts are divided into small age groups and run continuously. Elizabeth Milburn Park, 1901 Sun Chase Blvd. FREE. [visitcedarparktexas.com](http://visitcedarparktexas.com).

### Thu 14

**Little Texans: Earth Day.** 10:30 a.m. Love your mother Earth with stories, songs and activities for ages 2-5. Bullock Texas State History Museum, 1800 Congress Ave. FREE. [thestoryoftexas.com](http://thestoryoftexas.com).

**Flashlight Egg Hunt and Movie in the Park.** 6-10 p.m. Eggs, candy, prizes and lots of fun. Bring your flashlight and a basket to fill. Pre-sale tickets only. Dell Diamond northwest parking lot, 3400 E. Palm Valley Blvd., Round Rock. \$5 - \$7. [roundrockrecreation.com](http://roundrockrecreation.com).

### Fri 15

**KidX Club Cute as a Bunny Crafts.** 10 a.m. to noon. Hop on over and join us for spring crafts, photos with the Easter Bunny, face painting and more. Wolf Ranch, 1015 W. University Ave., Georgetown. FREE. [wolfranchtowncenter.com](http://wolfranchtowncenter.com).

### Sun 17 Easter

### Fri 22

#### Earth Day

**Red Poppy Festival.** 6 p.m. The festival kicks off with stroll-through booths and concert. Saturday kicks off with parade and kid zone and more music and artists. Downtown Georgetown, Main St. FREE. [visit.georgetown.org](http://visit.georgetown.org).

### Sat 23

**Earth Day Festival 2022.** 9 a.m. to noon. Join us for the second annual Earth Day Festival. Old Settlers Park, 3300 E. Palm Valley Blvd., Round Rock. FREE. [roundrocktexas.gov](http://roundrocktexas.gov).

**Earth Day Trail Cleanup.** 9 a.m. to noon. Help us Keep Pflugerville Beautiful! Join us for a cleanup of our trails in celebration of Earth Day (a day late). Pfluger Park, 515 City Park Road. [parks.pflugervilletx.gov](http://parks.pflugervilletx.gov).

**Round Rock PopUp Art Show.** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Shop for unique and original artwork by local and area fine artists in our Round Rock PopUp Art Show. Prete Main Street Plaza, 221 E. Main St. [roundrocktexas.gov](http://roundrocktexas.gov).

**CONTINUED:** Red Poppy Festival, see Fri 22.

### Sun 24

**CONTINUED:** Red Poppy Festival, see Fri 22.

### Fri 29

#### International Dance Day

### Sat 30

**Healthy Kids Day.** 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Bring the whole family by Healthy Kids Day to learn about the amazing programs offered to children and teens in the Georgetown community. Wolf Ranch, parking lot across from Just Love Coffee. FREE. [wolfranchtowncenter.com](http://wolfranchtowncenter.com).

#### Camp Mabry Living History Weekend.

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Join us Saturday, April 30, and Sunday, May 1, for Camp Mabry Living History Weekend with living history camps, military vehicle rides, Civil War demos and more. Military Forces Museum, 2200 W. 35th St. [texasmilitaryforcesmuseum.org](http://texasmilitaryforcesmuseum.org).

# Stalling for Summer



## JUST FOR GRINS

CATE BERRY

*Berry is an Austin-based children's book author and mother of two. She also teaches writing workshops for young people at [cateberry.com](http://cateberry.com).*

I carried this summer's swimsuit candidates into the stall. Safely locked away inside, I spied chipped polish on the feet to my right. My stall mate's dreams laid rejected. Little angry bursts of color dotted the stained carpet around her. That's when it started. Cursing. Under her breath like the river Nile. She had my sympathy, as one does, questing for a new swimsuit.

Her phone rang, interrupting us.

"Yes," she said, all emotion eradicated by professionalism. The pile of bikinis on the carpet suffered a swift kick while she tried another. Her ability to multi-task, especially emotionally, earned my respect. Until the hangers crashed to the

floor with the next costume change, and I leapt out of my skin.

"That?" she said, referring to the noise. "Just some bird." She hadn't skipped a beat. I, on the other hand, had stopped breathing. There was nothing but particle board between us. Hell hath no fury like a woman dealing with swimsuit season. What would she do next?

"Dwayne." she said. I telepathically signaled Dwayne to r-u-n as she slid a foot into canary yellow swimsuit bottoms. "I'm stepping into a meeting now." And in a surgical strike of her thumb, he was silenced. I waited for the fallout. Surely, now that "the meeting" was in full swing, the mirror was

getting fired. Instead, her voice oozed admiration.

"Damn. Looks good."

I felt honored to bear witness. Both of us, here, in our separate confessional booths. Sharing a moment. Because let's face it, those stalls have heard it all. And perhaps, a decade or a year or a month ago, this might have ended like a bad movie from the nineties. But today? The canary yellow swimsuit bottoms, and how we see ourselves, are trending up.

I heard the lock from her stall and I snuck a peek as she sauntered towards the sun.

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