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Cover kid Isaac is seven years old and loves the outdoors. He also plays the violin and is a Harry Potter fan. Photo by Karen Andrews of Jordan Ashley Photography.

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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."

Location, location, location. I learned this business rule early on through lemonade stands. I grew up in a mid-sized city in South Texas on a corner lot with a stop sign. When I was six years old, I could set up a lemonade stand with guaranteed success. From that corner, I learned how to make change from a silver dollar and the thrill of having someone buy me out in a single sale. When we moved to the hill country a couple of years later, I gathered my Betty Crocker Easy-Bake Oven goods and set up a stand near my new house along a stretch of curvy

two-lane highway fifteen minutes from the nearest town. Needless to say, my signs were too small to read at 50 m.p.h. and the curve too sharp to encourage stopping. Location.

This issue celebrates this young entrepreneurial spirit and the lessons that come from delving into the world of business. Our feature article shares lots of ideas for summertime jobs to keep kids busy, creative and learning through hands-on experience. Our education article takes it further to share apps that allow young users to track their earnings, while older kids can become stock market savvy.

We also acknowledge the excitement of this time of year as school wraps up and summertime looms ever closer with the promise of active, fun-filled days.

We have so many ideas for you!

Annette

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# Austin IN ACTION

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## Rocketry Teams Advance to Nationals

Two student teams from the Harmony School of Endeavor are among 100 national finalists in the American Rocketry Challenge. The students will compete for \$100,000 in prizes at the National Finals on May 14 near Washington, D.C. The top team will win an all-expense paid trip to London for the international finals.

The contest encourages students to pursue studies and careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). More than 4,000 students from 41 states will participate. This year, teams must design, build and launch a model rocket that safely carries two raw eggs to a target altitude of 835 feet, with a target flight duration of 41-44 seconds. The rocket must then land intact without the eggs cracking or breaking.



Students from Harmony School will compete at the national level for the American Rocketry Challenge finals. Photo courtesy of Harmony School.

## Young Performers Bring Cheer

Residents at the senior living community Maravilla at The Domain recently enjoyed a private performance from ChampionsTX Cheer's Mighty Mights (1st grade) and Hot Shots (kindergarten) show teams. The girls performed tumbling, stretching and dance routines. Weeks later, the Tumble Team/Tumble Extreme Team (4th and 5th grade) and the CCA Squads (kindergarten-5th grade) returned to put on a second performance. Afterwards, the teams passed out

refreshments and spent the afternoon putting puzzles together that they had made for the residents.



A team from ChampionsTX readies to perform. Photo courtesy of Maravilla.

## Minecraft Build Challenge

Minecraft Education, working with C40 (a global network of mayors taking action to confront the climate crisis), invited three cities from around the world to participate in a Minecraft Build Challenge. Austin was one of the three chosen. The challenge will provide young people the opportunity to create more sustainable cities.

Austin Independent School District will host the citywide challenge that calls for students to design a modern transportation system for Austin that can meet the city's net-zero goals by the year 2040. Students must demonstrate an understanding of what net-zero means and demonstrate creative solutions for how leaders might improve transportation while reducing the city's carbon footprint.

Top finalists will be highlighted remotely in Sweden on June 2-3 at the Stockholm+50, celebrating 50 years of global environmental action.

## New Aquatics Center Opens

Eanes ISD has opened a new Aquatics Center adjacent to the Westlake Athletic Community Center (WACC). The facility was built with funds from the district's 2019 bond program, finalizing a decades-

## by the numbers



#1

day of most phone calls made is Mother's Day  
source: [reuters.com](http://reuters.com)



4th

of May is Star Wars Day. May the 4th be with you!  
source: [nationaltoday.com](http://nationaltoday.com)

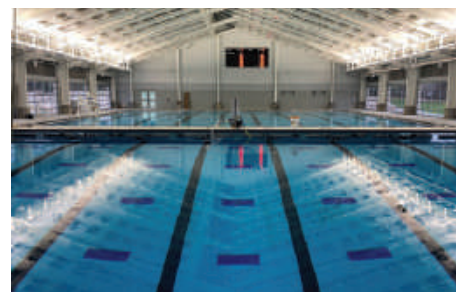


140,000

visitors come to Austin each year to see the bats  
source: [tpwd.texas.gov](http://tpwd.texas.gov)

long push for a school district pool.

The pool will be used by the Westlake High School swimming and diving programs, with a possible middle school expansion swim program, potential water polo and other district swim activities. Other intended uses will include community pool time, swim lessons and swim club rentals.



A new swim facility opened in Westlake. Photo courtesy of Eanes ISD.





The newly-installed Love Hate sculpture is on display at the Long Center. Photo courtesy of the Long Center.

### New Art Sculpture

A new, temporary art sculpture by German artist Mia Florentine Weiss has been installed at the Long Center for the Performing Arts following its arrival in Austin during SXSW. A one-word poem, the Love Hate sculpture consists of oversized letters that spell out "love" from the front and "hate" from the back.

Since May 2019, Love Hate has traveled Europe as a symbol of peace aimed at promoting social discourse. The sculpture first arrived in the U.S. in November 2021 where it was temporarily displayed in Washington, D.C. before making its way to Austin.

The art will be on display at the Long

Center's Hartman Concert Lawn until September before continuing with a stop in Houston followed by New York.

### Teaming Up To Provide Meals

No Kid Hungry Texas and Boys & Girls Clubs of the Austin Area unveiled a new refrigerated box truck that will help provide nutritious meals for families. The truck, made possible by a grant from No Kid Hungry, will help provide after-school suppers and snacks for 5,000 children at apartment complexes in the Austin area each week.

Today, as many as one in four kids in Texas could be facing hunger. For some, school lunch may be the last complete meal they eat before returning to school the next day. After-school meal programs provide not only nutrition,



but also a sense of security. They help ensure children get the nighttime nutrition needed to grow and learn.

LEFT: This refrigerated truck provides 1,000 daily dinners to children. Photo courtesy of Boys & Girls Clubs of the Austin Area.

## Things To Do

**May 1-30**

**Mother's Day May Market**

*Fridays to Sundays*

*Blue Genie Art Bazaar*

**May 4-29**

**Shakespeare in the Park**

*Thursdays to Sundays*

*Zilker Hillside Theater*

**May 7**

**Lemonade Day**

[lemonadeday.org/austin](http://lemonadeday.org/austin)

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**Play it product recalls**  
**Safe**

**Government Recalls**  
**Toddler Walkers, Kids Bicycles and Glow Rattles**

Maison Battat has recalled nearly 20,000 B. toys Walk 'n' Learn wooden activity **toddler walkers**. The wheels and wheel attachment hardware can detach from the walker in small pieces, posing a choking hazard to young children. The walkers were sold at Target stores nationwide as well as on Amazon from September 2020 through November 2021 for about \$36. Consumers should immediately contact Battat for a free repair kit. Call 844-963-2479, email recalls@battatco.com or request a kit online at battatco.com.



Commencal Ramones is recalling about 1,000 14-inch **kids bicycles**. Federal regulations require bicycles with seat heights that measure at or below 25 inches to be equipped

with foot brakes. These bicycles are equipped solely with hand brakes and can pose a crash hazard to young children who might not be able to stop the bicycles using handbrakes only. The bicycles were sold online at commencalusa.com from December 2014 through March 2021 for between \$230 and \$320. They were sold in several colors. Consumers should immediately stop using them and contact the firm for a free repair kit.

PlayMonster has issued a recall for almost 9,000 Kid O Hudson **glow rattles** that can pose a choking hazard to young children. The motion-activated rattle, shaped like a puppy, has soft plastic legs that can break off. They were sold at specialty stores nationwide as well as online at Amazon, Walmart, Playmonster and Zulily between February 2018 and February 2022. The cost was about \$25. Consumers are advised to return the recalled product to the company immediately. PlayMonster will provide a prepaid shipping label and a \$25 refund.



*The US Consumer Products Safety Commission works to protect the public from unreasonable risks of serious injury or death from more than 15,000 types of consumer products.*





# Summer of Possibilities

There are so many different ways to play, each with its characteristics and strengths. We tend to think of play in its most open-ended form, when kids are in a setting (such as a playground, a bedroom, a swimming pool), often with other kids, and they seize the freedom to create what they want. People, places and things get transformed into whatever kids want them to be in order to serve the story they are creating. Really important things happen during this kind of play – language exploration, role rehearsals, conflict and negotiation, and hopefully, lots of laughter.

Another kind of play is bounded by lots of rules and limited choices. This sounds negative, but that's how most sports and video games operate. In this type of play, you're immersed in a world that's not like daily life and given the challenge to get better at doing something while following the rules. Success implies you have acquired a skill set useful for that game. Educational games have a double sense of "winning" – not only do you acquire skills for that game, but along the way you pick up skills for learning and life.

Between these two poles of play exist tons of options for being playful while remaining in the "world as we know it," whether singing, writing, painting, cooking, filming or dressing up the dog. I find that we often ignore this rich world of possibility by focusing on the two powerhouse worlds of play described above.

Here's my wish for the summer: lots of play and playfulness for all! If you're looking for ideas, check out [pbsparents.org](http://pbsparents.org) and click on "Play."



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BENJAMIN KRAMER

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

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# 13 Ways Kids Can Cash In

Teaching kids the value and rewards of hard work and earning their own money is an integral part of helping them develop into responsible adults. Through this, they gain self-esteem, learn the real value of a dollar, and develop better saving and spending habits. So, share the list of jobs below with your young entrepreneurs for a variety of ways they can cash in this summer.

**1) The grass is always greener** – What better way to get fit and make spare cash than mowing lawns? Create some fliers, and be sure to mention you live in the neighborhood. Include your fees based on yard size, but keep the rates below the cost of professional services. Also, don't forget to include your phone number. Then deliver the fliers to homes in your neighborhood. You can lodge the fliers between doorknobs or tuck them under doormats. Just don't place anything in mailboxes because it's illegal.

**2) Young entrepreneur** – Make the most of the summertime weather by setting up a refreshment stand in your front yard. You might even team up with a neighbor to make it more fun. You'll need a small table and a handmade sign: "Cookies and Lemonade – 50 cents each." Set out a pitcher of lemonade, disposable or compostable cups and wrapped cookies. At the end of the sale, add up your profits and divide them with your partners.

**3) Too old for toys and games?** – If so, clean out those you've outgrown, and hold a sale. Make a sign to attract neighborhood kids and passersby. Lay out blankets in your front yard to spread out your goods. Keep your prices reasonable – and don't forget a 25-cent box filled with odds and ends.

**4) Kiddie care** – Are you old enough to stay home alone? If so, you may be ready to babysit for other children. Spread the word through family, friends and neighbors. When babysitting, play games and do activities with the kids. Avoid talking on the phone or watching TV. Parents love sitters that keep their children busy. Also, don't forget to clean up and wash dirty dishes.

**5) Window washing** – Offering your services for this dreaded task is sure to be a success. First, make sure your parents know the homeowner and approve of you going inside. Clean the interior of all windows, including doors. Also, don't forget to open the windows and clean the ledges and tracks. Offer to do exterior windows if you're tall enough to reach them without a ladder. Ask permission to hose them down to remove loose dirt. Then wash and dry them by hand.

**6) Weeds away** – Are weeds taking over your neighbors' flowerbeds? If so, offer to get them back into shape. Before you get started, find out which plants are weeds versus flowers they want to keep that haven't yet bloomed. When in doubt,

ask before you pull them. Wear gloves to protect your hands and hose the ground lightly to loosen roots. Dispose of weeds properly, whether in lawn bags or a city compost bin.

**7) Dollars for duds** – Have you hit another growth spurt? Ask your parents if you can consign your clothing. Search online for local consignment shops by using "resale," "used clothing," or "consignment" as search terms. Find out the shops' policies. Then get your clothes ready. Wash and de-wrinkle, then hang or fold them neatly. Don't forget shoes, jackets and pajamas, too.

**8) Errands for the elderly** – Are there handicapped, disabled or elderly persons in your neighborhood? If so, they're apt to need some help. Offer to run errands within walking or biking distance. If you have your driver's license, offer to do more distant runs.

**9) Who's walking who?** – If you're looking for a new summer pal, why not make it man's best friend? Pass out fliers to offer your pet walking services. Never run a dog unless the owner agrees. If the dog starts panting or doesn't want to run, never push it. Dogs can quickly overheat.

**10) Make it shine** – Round up your friends to hold a car wash. Make a large colorful "Car Wash" sign. Include your cost (hint: set it no more than your local car wash charges). Have your supplies handy: a bucket of soapy water, rags or sponge, a hose and plenty of dry towels.

**11) At your service** – Offer home cleaning services to your neighbors. Find out which cleaning products (supplied by the homeowner) to use on fixtures, appliances and furniture. Offer to do the following tasks, unless other arrangements are made: dust furniture and window ledges; vacuum carpet, rugs and stairs; sweep and mop floors; scour sinks, bathtubs, and toilets; and make beds.

**12) Pool patrol** – If the sun and outdoors are your thing, then lifeguarding may be the job for you! Find out the age and certification requirements for lifeguard duty. Then apply at your community pool, YMCA or city pool.

**13) Daycare duty** – Do you love little kids? I mean *lots* of little kids? Contact daycare centers and home daycare providers to find out if they need a young assistant. Tasks may include assisting with crafts and activities, reading stories, helping with lunch and snacks and cleaning up.

KIMBERLY BLAKER

*Kimberly Blaker is a freelance writer. She also owns an online bookshop, Sage Rare & Collectible Books, specializing in out-of-print, scarce, signed and first editions, and more at [sagerarebooks.com](http://sagerarebooks.com).*



# How To Extend Kindness to a Friend Dealing With Infertility

Given the fact that one in eight couples experiences infertility, if you haven't been on the receiving end of insensitive comments, you've struggled to find the right words to say to a friend who has been trying to conceive for months or even years. There are, in fact, several important ways you can support a friend with infertility.

## Acknowledge the loss

Abby MacDonald, LICSW, an infertility specialist, says a vital part of helping a friend with infertility is understanding that they're grieving a loss. While it may not be as concrete as a miscarriage or a death, the intangible losses are many, including privacy, autonomy and the loss of the narrative where pregnancy just naturally happens. She may also be struggling to reconcile her relationship with her own body, which she perceives as having failed her. Even if you're not sure what to say, your friend will appreciate your sensitivity to the fact that she's grieving.

## Remember it's not about you

Particularly if infertility is something you haven't personally experienced, it is not perceived as helpful when you project your own feelings on the situation. Sharing the fact that you would never be willing to go through in vitro fertilization (IVF) or would worry about the possibility of multiples is not helpful. As my friend said, "It's personal."

## Unless you've been there, avoid giving advice

If you take nothing else from this article, take this: Friends don't tell friends who are dealing with infertility to just have a bottle of wine and relax. One woman I interviewed recalled feeling insulted by a friend's suggestion that she supplement IVF with herbs. "The implication is 'You could do more.'" On the other hand, advice from someone who has been through it is comforting.

## Leave the wise sayings to Hallmark

Perhaps even less helpful than advice from the uninitiated are their theories on why this is happening. Many women told me they did not appreciate being told, "If it's meant to be, it will be."

Let Hallmark handle the "encouraging" remarks.

All you need to do is be there if your friend wants to talk.

## Just listen

Giving someone space to talk (or not talk) is among the most powerful gifts you have to offer. It is key to simply listen and offer reflections based on what your friend says. Give your friend a chance to talk about her feelings, rather than filling any silence with a stock line about hope or positive thinking.

## Be curious (but not nosy)

For a woman dealing with infertility, nothing is more awkward or painful than having an acquaintance put a hand on her belly and ask why she's not pregnant yet when she's privately tortured over that very same question. But if your friend has been open with you about her struggles, make sure she knows you want to support her, even if you're not sure how.

## Offer genuine support

Avoid offering vague support such as "Let me know if you need anything." If you're compelled to offer more than a listening ear (which is plenty), offer something specific:

- call or text just to say you are thinking of them
- reach out to get dinner or a drink
- send a copy of the book "When Things Fall Apart" by Pema Chödrön
- give a pass when it comes to attending baby showers or kids' birthday parties
- educate yourself on infertility. (The nonprofit Resolve offers support, advocates, educates and develops community around the challenges to create a family.)

Supporting a friend through infertility is showing up, listening and being sensitive. It's saying, "I don't know what to say, but I want you to know I care."

## PAM MOORE

*Moore is an author, body positive health coach, occupational therapist and certified personal trainer who helps women push through fear to become their best selves. Visit [pam-moore.com](http://pam-moore.com).*





## 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.*

When I was a kid, learning about finances was limited to doing chores for an allowance and then saving it in a piggy bank. When I was a bit older, I got to open an account at the bank, but that was the big time. My lack of financial wherewithal showed when I went off to college and fell prey to campus credit card representatives who were handing out credit cards to anyone who could sign her own name. Suddenly I got a crash course in all kinds of financial terms like minimum payment, interest and debt.

It's a whole different world for kids today. Technology has ushered in many challenges for us as parents, but it also offers incredible learning opportunities for our children. They no longer have to be reliant on dollars we fish out of our pockets or the bottoms of our purses; instead, they can take advantage of a number of financial literacy apps to learn important financial concepts from a young age in engaging and dynamic ways. As parents, having access to these apps aids us in preparing our kids to live well in the world as adults.

There are a number of financial literacy apps and many of them are offered for free. In addition, there are apps available for young children to adults, so even us old dogs might learn a few new tricks. The next time your child is clamoring for screen time, consider introducing him to one of these popular apps. He will have fun and learn at the same time — a parental win-win!

## Counting Coins

Cost: Free

Audience: Young child

This app is great for helping young children learn to count coins and to understand their values. Immediate feedback helps them learn from mistakes and celebrate correct answers.

## Investmate

Cost: Free

Audience: Older child through teen

Investmate was developed to help users learn about stocks and trading. The lessons are short and can be done quickly. Investmate will track your child's progress visually so she can see how much content she's covered. Lessons are presented as a series of 25 or so cards, followed by a very short quiz to check for understanding. For kids who want to put what they've learned into action, Investmate offers a stock market simulator allowing users to trade with fake currency.



# Money-Wise Kids: There's an App for That!



## Rooster Money

*Cost: Free with the option to access additional services for a fee*

*Audience: Young child through teen*

Rooster Money is a wonderful tool for teaching responsible financial habits through allowance. Parents can use the app to manually or automatically send money to their children, and payments can be split up into different categories for saving, spending and giving. The app also allows children to set savings goals. Rooster is an allowance tracker, so no actual money is involved, but the app allows kids to see just how much they have in their "piggy bank." Plus, it helps parents remember how much they actually owe. When you're out shopping and your child sees something he wants, he can check his balance to decide whether or not he has enough money or needs to save a bit more.

Rooster Money also includes printable worksheets, activities and money challenges that cover additional financial topics. Some parents may choose to upgrade their free account to unlock more features such as the ability to add chores to the app, make automatic deductions for regular expenses and pay interest.

## World of Money

*Cost: Free*

*Audience: Ages 7-26*

World of Money uses short videos to teach lessons on a wide variety of financial concepts, such as budgeting, taxes, stock investing and paying for college. Lessons are grouped by age range, so you can select the videos that are appropriate for your child's interest and developmental levels. Videos are narrated by a person in the intended age range of the viewer, rather than by an adult, and they are relatively short. Most are only 3 to 4 minutes, further increasing the chance that your child will remain interested.

Beyond video lessons, World of Money offers flashcards and quizzes to test your child's knowledge.

## Zogo

*Cost: Free*

*Audience: Teen through young adult*

Zogo is a fun app that actually pays users to learn! With around 300 short modules covering topics like taxes, savings, credit cards and getting a

job, many of the modules feature real-world examples, allowing teens and young adults to better relate to lessons. Once a module is complete, the user is prompted to answer questions covering the material. If the questions are answered correctly, the user is awarded a "pineapple," which can later be redeemed for gift cards from popular retailers. The app also offers

a daily "pineapple party" that allows users to answer more questions to earn even more pineapples. Zogo partners with banks and credit unions across the country. If your bank is a partner, and you download the corresponding co-branded version of the app, your child can turn her pineapples into cash, which is deposited directly into the bank.



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- 4 – The photo with most votes by midnight June 15 WINS!

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# SUMMER FUN GUIDE

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The Club's mission is to be a premier sailing club with an emphasis on sailboat racing, sailing education and sailing activities for the entire family.  
**5906 Beacon Dr., Austin**  
[www.austinyachtclub.com](http://www.austinyachtclub.com)  
 512-266-1336

## CAMERON PARK ZOO

UNPLUG those video games and connect with colorful creatures. How about an oasis of natural wonder for this summer?  
**1701 N. 4th St., Waco**  
[www.cameronparkzoo.com](http://www.cameronparkzoo.com)  
 254-750-8400

## BOB BULLOCK STATE HISTORY MUSEUM

Adults and children can explore the Story of Texas together. From fun family programs to one-of-a-kind artifacts, the Bullock Museum is the best place to experience Texas.  
**1800 N. Congress Ave., Austin**  
[www.thestoryoftexas.com](http://www.thestoryoftexas.com)  
 512-936-8746

## DREAMLAND

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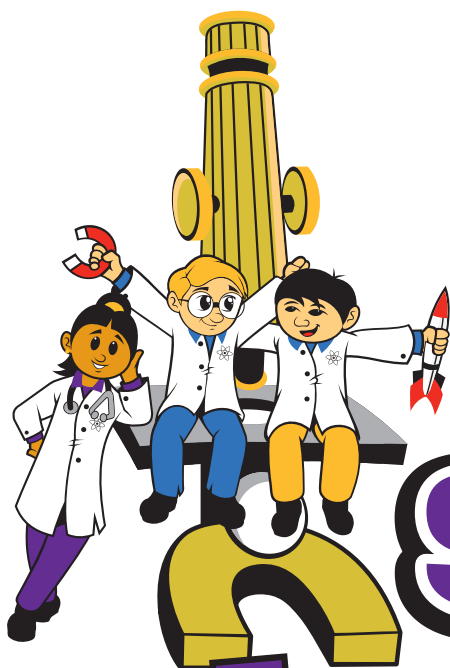
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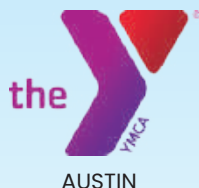
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Cedar Park, 512-284-9784

Northwest, 737-300-1200

Southwest, 512-531-9353

[www.cordovanartschool.com](http://www.cordovanartschool.com), Ages 5-16

### AUSTIN CHAMBER MUSIC

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[www.austinchambermusic.org/summer](http://www.austinchambermusic.org/summer)

Ages 7-18

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[www.girlsempowermentnetwork.org](http://www.girlsempowermentnetwork.org)

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Ages 9-18

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[www.latinitasonline.org](http://www.latinitasonline.org)

Ages 9-14

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### DANCE DISCOVERY

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[www.austin.madscience.org](http://www.austin.madscience.org)

[www.imagineartsacademy.com](http://www.imagineartsacademy.com)

Ages 5-12

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[www.neurongarage.com](http://www.neurongarage.com), Ages 5-12

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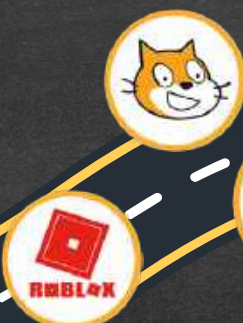
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[www.sgs-austin.org/student-life/summer-programs](http://www.sgs-austin.org/student-life/summer-programs)  
Ages 6-13

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512-327-4130  
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| SUN | MON           | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|-----|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 26  | CINE CHICA    |     |     |     |     | 2   |
|     | DESIGN CHICA  |     |     |     |     |     |
|     | POWER CHICA   |     |     |     |     |     |
|     | HEALTHY CHICA |     |     |     |     |     |
| 24  | GAME CHICA    |     |     |     |     | 30  |

**CINE CHICA**  
JUNE 27TH - JULY 1ST

**DESIGN CHICA**  
JULY 4TH - 8TH

**POWER CHICA**  
JULY 12TH - 16TH

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JULY 18TH - 22ND

**GAME CHICA**  
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 Ages 8-17

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We help mothers and daughters bond through horses.

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[www.texashorsecamps.com](http://www.texashorsecamps.com)  
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We give campers the chance to reconnect with the simple joys of being a kid. 1902 S. Bell Blvd., Cedar Park  
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## FAMILY MATTERS

BETTY RICHARDSON

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

**Q** Our daughter Gretje came home from school crying because kids had said mean things to her. Now she doesn't enjoy school anymore. Gretje reports that kids make fun of her name and the fact that she was born in another country. They make fun of a cast she has on her broken arm. Gretje is very bright, however, her grades have gone down recently. Why do kids feel that they have to make fun of schoolmates? What can we do to help Gretje deal with unkind remarks so she can feel confident, pay attention and excel at school again?

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Asuntos Familiares.  
Cómo Afrontar las Burlas

**A** There are lots of physical and psychological ways that kids can be mean to others, from shoving, hitting and kicking to ignoring, taunting and gossiping. Lack of empathy for others is most often the reason for kids impulsively saying or doing mean things. Some experts talk about empathy blind spots, in which children know it is not right to hit others or say hurtful things, but they decide that certain other kids' feelings don't count because they are annoying or deserve to be made fun of for some reason. Sometimes a child

has a new brother or sister at home and feels a loss of power in the family. Controlling peers by bullying is one way to feel power again. When kids are unkind, they are often dealing with feelings of insecurity and self-doubt.

What can you do to help Gretje? You could schedule a meeting for Gretje and yourself with the teacher and perhaps the school counselor and principal.

I think the teacher would be willing to help stop some of this inappropriate behavior. The teacher can help Gretje find a friend or two and perhaps lead a discussion on empathy in class as well. The counselor and principal can be alert to any bullying behavior in areas outside of the classroom.

You can work with Gretje to help her feel confidence in herself, too. Talk with her about ways she might respond to those who are mean to her. She can simply respond with a "So!" or just move on with a "Goodbye."

Consider reaching out to the parents of the children who are being mean. Sometimes this is helpful, while other times you might be told to mind your own business. So, be prepared for any response. These other parents can do a lot to help their children be empathetic.

# Tackling Teasing

## Here are some ways:

**1. Acknowledge their child's** thoughts and feelings.

**2. Ask the child** to put herself in the other child's place and imagine how she would feel if treated poorly.

**3. Tell the child** you don't expect him to like all of the other children, but you do expect him to be kind to all of the other children.

**4. Have the child think** the situation through to see the connection between actions and outcome.

**5. Help identify** ways to exhibit better behavior. You might say: "You are a kind child who sometimes has a hard time acting with kindness. How could you be nicer?"

**6. Model kindness** at home as a parent and expect to see kind behavior from children at home. If mean behavior is observed, sit down with the child and ask him to rethink what he could have said or done instead.

As parents, let's do all we can to help our children be more empathetic and kinder to others.

# ♥ May 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.

### Sun 1

**HEB Free First Sunday.** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Enjoy free exhibition admission all day for the first Sunday of every month. Bullock Texas State History Museum, 1800 Congress Ave. FREE. [thestoryoftexas.com](http://thestoryoftexas.com).

**Heritage House Museum.** 1-4 p.m. Join the Heritage House Partners on the first Sunday of the month to learn about local history and tour the house. Heritage Park, 901 Old Austin Hutto Road. [library.pflugervilletx.gov](http://library.pflugervilletx.gov).

**The Wizard of Oz: Youth Edition.** 2-3:30 p.m. The most beloved tale of all time comes to life on the TexARTS stage. TexARTS Association, 2300 Lohman's Spur Road, Suite 160. \$17. [tex-arts.org](http://tex-arts.org).

**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. [parks.pflugervilletx.gov](http://parks.pflugervilletx.gov).

**Camp Mabry Living History Weekend.** Join us for living history camps, military vehicle rides and displays. Texas Military Forces Museum at Camp Mabry, 2200 W. 35th St. [texasmilitaryforcesmuseum.org](http://texasmilitaryforcesmuseum.org).

### Tue 3

**Read Together.** 10-11 a.m. Gather around the Meredith Heritage Tree Deck for an outdoor storytime and craft activity featuring local authors. Moody Amphitheater at Waterloo Park, 1401 Trinity St. FREE. [waterloogreenway.org](http://waterloogreenway.org).

**Homeschool Adventures.** 1-3:30 p.m. (by age range). Homeschool children ages 6-8 meet weekly for a variety of topics, such as author/illustrator studies, improv, art, science and more. Buda Library, 405 E. Loop St., Buda. FREE. [budalibrary.org](http://budalibrary.org).

**Pfarmers Market.** 3-7 p.m. Join us for our Pfarmers Market at Heritage Park. 901 Old Austin Hutto Road. [parks.pflugervilletx.gov](http://parks.pflugervilletx.gov).

**Lego Lab on the Porch.** 3:15-4:15 p.m. Ages 5+. Build LEGO Wedo 2.0 robots. Registration required. Wells Branch

Community Library, 15001 Wells Port Drive. [wblibrary.com](http://wblibrary.com).

### Wed 4

**Everything Is Round.** 10 a.m. How can two friends be so different yet find ways to play together? One loves circles and the other likes corners. The Boyd Vance Theatre, 1165 Angelina St. \$9. [pollytheatre.org](http://pollytheatre.org).

**Star Wars Movie.** 6:30-8 p.m. Movie in the Park: Star Wars (rated PG). 4104 City Park, 502 Hurst Creek Road. FREE. [lakeway-tx.gov](http://lakeway-tx.gov).

**High Noon Talk: Czech Songs in Texas.** Noon. Learn about a little-known genre that had a big influence on Texas music. Bullock Texas State History Museum, 1800 Congress Ave. FREE. [thestoryoftexas.com](http://thestoryoftexas.com).

### Thu 5

**Cinco de Mayo Festival.** 10 a.m. Celebrate this tradition with music, art, culture, dancing and food. Fiesta Gardens, 2101 Jesse E. Segovia St. \$5 - \$7. [fiestaaustin.org](http://fiestaaustin.org).

**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).

**CONTINUED:** Everything Is Round, 9:30 a.m., see Wed 4.

### Fri 6

**Music in the Park.** 6:30-9 p.m. Join us in the park for live music, dancing and activities. Veterans' Memorial Park, 109 Depot St. [elgintx.com](http://elgintx.com).

**CONTINUED:** Everything Is Round, 9:30 a.m., see Wed 4.

### Sat 7

**Muddy Miler Family Adventure.** 8 a.m. A themed adventure run offering the entire family more obstacles, more mud and more fun than your average run event. Old Settlers Park, 3300 E. Palm Valley Blvd. FREE. [roundrockrecreation.com](http://roundrockrecreation.com).

**Texas Farmers Market at Lakeline.** 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Open every Saturday, rain

or shine. Lakeline Mall, 11200 Lakeline Mall Drive. [visitcedarparktexas.com](http://visitcedarparktexas.com).

**Pecan Street Festival.** 10 a.m. Bring the family to enjoy this outdoor market with exhibitors from all around, plus music. Ride the bus, kids always ride free. Downtown Austin, Sixth St. FREE. [pecanstreetfestival.org](http://pecanstreetfestival.org).

**Kite Festival.** 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Activities include kite events, food and craft vendors, and lots of high-flying fun. Devine Lake Park, 1807 Waterfall Ave. FREE. [leandertx.gov](http://leandertx.gov).

**Magic the Gathering.** 1 p.m. Kyle Library, 550 Scott St., Kyle. FREE. [cityofkyle.com](http://cityofkyle.com).

**Makers' Lab Open Hours.** 3-5 p.m. A community workspace where library patrons can come to create and explore. Buda Library, 405 E. Loop St., Buda. FREE. [budalibrary.org](http://budalibrary.org).

**CONTINUED:** Everything Is Round, 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m., see Wed 4.

### Sun 8 Mother's Day



**Sunday Funday Print Making Mother's Day Cards.** 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Enjoy a free outdoor crafts activity. Neill-Cochran House Museum, 2310 San Gabriel St. FREE. [nchmuseum.org](http://nchmuseum.org).

**Rock and Roll Playhouse Music for Kids: The Beatles.** Noon. Concert for kids to enjoy with Mom on Mother's Day. Limited space, first come, first served. Food available for purchase. Antone's Nightclub, 305 E. Fifth St. \$12 - \$15. [antonesnightclub.com](http://antonesnightclub.com)

**CONTINUED:** Pecan Street Festival, see Sat 7.

### Tue 10

**Women of Jazz.** 10-11 a.m. This exciting new program combines music and movement while introducing families to jazz greats like Ella Fitzgerald and Nina Simone. Moody Amphitheater, 1401 Trinity St. FREE. [waterloogreenway.org](http://waterloogreenway.org).

**CONTINUED:** Pfarmers Market, see Tue 3; Homeschool Adventures, see Tue 3; Lego Lab on the Porch, see Tue 3.



## Fri 13

**Reading With Reptiles.** 4:30–5:30 p.m. A fun reading experience for kids to read a picture book or a few pages of a chapter book aloud to a reptile. Wells Branch Community Library, 15001 Wells Port Drive. [wblibrary.com](http://wblibrary.com).

**Rock the Park.** 6:30 p.m. Mueller Lake Park Amphitheatre, 4550 Mueller Blvd. FREE. [kut.org](http://kut.org).

**CONTINUED:** Music in the Park, see Fri 6.

## Sat 14

**PEAS “Spring” into Fun Day.** 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Join PEAS (Partners for Education, Agriculture and Sustainability) to celebrate teachers and families with a day of food, nature activities, music and door prizes. PEAS Community Garden and Emeril’s Teaching Kitchen, 2200 Berkeley Ave. FREE. [peascommunity.org](http://peascommunity.org).

**8th Annual Kitten Shower.** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Come to this event filled with fun kitten activities! Funds go to the Austin Humane Society to support their care. 124 W. Anderson Lane. \$0 – \$35. [austinhumanesociety.org](http://austinhumanesociety.org).

**CelebrASIA Austin.** 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. In honor of Asian Pacific American heritage month, the Asian American Resource Center’s CelebrASIA Austin event returns. Asian American Resource Center, 8401 Cameron Road. FREE. [austintexas.gov](http://austintexas.gov).

**Pop Up Play Day.** 5–7 p.m. Join us in your park for family activities. Freeman Park, 301 Forest Ridge Blvd. FREE. [roundrocktexas.gov](http://roundrocktexas.gov).

**CONTINUED:** Texas Farmers Market at Lakeline, see Sat 7; Makers’ Lab Open Hours, see Sat 7.

## Tue 17

**Dance Jams.** 10–11 a.m. Join us for high energy, follow-along dances to a variety of beats with guided improvisation. Moody Amphitheater, 1401 Trinity St. FREE. [waterloogreenway.org](http://waterloogreenway.org).

**Teens 13–18 only.** 6 p.m. Feeling lonely, stressed, anxious, or just want to talk to someone? Central Library, 710 W. César Chávez St. Teen Center. FREE. [library.austintexas.gov](http://library.austintexas.gov).

**CONTINUED:** Pfarmers Market, See Tue 3; Homeschool Adventures, see Tue 3; Lego Lab on the Porch, see Tue 3.

## Fri 20

**Family Skate Nights.** 7 p.m. Ash Pavilion Skate Nights. Gregg Clarke Park, 100 W. Center St., Kyle. [cityofkyle.com](http://cityofkyle.com).

**CONTINUED:** Music in the Park, see Fri 6.

## Sat 21

**Cedar Park Market Days.** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Head out to Cedar Park Market Days the third Saturday of every month for live music, yummy food trucks and over 70 local artisans. 11066 Pecan Park Blvd. [visitcedarparktexas.com](http://visitcedarparktexas.com).

**CONTINUED:** Texas Farmers Market at Lakeline, see Sat 7; Makers’ Lab Open Hours, see Sat 7.

## Sun 22

**Enchanted Forest Walk.** Tiny fairy and gnome homes line the way as you stroll under a canopy of magical trees and twinkling lights. Lakeway City Hall, 1102 Lohman’s Crossing. [lakeway-tx.gov](http://lakeway-tx.gov).

## Mon 23

**Monday Mix-Up (ages 12–18).** 4:30–5:30 p.m. Join the Buda Public Library for weekly programs that provide enrichment for teens. Buda Library, 405 E. Loop St., Buda. FREE. [budalibrary.org](http://budalibrary.org).

## Tue 24

**CONTINUED:** Pfarmers Market, See Tue 3; Homeschool Adventures, see Tue 3; Lego Lab on the Porch, see Tue 3.

## Thu 26

**Club Latinitas.** 4–6 p.m. Club Latinitas is an after-school girl empowerment program open to girls and non-binary students. Registration is ongoing. (La registraci3n seguir3 abierta. Reg3strese en cualquier momento.) FREE. [latinitasonline.org](http://latinitasonline.org).

**Board Game Evening.** 5–8 p.m. All levels of board gamers are welcome at this come and go program. Pflugerville Recreation Center, 400 Immanuel Road. [parks.pflugervilletx.gov](http://parks.pflugervilletx.gov).

## Fri 27

**Movies in the Park.** 7 p.m. Bring the whole family for a movie at sundown. Gregg Clarke Park, 100 W. Center St., Kyle. FREE. [cityofkyle.com](http://cityofkyle.com).

**CONTINUED:** Music in the Park, see Fri 6.

## Sat 28

**CONTINUED:** Texas Farmers Market at Lakeline, see Sat 7.

## Mon 30 Memorial Day

## Tue 31

**CONTINUED:** Pfarmers Market, see Tue 3.



Think you might run out of fun summer ideas?  
**Think again.**

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Austin PBS



## 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.*

### She starts at the foot of the bed.

Nighttime. The hubs and I are enjoying our evening ritual of quiet solitude surrounded by piles of books, notebooks, and of course, her snoring in a neat lump near our toes. Everyone's content, especially our third baby – seventy-five pounds of doggie floof.

She's not only big but she stinks. Her shaggy carpet picks up everything, from pollen in the yard to strings of dental floss from the teen's bathroom. Since we have allergies I was delighted to get the twofer of a non-shedding dog – no allergies, no dog-haired sofas. Little did I know she'd resemble a California roll after a romp in the park.

### But we love her.

And so we scooch over each night and make room as she inches up the bed, like a full-grown human in a dog costume. We cast aside our books and notebooks as we squeeze outwards. At this point, we're miffed. It is our bed. But she knows her audience, acting as if she's landed on Planet Tuna Fish as she gazes up at us. She tacks on a satisfied moan and spreads out. The same one she made after the large cheese pizza disappeared off the counter. And the brick of blue cheese. And the two pounds of butter.

She is a dog who enjoys the good life. We tell ourselves this, clinging to the headboard to keep from falling onto the floor. Somehow, she is now the bed's central candidate, taking up its entirety and rolling over for belly rubs. Her paw rests on my shoulder, reassuring me of her rightful spot. She stretches, kicking my husband's foot off the corner. She is magnificent! A rival to Cleopatra no less.

Yawning audibly, she replaces her head into the warm indent of my pillow as I get up. We cast a familiar glance. This is not our bed at all.

### And the couch is not so bad?

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## What's SUP: *Paddling on Lady Bird Lake*

Each month, topics in this column alternate between cool, new places to go and a family-friendly thing to do at home. This month, we take you out on the water for some paddling action.



You've seen them out there, dotting the water anytime you cross Lady Bird Lake on a fine day – brightly colored canoes, kayaks and stand-up paddleboards (SUPs). In fact, there are now so many rental companies that it can be hard to know which one to choose. My family recently tried out several and had a blast. Here, we share the most family-friendly options (due to proximity of parking and wait times). Based on my family's experience, we found that unless you have uber patient kids, early in the day and weekdays are the best times to go. It's an easy activity to learn with just a few tips – and a fun way to explore Austin!

### WEST END

*The Rowing Dock*  
[www.rowingdock.com](http://www.rowingdock.com)

Look west as you cross over Lady Bird Lake on Mopac, and you'll spot bright blue canopies and a long dock stacked with stand-up paddleboards, canoes and kayaks. You can rent pedal kayaks here too (think kayak-sized pedal boats). If you're looking for a less urban backdrop for your paddling adventure, this is the place to go. While you can easily head east towards the bridge to join the party, the west end of the lake will take your crew beneath tall, tree-filled bluffs with

caves. On our trip out, we spotted cranes, ducks and turtles as we paddled towards Red Bud Isle and Mansfield Dam.

Parking is available in the Rowing Dock's small dirt lot, just past the Austin Nature and Science Center. You can also park under the Mopac bridge or along Stratford Drive. Porta potties can be found on one side of the Rowing Dock's parking lot and a snow cone truck on the other. Don't forget to pack an ID and credit card.

### CENTRAL

*Zilker Park Boat Rentals*  
[www.zilkerboats.com](http://www.zilkerboats.com)

Located just below Barton Springs Pool, you can see into the water to spot turtles and fish from this section of the lake where clear, cool water flows from nearby natural springs. We watched people plunge in the water from rope swings, glided under bridges hung with hammocks and passed pups on paddleboards. This boat rental location puts you in at a protected section of Lady Bird Lake that makes for calmer conditions, although it's just a quick paddle around the bend if you want to get out on the open water or tour downtown by boat.

The staff were super friendly and helpful. They tipped us off to the current 2-for-1 weekday discount on the website and the rentable lockers. The easiest way to get to this boat rental is to park near the Zilker playground and restrooms. Then head down to the water and look for boats. For a longer outing, pack a picnic or play at the park.

### EAST END

*Epic SUP*  
[www.epicsup.com](http://www.epicsup.com)

This less-populated end of the lake feels entirely different from the craggy bluffs on the west end or the urban cityscape. From here, we paddled along the Boardwalk, past lush parkland and around a secret island near Longhorn Dam. This small, wooden rental spot offers more paddleboards than kayaks. We saw some kids paddling on their own and others on boards with their parents while other families used double kayaks.

At the dock, there are a dozen lockers (without locks), or you can leave small items at the desk. Restrooms are just up the trail. If you're lucky, you can snag a spot in their small dirt parking lot. If not, street parking is available along Lakeshore Boulevard.

### Tips & Tricks:

- Choose your time wisely. Go early or on a weekday to avoid long waits.
- Use the restroom before you leave.
- Pack light. Leave towels, drinks and snacks in the car.
- Bring your ID (required as a deposit).
- Head upwind first, then paddle back.
- \* Avoid windy days unless you want a challenge and a good arm workout!

ANNETTE LUCKSINGER

*Lucksinger is a mom of two, editor of Austin Family magazine and author of the local guide "Exploring Austin with Kids."*





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