



Summer vacation is now in full swing! As a parent, I am always having mixed feelings around this time. I love the idea of having my children home so we can spend more quality time together. It is the perfect time to take family vacations and just have more down time to enjoy our own neighborhood and community. On the other hand though, the days for this stay at home Mommy can seem quite long when siblings get to bickering and I don't have fun activities planned or an endless cash flow to keep my children's minds entertained.

As a mother of three, I am looking for bargains to entertain our little tikes this summer whether we travel to fun destinations or get involved with local entertainment and child friendly activities and events or just take the family out for dinner at restaurants that won't break the bank. Look no further for ideas that will leave Mom and Dad stress free with a little extra savings & discounts.

Here are a few highlights that we want to be sure you know about this month. First, Mark your Calendar for July 12th, 2008. Koukla's Boutique in East Sacramento is participating in a special fundraiser to benefit mom of two, Robynn Goodell, who was diagnosed in January with a very rare form of cancer. Please visit for more information. On July 12th at 11:00 a.m. the Puppet Arts Theater Co. is presenting Tommy's Pirate Adventure at Koukla Kids- A Children's Boutique. Stop by for a FREE presentation of Tommy's Pirate Adventure. Tommy's back and he and his dog Fifi are enjoying living on Alligator Island, at least until the pirates show up. Pirate's X's and mixed up treasure land Tommy and his dog in big trouble with Barnacle Billy and the evil Captain Rigatoni. Confusion and mayhem lead to fun as Tommy ends up playing pirates for real in "Tommy's Pirate Adventure." Please note that 25% of all sales at Koukla Kids on July 12th will benefit the Robynn Goddell Fund. A local Donation box will also be available in the store. Let's stop by and show our support.

We also want to be sure that you know that the library is not just for story time anymore. In fact, it is a one-stop for entertainment. There are so many fun events going on for children of all ages. There are Teen movie nights, family game nights, artworks, jugglers, magicians, clowns and sing-alongs just to name a few. You can easily access the library's FREE calendar of events from our site and personalize your calendar to meet your family's entertainment needs.

On the topic of literacy, we all want to make reading fun and have our children practice their skills and enjoy reading all summer long. Barnes & Nobles stores and Pottery Barn Kids stores are hosting weekly FREE story times. To help promote a love for books we have some great promotions to tell you about. Pottery Barn Kids has a special book club card and when your child has attended 5 story times and gets their card stamped 5 times, then they receive a special gift. The Barnes & Nobles stores are offering an Annual SUMMER READING PROGRAM that runs through Labor Day. Any child in first through sixth grade can come into any Barnes & Noble location and get a Summer Reading Log Sheet. They read 8 books, age appropriate, approved by a parent or guardian, and bring the completed sheet back into any Barnes & Noble location and get to select a FREE book. Along the same theme, every child who READS FIVE BOOKS will receive a FREE KID'S MEAL from The Old Spaghetti Factory complete with ice cream for dessert. To participate in the Rewards of Reading Program offered at the Old Spaghetti Factory then please visit info@osf.com. As you can see, the great deals and possibilities are endless and our commitment to you will be to give you ideas to make your summer calendar entertaining and inspiring for you and your children and teens and provide additional savings since the restaurants, hotels, movies and activities listed on our site are FREE for Kids. In Fact, some wonderful discounts are not only FREE for your little tikes but FREE for the entire family. So Breathe in the fresh summer air and get the whole family out and have some fun!

Cheers,

Kids Free Guide