

Summer Ideas For Families



Parkway Early Childhood Center

Summer is the perfect opportunity to see the world through your child's eyes. Through play, children show us what they know and what they want to learn. As parents, we have the opportunity to be our children's first & best teacher. Take time to visit some of the outstanding summer opportunities the St.Louis area has to offer families. Have a great summer!

PLEASE NOTE: Information compiled by Parkway Early Childhood staff. This information is provided as a courtesy and without recommending or endorsing anyone or any place listed. The District and its agents assume no responsibility or liability in connection with any service rendered by or conduct of said individuals,.

[In And Around St Louis](#)

<https://www.stlouisco.com/ParksandRecreation> See how many parks your family can visit this summer.

<http://www.ballwin.mo.us/Parks-and-Recreation-1>

<http://www.manchestermo.gov/parks>

<http://www.chesterfield.gov/content2.aspx?id=3136>

<https://www.creve-coeur.org/126/Parks-Recreation>

<http://www.marylandheights.com/departments/parks-and-recreation>

<https://explorestlouis.com/discover/st-louis-kids> - Kids page of Artsy Stuff, Fun Stuff, Smart Stuff, Wacky Stuff, and Coloring Stuff. All kinds of stuff to do plus the free stuff!

<http://www.nickelodeonparents.com> - Nickelodeon's parenting resources, kids' events and family friendly places to go. Calendar allows you to select month and day to get activities.

<https://www.tripsavvy.com/st-louis> Select from free things to do in St. Louis, Fun for kids and families, Parks and Outdoor Activities, Museums and Theatre and more.

<https://www.stlouiskids.com> - Fun Activities, Family Vacations, Family Dining and more

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/things-to-do/st-louis-missouri> Discover 22 hidden attractions, cool sights, and unusual things to do in St. Louis, Missouri from City Museum to Cementland.

<https://www.stlmag.com/best-of-SLM/50-things-you-must-do-in-st-louis> "After some bitter debates, we've narrowed down the top events to attend and places to see in the city."

<https://www.groupon.com/local/saint-louis/things-to-do> "Things To Do in Saint Louis, MO: Discover the best activities in Saint Louis with deals of 50-90% off every day along."

<https://www.familydaysout.com/kids-things-to-do-usa/st-louis/mo> "Great ideas for fun things for kids to do and places to visit near St Louis | Missouri - on FamilyDaysOut.com."

<http://www.familyattractionscard.com/single-post/2015/04/07/15-Free-Things-to-Do-in-St-Louis> Get discounts to the destinations that make St. Louis great with the Family Attractions Card

<https://www.stlparent.com/story/movie-under-stars-st-louis> -various locations

<http://saintlouis.kidsoutandabout.com/content/top-20-places-take-kids-st-louis-area>

https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attractions-g44881-Activities-Saint_Louis_Missouri.html

<https://www.stl.unitedway.org/2015/05/free-things-to-do-in-st-louis-this-summer> -"We love exploring our beautiful city, especially during the summertime. From concerts and movies to festivals and tours, we've got you covered with 93 free things to do in St. Louis with the whole family this whole summer."

Summer Parent Child Interaction Classes at Parkway Early Childhood

PCIP fee based classes are offered for families with infants and children through age 5 but not in Kindergarten. You and your child will enjoy music/ movement, sensory, story time and simple art activities centered on a weekly theme. The special outdoor area with lots of water play is a highlight for everyone. Swimsuits, towels, change of clothing and sunscreen are recommended for all children. SUMMER FUN classes focus on a specific age level for children. FAMILY FUN classes are to enjoy with one or more of your children. One child must meet the age requirement of 13 months to 5 years.

Fun Summer Craft Recipes

Flubber

What You Need:

- Two cups Glue
- Food Coloring
- Four tablespoons Borax
- Warm water

What You Do

In one bowl mix in 1 1/2 cups of warm water, Glue, and food coloring. In a separate bowl mix in Borax with 1 1/3 cup of warm water. Pour the glue mixture into the borax mixture. Do not mix or stir it will form on its own. Store in plastic baggies.

Blubberish Goop

What You Need:

- Two cups water
- 1/2-cup cornstarch
- Food coloring

What You Do:

Boil water in saucepan add cornstarch stirring until smooth. Add food coloring and stir. Remove from heat and cool. Make sure your children play with this on a flat plastic like surface (table, linoleum floor, etc).

Fun Summer Craft Recipes cont

Goop

What You Need:

- One part Liquid starch
- Two parts white glue
- Food coloring

What You Do:

Add starch to glue until mixture becomes a workable ball. Store in refrigerator in a covered container.

Simple Bubbles

What You Need:

- One cup of water
- Two tablespoons liquid detergent
- One Tablespoons glycerin (available at drug stores)
- 1/2 tablespoon sugar

What You Do:

Mix together and use.

Colorful Bubbles

What You Need:

- One cup granulated soap or soap powder
- One quart warm water
- liquid food coloring

What You Do:

Dissolve soap in warm water. Stir in food coloring. Use.

Gargantuan Bubbles

What You Need:

- One Cup Warm Water
- 1/4 Cup Blue Dishwashing Liquid
- One Tablespoon Salt

What You Do:

Combine all ingredients. Mix well until salt dissolves.

Fun Summer Craft Recipes cont

Whole Face Paint

What You Need:

- One tablespoon shortening
- Two tablespoons cornstarch
- Food coloring

What You Do

Mix shortening and starch together until smooth. Add food coloring. Use a sponge or your fingers to apply to face. You can then paint with it on your children's face (i.e. whole face orange) removing with soap and water. Store in airtight container.

Flour Finger Paint

What You Need:

- One-cup flour
- 1 1/4 cups hot water
- 1 1/2 cups cold water
- Two-tablespoons salt
- Food coloring

What You Do:

Mix the flour, salt, and cold water in a saucepan. Beat the mixtures (with whisk or rotary beater) until smooth. Add the hot water and boil it until the mixture is thick. Beat until smooth. Add food coloring to add color. Store in an airtight container in the refrigerator.

Yogurt Paint

What You Need

- Plain Yogurt
- Food Coloring

What You Do:

Mix the ingredients until you get the desired color and then let your children paint

Liquid Starch Finger paint

What You Need:

- 1/4 cup liquid laundry starch
- Food coloring or One-teaspoon tempera paint

What You Do:

Mix the starch with a few drops food coloring or paint until blended thoroughly. Store in an airtight container.

Fun Summer Craft Recipes cont

Cornstarch Finger paint

What You Need:

- Three Tablespoons Sugar
- Two cups cold water
- Food coloring
- Soap flakes
- One-Half cup cornstarch

What You Do:

Mix the sugar & cornstarch in over low heat. Add water and stir until mixture is thick. Remove from heat. Next divide the paint into several different containers. Add a few drops of food coloring and a pinch or two of soap flakes to each container. Stir well and let cool. Store this in an airtight container.

Oatmeal Playdough

What You Need:

- One part flour
- One part water
- Two parts oatmeal

What You Do:

Mix all ingredients well until smooth. Knead and play.

Smelly Colorful Play dough

What You Need:

- One-Half cup salt
- Two cups water
- Two tablespoons salad oil
- Two cups flour
- Two tablespoons alum
- Kool-Aid for color

What You Do:

Dissolve salt in boiling water. Stir in Kool-Aid for color. Slowly add salad oil, flour and alum. Knead until Play dough is smooth.

Fun Summer Craft Recipes cont

Potato Dough

What You Need:

- Five potatoes
- Flour

What You Do:

Bake potatoes, in their skins, until they are soft inside (like you would eat them). Peel and then mash potatoes (throw skins away). Combine three cups flour to every four cups of mashed potato and roll until you form a great dough.

Smelly/Scented Dough

What You Need:

- Two cups whole wheat flour
- One cup salt
- Smelly Ingredient (Five teaspoons cinnamon, 1/2 cup coffee grounds, other of your choice)
- Two tablespoons of oil
- One cup warm water
- Food coloring (optional)

What You Do:

Mix all dry ingredients in one bowl, and then mix all wet ingredients in a separate one. Next mix the two. Stir the mixture until the dough forms a ball (note depending on the season, altitude you may have to add more flour if the mixture is too sticky or add more water if the mixture is too dry) Finally, Knead on a lightly floured surface until the dough is pliable. Store in refrigerator in airtight container

Summer Field Trips

Boat House in Forest Park-see lots of wildlife and Forest park landmarks from the lake while on a Paddle Boat or Kayak. Restaurant on site

Bounce U-inflatable structures for play. Open bounce sessions, camps, parties, preschool playdates, and family bounce night. Two locations. Call for more information.

Children's Illustrated Art Museum-Features artists who are published in children's books, special exhibits, parties, field trips. Admission is free.

Chuck E Cheese-games, rides, prizes, food and entertainment. Several locations. Drop in and play or set up a party/group time. Call for more information.

Circus Flora-a one ring circus production, their home has been St. Louis for the past 25 years. Check on-line for special events and performance dates. Located in downtown St. Louis.

Citygarden-admission is free, 2 block area in downtown St. Louis. View plantings, sculpture, fountains and more.

City Museum-mix of children's playground, funhouse, architecture made out of unique found objects, caves, World Aquarium, Monstro City, Art City, Tiny train town, Circus Harmony, Ball pits, shoe lace factory and more. For more information check online or call.

COCA-classes, camps, workshops, performances, Art galleries and more. Classes begin at ages 14 months. Check online for more information.

HealthWorks Kids' Museum What: Interactive exhibits, theater shows, playground, mock medical offices and farmers' market, birthday parties and summer camp. Near the Science Center

Farmers Markets-Several in the St. Louis area, including but not limited to: Historic Soulard Market, open year round Wednesday through Saturday, check for information on free events and location of free parking. The Loop Market in University City, Maplewood, Clayton, Tower Grove, Sappington, and more.

Faust Park-Outdoor Play area, Sach's Butterfly House: Historic Village: call for information and hours. Picnic areas. St. Louis Carousel rides: Preschool arts-and-crafts projects: registration required, includes carousel ride, advance registration required,

Florissant Civic Center Theatre-Check for information on live theatre performances for children and families.

Flying Spider Extreme Air Sports -Indoor Trampoline Park in Ballwin

Grant's Farm-Famous historical site with game preserve, show place for Clydesdale horses, entrance and tram to animals and animal shows is free.

Summer Field Trips

Infield Fun Center-Go karts, mini golf, batting cages, bumper boats, game room. Seasonal hours, call for more information. Located in Ellisville on Manchester Rd.

Jewel Box in Forest Park-large fountain, floral and plant displays in glass enclosed greenhouse building located on 17 acres in Forest Park.

Laumeier Sculpture Park-Admission is free to the park and Museum Galleries with the exception of special events, 105 acres of park grounds with sculptures for viewing. Camp is available for 4-6 year olds. Free docent-led tours. Free family days, with hands-on activities. Art class age 4 +.

Lone Elk Park/World Bird Sanctuary-Admission to both is free. Drive through the park (about 20 minutes) to view bison, deer, elk, turkeys and more or hike the trails, picnic at shelters, or visit one of the largest facilities in North America for the conservation of birds. Free exhibits and educational programs available.

Luna Moms Club-Free. Connect with other moms through play groups, moms' night out and give back to your community through "Moms With a Mission" activities. For more information go to lunabar.com.

Magic House-lots of activities and hands on displays for all ages including preschool. Located at 516 Kirkwood Rd.

Marcus Theaters - Join us Sunday, Monday and Wednesday at 10AM, June 24 - August 29 to view your favorite family flicks for just \$3.00! Grab the family and head to your nearest participating Marcus Theatres® location!

Missouri Botanical Garden-Climatron, Japanese Garden, Rose gardens and more

Monkey Joes-Inflatable play center with wall to wall inflatable slides, jumps, and obstacle courses. Ages 12 and under, separate Mini-Monkey Zone ages 3 and under. Located in St. Louis and Cottleville.

Museum of History-. Located at Lindell and DeBaliviere in Forest Park.

Museum of Transportation-The most complete collection of American rail power anywhere. Also view automobiles, busses, streetcars, aircraft, horse-drawn vehicles and more.

Play 2 Learn-enrichment classes for children 6 months to 10 years. Children's functional skills developed through playtime activities designed and developed by a licensed pediatric occupational therapist. Sign and Play, Letter Fun, Let's Get Messy, Learn 2 Move, Learn 2 Write, Kindergarten Readiness, and more. For additional information call 314-424-5410. Located in Chesterfield on South Outer Forty Dr.

Powder Valley Nature Center-free admission - Nature Center with displays, paved trails to see wildlife through feeders, 3000 gallon aquarium, living beehive, live snake exhibits, and more.

Summer Field Trips

Pump It Up-Indoor areas with inflatable slides, bounce houses, obstacle courses and more, Pop-in Play time, Family Jump Time, group parties, weekly specials. Located in St. Charles and Chesterfield.

Purina Farms-Free admission and parking. Barnyard animals and everyday pets, kids can play in the hayloft, milk a cow, take a tractor-drawn wagon ride and watch animal performances.

Regal Cinema Summer Movie Express- Family fun movies playing on Tuesdays & Wednesdays for the summertime! Admission to the Summer Movie Express is only \$1. Tickets available for purchase at the box office and all movies in most locations start at 10:00 am. Check with your theatre for exact showtimes. Each week both movies play on both days. A portion of the proceeds goes to the Will Rogers Institute.

Rockwood Reservation-bird watch, bicycle, hike, view wildlife, visit the education center for exhibits, displays and demonstrations. Call for more information about the education center.

Shaw Nature Reserve-Grey Summit, Mo.-family programs, Little Acorns Preschool activities, self guided tours, go to www.shawnature.org for more information.

Six Flags/Hurricane Harbor-Located in Eureka, Mo., Check for information on hours and admission prices.

Sky Zone-Indoor Trampoline Park. Toddler courts and toddler times available, must be 41 inches or below for toddler activities, trampoline type activities for all ages. Call for more information. Located in Chesterfield Valley.

Story Time and Summer Reading Clubs-Check with local libraries and bookstores for organized open, free story time. Don't forget that children of all ages can join summer reading clubs and earn prizes through the St. Louis County library system.

Stroller Strides-Total body workout that is fun for you and your child. Classes for all fitness levels. Babies as young as 6 weeks welcome. For more information go to www.strollerstrides.com. All Stroller Stride locations offer free Luna Moms

St. Louis Art Museum-Exhibits, displays, Family classes and workshops (for ages 3&4, 5&6, 7-10). Family Sundays (include hands on art activities and 30 min. tour), family performances, and artists demonstrations. Located in Forest Park. General admission free, special exhibits may be free on Friday. Check for more information.

Summer Field Trips

St. Louis Children's Aquarium-over 10,000 animals, learn about ecosystems from the Mississippi, Amazon and Ocean, with hands on learning experiences. Located at 416 Hanley Industrial Ct.

St. Louis Zoo/Children's Zoo-located in Forest Park, admission to the Zoo is free, admission to the Children's Zoo is \$4.00. Parking on the street is limited but free, the parking lot is \$15.00.

St. Louis City Open Studio and Gallery-offers hands-on artistic education through classes, camps, open studio hours, workshops and events. Located in a historic cottage castle in Tower Grove Park. For more information call 314-865-0060

St. Louis Muny Opera-outdoor musical amphitheatre located in Forest Park. Call for show schedule and ticket prices. 1500 free seats available at every performance, gate opens at 7 pm, first –come first –seated, show begins at 8:15 pm.

St. Louis Science Museum/James S. McDonnell Planetarium-interactive displays, exhibits, special events, theatre. General admission free, check for special events/exhibit fees and parking.

Suson Park- free farm animal petting zoo, stocked fishing lakes, reservable picnic shelters, play area.

Swing Around Fun Town- indoor and outdoor activities, open year round, indoor arcade activities include soft playground and bowling and more, outdoors includes kiddie carts (ages 3-8), go karts, bumper boats, mini golf, batting cages. Two locations not all activities offered at both.

Water Parks-Aquaport (Maryland Heights, Mo), North Pointe Family Aquatic Center (Ballwin, Mo.), Blanchette Park/Aquatic Center (St. Charles, Mo.), and others available in the St. Louis area. Check for hours of operation, admission prices and specifics on activities.

Yucandu Art-drop-in arts & crafts studio with projects “you can do”. All age levels, no appointment needed. Also offer art camp, clubs, homeschool groups or individuals. Mosaic, collage and paint. Located in Webster Groves at 20 Allen Ave.

Summer Reading

Enjoy reading with your child this summer! Be sure to check out your local library's summer reading program! Here are just a few suggestions to get you started!

Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? Martin, Bill, Jr.; illustrated by Eric Carle
Chicka Chicka Boom Boom Martin, Bill, Jr. and John Archambault
Come Along, Daisy! Simmons, Jane
Corduroy Freeman, Don
Curious George Rey, H. A.
Dinosaur Roar! Stickland, Paul and Henrietta
Fire Truck Sís, Peter.
Froggy Gets Dressed London, Jonathan
The Gardener Stewart, Sarah
George and Martha Marshall, James
Go Away, Big Green Monster! Emberley, Ed
Good Night, Gorilla Rathmann, Peggy
Goodnight Moon Margaret Wise Brown
Gossie Olivier, Dunrea
Harold and the Purple Crayon Johnson, Crockett
Harry the Dirty Dog Zion, Gene; illustrated by Margaret Graham
How Do Dinosaurs Say Good Night? Yolen, Jane
I Kissed the Baby! Murphy, Mary.
If You Give a Mouse a Cookie Numeroff, Laura J.
Lily's Purple Plastic Purse Henkes, Kevin
The Line-up Book Marisabina, Russo
Madeline Bemelmans, Ludwig
Maisy Goes Swimming Cousins, Lucy
Muncha! Muncha! Muncha! Fleming, Candace
The Napping House Wood, Audrey
Owen Henkes, Kevin
Pierre: A Cautionary Tale Sendak, Maurice
The Very Hungry Caterpillar Carle, Eric

Going to Kindergarten?

Check out the Parkway Summer Reading Lists K-2

<https://www.parkwayschools.net/Page/4901>