

How are the Children?



Suburban Ramsey
Family Collaborative

Tips for Parents & Caring Adults:

Free and Fun Family Activity Ideas:

1. Every Wednesday and Friday mornings at 10:30 a.m., bring your child for [Story time at Barnes and Noble](#) in the Har Mar Shopping Center in Roseville. 651-639-9256
2. Check out your local [Ramsey County Public Library](#). They have lots of fun, free things for kids, including Story times, music performances, crafts and even a chance for 5 to 8 year olds to practice reading to Otis the dog. For more information, call your local branch (Arden Hills 651-628-6831; Maplewood 651-704-2033; Mounds View 763-717-3272; North St. Paul 651-747-2700; Roseville 628-6803; Shoreview 651-486-2300; White Bear Lake 651-407-5302).
3. For kids ages 5 to 12, all [Home Depot](#) stores offer Kids Workshops the first Saturday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to noon for kids ages 5 to 12. Check out the Home Depot just off I-35W and Stinson Boulevard at 1520 New Brighton Boulevard (612-782-9594) or the Home Depot in Maplewood on White Bear Avenue just north of Highway 36 (651-770-9600).
4. Every day of the year, [Como Zoo](#) in St. Paul is open. From October thru March they're open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and from April to September they're open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. There is no admission fee. They do encourage donations. Everyone is welcome whether they make a donation or not. Free parking. 651-487-8201
5. Also check out [Como Park's Marjorie McNeely Conservatory](#), a great place to warm up on cold Minnesota days. Same hours as the Como Zoo (see above). 651-487-8201
6. Visit the [Children's Museum](#) where admission is free on the third Sunday of every month. Located downtown St. Paul, the museum is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays. 651-225-6000
7. On Saturdays at 10:00 bring the whole family for [free family movies at the Mall of America](#). First come, first served. While you're at the mall, visit the Lego Store where kids can play and build to their hearts content. 952-851-0074
8. On Tuesday's from 5 to 8 pm, the [Minnesota History Museum](#) has free admission. It's located at 345 Kellogg Boulevard West, in Saint Paul. 651-259-3000.



9. If your child likes airplanes, the [Minnesota Wing Commemorative Air Force](#) has a free museum located at South Saint Paul Municipal Airport. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays. 651-455-6942
10. Michael's Craft Stores have free family craft events. For information about more activities like these, visit their [website](#) or call them at: Har Mar location 651-631-1810; Maplewood location 651-770-0350.
11. Another fun place for crafts is [Lakeshore Learning](#) at 1721 Beam Avenue in Maplewood. Every Saturday from 11 am to 3 pm, drop in and make a fun, free craft. For children ages 3 and up only. 651-777-0650
12. For a fun river experience, view St. Anthony Falls from [Water Power Park](#), located on the upper portion of Father Hennepin Island on the Mississippi River in Minneapolis Minnesota. Water Power Park is accessible from Main Street just across from St. Anthony Main (201 SE Main Street, Minneapolis). Park in the St. Anthony Falls Ramp and take the connecting tunnel to Main St. and you will find yourself just across the street from Water Power Park.
13. Visit the [Minnesota Air National Guard Museum](#) near Fort Snelling (Building 670, The Cold War Alert Hangar, 670 General Miller Drive). The Museum currently has 22 aircraft in its collection plus a 3/4 scale Submarine Spitfire. On "open cockpit" days, you can even climb into the planes. The museum is closed for the winter but reopens in April 2010. They even host birthday parties for a small suggested donation. 612-713-2523.
14. [Stargaze with U Astronomers](#). Friday nights, the U holds Public Viewing Nights on top of the Tate Lab of Physics located on the U of M East Bank's Northrop Mall. Come see a short presentation on a special topic and, if the weather is clear, observe using their 10.5" refracting telescope. More information and a list of weekly topics is available at www.astro.umn.edu/outreach/pubnight or call 612-626-0034.
15. Thanks to Macy's, Ramsey County Libraries have [Museum Adventure Passes](#) good for two free admissions to 18 different museums throughout the Twin Cities. Use your library card to check one out for 7 days. When you get to the museum, exchange the pass for two free admissions. Museums range from the Firefighters Museum to the Minnesota Zoo to the Swedish Institute to the Minnesota Streetcar Museum. For more details, visit the [Ramsey County Library website](#).
16. Lowe's stores also offer free Build and Grow workshops for kids at 10:00 a.m. on most Saturdays. Workshops are free but you must [pre-register](#) to attend.

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17. [Midtown Global Market](#) (920 East Lake Street, Minneapolis, 55407) has lots of fun stuff for kids of all ages. Stop by on Wednesday nights from 6:00 to 8:00 for Irish Dancing and Lessons. Friday nights from 5:00 to 8:00 is family fun night. Parking is free in the 10th Avenue Parking Ramp. Just ask for validation.

18. Head downtown St. Paul for [music in the Café](#) at Landmark Center (75 West 5th Street, St. Paul, 55102) on Wednesdays from noon to 1:00 p.m. from May 5 to August 25. Bring a lunch or buy one from the café.

19. [Choo Choo Bob's](#) is great for all train lovers. Join Engineer Paul for story time and singing at their store (2050 Marshall Avenue, St. Paul, 55104) the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays and Saturdays at 10:00 a.m. 651-292-3063

If you know of fun and free things we've missed, please share your discoveries with us at yvonne.cournoyer@isd623.org or 651-604-3586.

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