

# PARENTS PARKids CHRONICLE

Growing in Grace at Grandview

## GOT THE FEVER?

It seems that we are passing through the season of the year when colds, the flu, and other miscellaneous illnesses are attacking with a vengeance. But I'm talking about another kind of fever...spring fever! And winter has hardly begun!

Most parents acknowledge that they should spend time with their children. But if you're anything like me, you're probably interested in some creative ideas for family fun, especially when the weather is bad outside. Well, look no further than the

*PARKids Parents Chronicle!* (Besides, some of you who took the survey requested family fun ideas, and so YOU'RE GOING TO GET THEM!) And when you're spending time with them, look for ways to talk about God (Deut. 6:4-9).

## INDOOR FAMILY FUN IDEAS

- ◆ **Beanbag Toss:** Partially fill sandwich bags with dry rice, beans, or popcorn kernels. Set up a piece of cardboard with cutout circles of various sizes to toss them through. Variations: 1. Toss the beanbags into boxes or buckets set up 1, 2, and 3 feet away. 2. Draw a large tic-tac-toe game on cardboard and try to land three bags in a row.
- ◆ **Styrofoam Art:** Let your child stick colorful golf tees in a random pattern into a piece of Styrofoam. Variations: 1. Stretch rubber bands around the golf tees for an added design. 2. Use a golf tee to make a picture by punching holes in Styrofoam. 3. Cut slots halfway through pieces of Styrofoam trays. Fit the pieces together at the slots to form a 3D sculpture.
- ◆ **Paper Plate Wreath:** Carefully cut out the inside circle of a heavy paper plate. Use the outer ring to make a nature wreath. Make leaves, berries, flowers, etc., out of construction paper or leftover household odds and ends.
- ◆ **Magazine Charades:** Cut out pictures of sports or moving objects (vehicles, appliances) from old magazines. One person picks a picture and acts it out; the others try to guess what he is. Variations: 1. Glue a magazine picture to poster board and cut it into interlocking pieces for an instant puzzle. 2. Have a scavenger hunt. Give your child a list of objects to find and circle on a magazine picture.
- ◆ **Jump the Ball:** Tie a whiffle ball or beanbag to the end of a rope. Swing the ball in a circle along the floor. Have your child jump over the ball as it comes around. Variations: 1. Vary the height and speed of the ball. 2. Have your child

try to stop the ball with her feet or hands.

- ◆ **No-Melt Snowballs:** Wad up old sheets of paper into balls and have an indoor snowball fight. Variations: 1. Play basketball by lobbing your snowballs into a wastebasket or through a hula-hoop. 2. Sit on opposite sides of a table and blow on a snowball (or arm yourself with hair dryers!). Who can blow it off the table?
- ◆ **Balloon Volleyball:** Stand on either side of the table or rope and bat a balloon back and forth, trying to keep it in the air. Variations: 1. Hit the balloon with only one body part: head, hands, elbow, and feet. 2. Draw numbers or letters on the balloons. Throw several at your child; see if she can catch two that add up to ten or a balloon with the first letter of the word "house," etc.
- ◆ **Popcorn Pile-Up:** For the truly adventurous (or bored!): Set a hot-air popper in the middle of a blanket with the top off. As the popcorn flies into the air, let your child have fun trying to catch it with different size containers. Variations: 1. Try to count the popcorn you catch and check your estimate later. 2. String the popcorn for your backyard wildlife friends.
- ◆ **Can Bowling:** Arrange ten soft-drink cans in a triangle shape, like bowling. Have your child roll a ball from about 5-10 feet away and see how many cans he can knock down. Variation: If he's playing outside, make the game more challenging by filling the cans with water—how many can he dump?



## BRAIN TEASERS

(answers on back—DON'T PEEK!)

1. The maker doesn't want it; the buyer doesn't use it; and the user doesn't see it. What is it?
2. A child is born in Boston, Massachusetts to parents who were both born in Boston, Massachusetts. The child is not a U.S. citizen. How is this possible?
3. Before Mount Everest was discovered, what was the highest mountain on Earth?
4. Clara Clatter was born on December 27th, yet her birthday is always in the summer. How is this possible?
5. Frank and some of the boys were exchanging war stories. Art Bragg offered one about how his grandfather led a battalion against a German division during World War I. After the battle he was presented with a sword bearing the inscription "To Captain Bragg for Bravery, Daring and Leadership. World War I. From the Men of Battalion 8." Frank looked at Art and said, "You really don't expect anyone to believe that yarn, do you?" What's wrong with the story?
6. What is one thing that all wise men, regardless of their religion or politics, agree is between heaven and earth?
7. In what year did Christmas and New Year's fall in the same year?
8. A woman from New York married ten different men from that city, yet she did not break any laws. None of these men died, and she never divorced. How was this possible?
9. Why are 1990 American dollar bills worth more than 1989 American dollar bills?
10. How many times can you subtract the number 5 from 25?

# family spotlight

## the nilius family



### Jonathan

#### Julia

- \* *Birthdate:* 4/10
- \* *Job:* GPBS Music Teacher
- \* *Church Ministry:* Worship Leader; Upward Basketball Coach
- \* *Favorite Bible verse/character:* 1 Pet. 4:11; David
- \* *Favorite food:* steak
- \* *Enjoys:* playing guitar, soccer, board games, reading, watching *Seinfeld* or *Braveheart*, listening to Sovereign Grace Music or The King's Singers

### Mia

- \* *Birthdate:* 3/17/06
- \* *Favorite Bible story:* Noah
- \* *Favorite food:* ice cream
- \* *Enjoys:* dressing up, playing with dolls, dancing, watching *Caillou* or *Mary Poppins*, listening to the Mary Poppins soundtrack
- \* *Famous quotes:* "Mommy, I'm going to get the weeds out of your hair and then I'm going to put jelly (gel) in it!"

### Family time together

Listening to tunes, looking at Christmas lights, going to the park, riding bikes

### Favorite vacation

Omaha Zoo  
(Mia's favorite animal was a squirrel)

### Prayer requests

Salvation of Carey's father; witnessing opportunities with neighbors

### Carey

- \* *Birthdate:* 5/2
- \* *Job:* English tutor at Faith Academy
- \* *Church Ministry:* Worship Team; God's Garden Caregiver
- \* *Favorite Bible verse:* Col. 1:10
- \* *Favorite food:* Chinese
- \* *Enjoys:* spending time with family, playing games, reading, watching *King of Queens* or *While You Were Sleeping*

## MORE INDOOR FAMILY FUN

- \* Library books: the GPBC library is open Sundays from 5:30-6:00pm (children must be accompanied by an adult)
- \* It's tried and true: build a fort with chairs and blankets
- \* Sock wars: roll up socks and attack!
- \* Room to run: visit the Des Moines skywalks after hours to burn off some energy and explore!
- \* Bathtub play: baths aren't just for bedtime
- \* Snow art: bring a pot of snow into the house to make sculptures and when it melts, down the drain it goes! Use food coloring for color.
- \* Buy a mini-trampoline at a sporting goods store and bounce the wiggles away!
- \* Like bikes? Let them ride in the garage (it might be good to take the cars out first!).
- \* Camp out in the family room with sleeping bags, popcorn, & a movie
- \* Chain reaction: set up dominoes, then...well, you know the rest.
- \* Do you want fries with that? Play

"restaurant" with a menu, waiter, food, and money.

- \* Paper or plastic? Play "Wal-Mart" with money, departments, and check-out lines.
- \* Indoor "Sand" Box: fill a large Rubbermaid container with raw rice and/or beans
- \* X marks the spot: create a treasure map and hunt for treasure!



### Websites to check out:

- \* [www.familyfun.com](http://www.familyfun.com)
- \* <http://multiples.about.com/library/weekly/aa012303a.htm> for homemade finger paint, play-doh, and goop
- \* <http://crafts.kaboose.com> for winter crafts
- \* <http://www.thefamilycorner.com/dir/Family/Kids/> for coloring pages, recipes, crafts
- \* <http://dsmfamilies.ning.com> for local family events, restaurants where kids eat free, etc
- \* <http://www.christianitytoday.com/parenting/features/fun/> for fun activities and crafts

## ANSWERS TO BRAIN TEASERS

1. A coffin.
2. The child was born before 1776.
3. Mount Everest (it just hadn't been discovered).
4. Clara lives in the southern hemisphere.
5. World War I wasn't called "World War I" until World War II.
6. The word "and".
7. They fall in the same year every year. New Year's Day arrives very early in the year and Christmas arrives very late in the same year.
8. The lady was a Justice of the Peace.
9. One thousand nine hundred and ninety dollar bills are worth one dollar more than one thousand nine hundred and eighty-nine dollar bills.
10. Only once, and then you are subtracting it from 20.

GRANDVIEW PARK BAPTIST CHURCH CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

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