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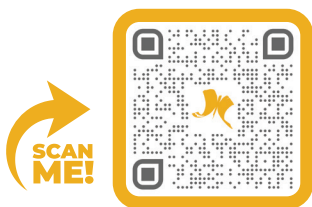
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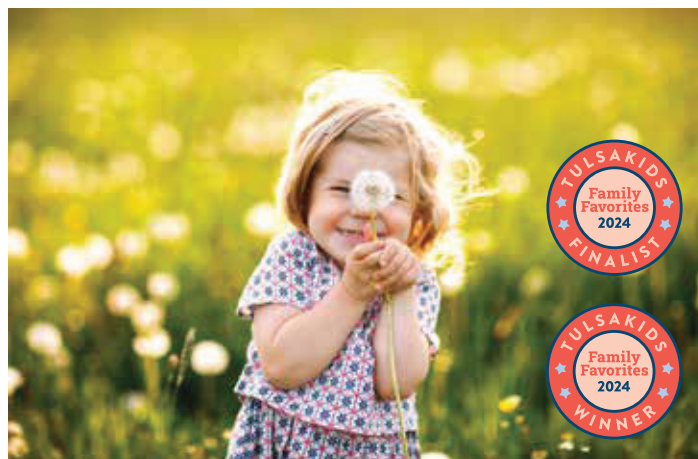
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By Tara Rittler

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THE ACCIDENTAL GARDENER!

My dad had a vegetable garden and a large strawberry patch (loved equally by grandkids and tortoises) in his backyard. My mom always had flowers somewhere – pots of petunias on the front porch and orange daylilies running across the edge of the lawn.

As a testament to actions being louder than words, I found it natural to want flowers and, if not vegetables, at least herbs for cooking, in my own backyard. My gardening approach over the years has been trial and error. Paying a landscaper would probably have been cheaper in the long run, but gardening, like cooking, is a creative process for me.

I've been given (or adopted) so many plants. A friend in North Carolina sent me moonflower seeds with planting instructions. I have my mom's orange day lilies, and purple irises from my kids' elementary school garden. My neighbor gave me two beautiful peonies. Another friend gave me some gorgeous hostas that return reliably every year. I broke off a piece of a cactus when I was visiting my brother in Los Angeles and it grew for years, taking over a large space along the fence. It began to die for some reason, so I broke off a piece and put it in a pot. Now it's almost as tall as I am. Over a year ago, my daughter and I gave my mom a small pink rose bush when she was in a rehab facility. I planted that in my backyard a few months ago, a living reminder of her.

Now that both of my parents are gone, I think of them and thank them as I tend to my own garden.

They never made me help them, but they did make me want to be outdoors with them, and they showed by example the rewards of gardening. My kids don't live in places to have a garden, but my daughters enjoy plants and trying to keep things alive in pots.

In this issue, you'll find an article by Kirsten Lang about gardening with kids. She is pictured on our cover with her kids at the Teaching Garden at Woodward Park. The Teaching Garden is a wonderful place to get inspired, as are the many herb and plant fairs happening this month. Kids will enjoy the sensory pleasures of being in an environment surrounded by plants even if they don't become gardeners.

You might take a moment to plant something of your own with your kids, even if it's just in a pot. Gardening teaches us to be patient and hopeful. It's a little like having children. You get a beautiful thing that takes nurturing, patience and love – and gives you hope for the future.



Betty Casey

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER
AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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WHAT'S
GOING
ON(LINE)?

TULSAKIDS 2025 **amazing dads** c o n t e s t

We're looking for a local dad to feature on our June cover!

Nominate an Amazing Dad from April 1-15 at tulsakids.com/contests.

Share their name and a few sentences about what makes them such a great dad! The winner will be featured on our June cover, interviewed for the magazine

AND will receive two Ozark Outings tickets for Wonders of Wildlife/Dogwood Canyon; two shark dives at Wonders of Wildlife; and two wildlife tram tours at Dogwood Canyon.



Thank you for nominating your Family Favorites!

Keep an eye out for our Family Favorites runoff ballot, coming May 1-15, to see if your nominees made the top 5!

CONNECT WITH TULSAKIDS ALL MONTH LONG!



Join TulsaKids' email list to receive our weekly list of weekend events, community news and special offers.
tulsakids.com/newsletter



2025 Interfaith Holocaust Commemoration: “Lessons From the Holocaust: Protecting Each Other in Perilous Times”

It is estimated that out of nine million Jews under Nazi domination, tens of thousands were rescued during the Holocaust by non-Jewish people. Many rescuers acted out of a sense of altruism, some acted out of deeply held religious beliefs or moral codes, while others acted in the spur of the moment.

The Tulsa Council for Holocaust Education invites the public to the 27th Annual Yom HaShoah: An Interfaith Holocaust Commemoration on Thursday, April 24 at 7 p.m. at Temple Israel, 2004 E. 22nd Place. Featured speaker Carol Rittner, Ph.D., a Catholic nun with the Religious Sisters of Mercy, will address the topic “Lessons From the Holocaust: Protecting Each Other in Perilous Times.” The commemoration is free and recommended for ages 12 and older. Registration is required.

A distinguished professor of Holocaust and genocide studies emerita and Dr. Marsha Raticoff Grossman professor of Holocaust studies emerita at Stockton University of New Jersey, Rittner has dedicated her life to her Christian faith and to understanding the circumstances that allowed the Holocaust and other genocides to occur. Since retiring from Stockton University in 2015, Rittner has taught several online graduate courses for Stockton's M.A. program in Holocaust and genocide studies. She is the editor or co-editor of numerous books on the subject, including *The Courage to Care: Rescuers of Jews During the Holocaust and Different Voices: Women and the Holocaust*. Her newest title, *Stress Test: The Israel-Hamas War and Christian-Jewish Relations*, co-edited by John K. Roth, is due out in early 2025. Visit carolrittner.com for more information about Rittner.

The commemoration also will include music selections embracing and reflecting the theme of the commemoration, performed by Lyndon Meyer, principal pianist for the Tulsa Opera. In addition, the commemoration will feature an exhibit of the winning entries from the 2025 Yom HaShoah Art Contest created by Oklahoma students of the Holocaust, a candle lighting ceremony honoring protectors and victims and survivors of the Holocaust, and a selection of Holocaust resources available for checkout from the Tulsa City-County Library.

The Holocaust Commemoration is presented by the Tulsa Council for Holocaust Education of the Jewish Federation of Tulsa in partnership with the Tulsa City-County Library, The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art, Congregation B'nai Emunah and Temple Israel.

Visit jewishtulsa.org/yomhashoah2025 to register for the commemoration or contact Sofia Thornblad at curator@jewishmuseum.net for more details.



Carol Rittner, Ph.D.

Jack's Generosity Raises Awareness About Rare Diseases

Kiley Proffitt started the nonprofit Jack's Generosity in 2024 after her son, Jack, passed away at 7 weeks of age. At 3 weeks of age, tests revealed Jack had inherited mutations on the AARS2 gene, causing a rare form of mitochondrial disease (mito). When presented during infancy, mito is more than 99% fatal. One in 4,000 will experience a form of mitochondrial disease. The first case of mito was discovered in 1962, and there is still no approved treatment or cure.

Kiley Proffitt said the nonprofit organization is a way to make something positive come from a devastating situation.

“Raising awareness around rare diseases like mitochondrial disease is something I have grown to become passionate about,” Proffitt said. “If I can help support families through such a difficult time, it will be worth it.” Jack's Generosity provides comfort boxes to families in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) and pediatric intensive care unit (PICU) and supports families and organizations raising awareness and/or funding efforts for rare mitochondrial diseases treatments and advancements toward a cure.

For more information or to donate, visit JacksGenerosity.com.



Teacher of the Year Finalists

During surprise visits to schools, Superintendent Dr. Ebony Johnson, TCTA President Shawna Mott-Wright, and members of the Tulsa Public Schools Board of Education surprised members of Team Tulsa with the news that they have been selected as finalists for 2025 Teacher of the Year.

"It's so important to recognize and honor our teachers' hard work and success in the classroom," said Dr. Ebony Johnson, Superintendent of Tulsa Public Schools. "They're making a difference every day in the lives of our young people, and I am so grateful for their extraordinary commitment to our Tulsa community."

The district's five 2025 Teacher of the Year finalists are:

Keely Flynn teaches physical education at Lindbergh Elementary. She joined Team Tulsa as a paraprofessional six years ago after working in the corporate world for 15 years. In addition to her role as P.E. teacher, the clubs Keely has started at the school center on helping students focus and self-regulate through movement.

Tamora Henderson is a kindergarten teacher at Bell Elementary. In her two years at Bell, she has focused on building a strong foundation for students in their education journey. She said teaching with love and care is more impactful, and it is important to go beyond what textbooks are able to provide.

Haley Newby teaches second grade at Hawthorne Elementary. This is her sixth year working for Tulsa Public Schools and her second at Hawthorne. She is a TPS alumnus who comes from a family of educators. She said her classroom is like a family, and she ensures everyone feels included and safe to learn.

Jillian Swets is a career tech teacher at McLain High School. She joined the team five years ago teaching math and science and now teaches hydroponics, renewable energy and Google tools. She uses her passion for environmental advocacy to develop the program and get students involved in hands-on STEM learning.

Erin Tresch teaches AP US History and Anthropology at Booker T. Washington High School. She previously worked in child welfare before making the switch to education four years ago to help get students excited about history and engaging in the world around them. She is a Booker T. graduate and said teaching there feels like home.

The Tulsa Public Schools 2025 Teacher of the Year will be announced at a special event in May 2025.



Jillian Swets



Keely Flynn



Tamora Henderson



Let's Experiment!

By Kirsten Lang

Watch this space each month for fun, simple STEM experiments that you can do with your child.

Do Plants Breathe?

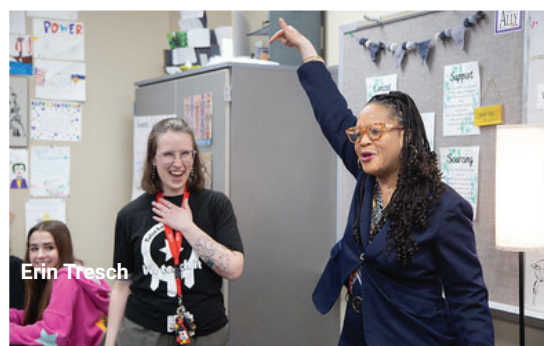
I really like this experiment, because it shows children that plants are living, breathing organisms. And it's simple!

Take your child outside to pick an active leaf from a tree, and then submerge it in water. At this point tiny bubbles will form along the surface of the leaf, showing kids that leaves are breathing just like humans!

Bonus: After this they can turn the leaf into an art project by making a leaf rubbing with crayons and a sheet of paper!



Haley Newby



Erin Tresch

Students Invited to Create LA2025 T-Shirt Design

Tulsa area students in grades K-12 are invited to create a T-shirt design for the 2025 Lemon-Aid Project.

This year's theme is "Spark Change One Lemon At A Time."

To participate:

1. Create a design using the 2025 theme
2. Take a picture or scan the image
3. Fill out the form available at thelemonaidproject.org, upload the image and a completed waiver, or use the QR code.

For more information, email hello@thelemonaidproject.org.
Deadline to submit is Friday, April 18.



Tulsa's New Broadway Season Includes "The Outsiders" National Tour Launch



Celebrity Attractions announced that Tulsa will "Stay Gold" this year when "The Outsiders" launches its first national tour in October. The seminal novel by Tulsa native S.E. Hinton comes home to the city that inspired it after winning four 2024 Tony Awards® including Best Musical. From Tulsa 1967 to the tale as old as time, this season has something for everyone: "Kimberly Akimbo," "The Outsiders," Disney's "Beauty and the Beast," "A Beautiful Noise: The Neil Diamond Musical," "Mamma Mia!," "The Wiz" and "The Notebook."

A New Leaf Offers Plants with a Purpose

If you're in search of plants for your spring flower beds or gardens, you can find plenty of options, while helping provide jobs for individuals with disabilities at A New Leaf. A New Leaf is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide individuals with developmental disabilities (including those with autism spectrum disorder) with vocational and residential services to increase their independence and individual choices.

A New Leaf stocks a wide variety of seasonal bedding plants, perennials, vegetables and herbs, as well as indoor plants. When you shop A New Leaf's Garden Centers, you are not only purchasing beautiful and healthy plants, but you are also supporting their clients so they can earn a wage and work with purpose. Locations are 2306 S. 1st Pl., Broken Arrow, and 8535 N. Memorial, Owasso.

In addition to plants for the garden, A New Leaf offers Perfect Porch as an option for those who want to provide a welcoming entryway to their home. With Perfect Porch, A New Leaf clients and pros will outfit the entrance in the latest seasonal décor. Decorating packages are available featuring spring, fall and holiday themes. The cost is \$300 per season or \$800 for all three seasons. When the season has passed, the decorating crew will pick up the décor and tidy the porch while you get to keep the plants.

For information, call 918.451.1491 x115



New season tickets will be available for purchase in May, with a special priority window of time available first to registered email members. Individuals interested in more information on season tickets may register their email at CelebrityAttractions.com/Tulsa and follow Celebrity Attractions on their social channels: [Facebook.com/BwayTULSA](https://www.facebook.com/BwayTULSA); [Instagram.com/BwayTULSA](https://www.instagram.com/BwayTULSA).

For the best seats to Celebrity Attractions' "Stay Gold" Broadway Season at the Tulsa Performing Arts Center, become a Broadway Season Subscriber. Season Subscriber benefits include many advantages: the best seats at the lowest prices, the same seats for every show, the ability to buy additional tickets to individual shows before the public, the option to exchange show tickets to another performance before the public and the opportunity to purchase tickets to any special add-on productions before the general public.

Ticket buyers are reminded that for Celebrity Attractions' productions the Tulsa PAC Ticket Office, Ticketmaster and Celebrity Attractions are the only official retail ticket outlets and the only way to guarantee that you are paying face value for legitimate tickets for all performances at the Tulsa Performing Arts Center.



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A Lifeline for Parents: How SafeCare Transformed a Mom's Journey

By **Natasha Mitchell**



Scan for more info



Parenting is one of life's most rewarding experiences, but for Rachel, a single mother of a toddler and an infant, it was also overwhelming. Each day brought challenges — managing tantrums, caring for her newborn, and trying to create a safe home environment. Hazards like unsecured cabinets and dangling cords were everywhere, and Rachel often felt unsure about when her baby needed medical attention. Like many parents, Rachel wanted to give her children the best, but she didn't know where to start.

Looking for support and information, Rachel discovered the SafeCare Home-Based Parenting program. Designed for caregivers of young children, SafeCare delivers practical tools directly into families' homes. Rachel's SafeCare provider partnered with her to pinpoint and tackle safety risks in her home. Together, they child-proofed cabinets, removed choking hazards, and created a safe space for her children to grow. Beyond that, the program equipped Rachel with strategies to manage her toddler's behavior using

positive interactions, fostering a deeper bond.

One of the most life-changing lessons for Rachel was learning how to identify illness in her baby and knowing when to seek medical care. Reflecting on her experience, Rachel shared, "SafeCare didn't just help me become a better mom — it gave me tools I'll use for the rest of my life." By the program's end, Rachel felt more confident as a parent, her home was made safer for her children, and she understood how to create and keep strong, positive relationships with them.

What is SafeCare?

SafeCare is an evidence-based parenting program that improves parenting skills and promotes the health and well-being of children aged 0-5. With a practical, supportive and nonjudgmental approach, it empowers parents to confidently navigate the demands of raising young children.

The program typically spans nine months to a year, with weekly sessions lasting up to two hours each visit. Each visit includes teaching and modeling skills, role-playing

exercises and fidelity monitoring. According to Lorinda Reed, SafeCare Trainer at Family & Children's Services (FCS), "When I see families playing with their kids, locking up medications, learning to treat a sick child, and interacting to reduce challenging behaviors, it makes children happier, healthier and safer."

SafeCare focuses on three core areas:

1. **Parenting Skills:** Techniques to encourage positive parent-child interactions, like praising good behavior and calmly managing tantrums.
2. **Home Safety:** Guidance to identify and remove hazards, from securing cleaning supplies to eliminating choking risks.
3. **Child Health:** Education on recognizing and responding to childhood illnesses and injuries.

Making a Difference in Communities

Delivered through structured, home-based sessions by trained providers, SafeCare combines education with personalized coaching. For many families, it's

a game-changer — reducing stress, boosting confidence and improving overall family well-being. Through partnerships with organizations like Emergency Infant Services, Family & Children's Services ensures SafeCare reaches families across Tulsa and surrounding areas.

How to Get Involved

Parents in need of support or providers interested in referrals can easily connect with SafeCare. Visit fcsok.org to complete the referral form. Simply go to "Services" and select "SafeCare parenting" to locate the form. Within 48 business hours, an engagement coordinator will reach out to guide families through the next steps.

For parents like Rachel, SafeCare is more than just a program — it's a life-changing experience, offering the tools and confidence to build a safer, healthier and more connected family life.

Natasha Mitchell, Social Media Manager at Family & Children's Services, oversees social media and supports web content management. Her award-winning, diverse background spans journalism, communications, marketing, PR and university relations.



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Aging Out, Not Left Out: How Amnoni Myers is Transforming the Future for Foster Youth

By **Tamecca Rogers, PhD**



At 18 years old, Amnoni Myers stood in front of her foster home, her entire life stuffed into black trash bags. The house she had been told she could stay in was no longer an option. No family was waiting for her, no roadmap for what came next. She had aged out of the foster care system, and like many others, she was suddenly on her own.

For thousands of youths in the foster care system, turning 18 isn't a celebration—it's a moment of crisis. Many are forced into homelessness, face instability, and struggle to navigate adulthood without the support others take for granted. Amnoni, however, refused to let the system dictate her future. She turned her struggles into fuel for change, dedicating her life to improving the foster care system and advocating for those coming after her.

Today, she is the founder of Launch Ahead, a tech-driven platform designed to help foster youth transition into adulthood with the resources and guidance they deserve. But beyond policy and technology, Amnoni's mission is about something more profound: reminding foster youth that they

are valuable, no matter their circumstances.

The Harsh Reality of Aging Out

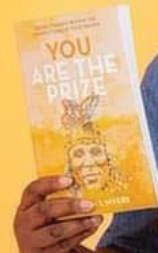
Amnoni knows firsthand the challenges foster youth face, especially in education. While in college, she experienced homelessness during school breaks because, unlike other students, she had no home to return to.

"People don't realize that when campuses close, foster youth have nowhere to go," she explains.

But that's just one gap in a system filled with them. Youth in foster care often attend multiple schools, struggle with academic instability and lack consistent emotional support. Many fall through the cracks, and by the time they age out, they are left to figure out housing, employment and financial stability with little to no guidance.

"My sister's story is a reminder of how urgent this issue is," Amnoni says. "She aged out of the system, struggled to find stability and ultimately fell into human trafficking. The system didn't protect her, and I refuse to let that happen to other young people."

Amnoni Myers, pictured, offers ways to help youth aging out of foster care.



From Survivor to Advocate

Amnoni's advocacy work began in college when she was selected to participate in the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute. She was placed in Senator Chuck Grassley's office, a key figure in child welfare policy. Initially hesitant due to their political differences, she quickly realized that the opportunity was bigger than politics—it was about using her lived experience to create change.

She wrote a policy report on the need for trauma-informed care in foster parenting, recognizing that many foster parents aren't equipped to support children who have endured deep emotional wounds. That report was presented to Congress and the White House, pushing forward the conversation on what real reform should look like.

But Amnoni knew policy wasn't enough. She wanted to build something that gave foster youth real, tangible tools to take control of their futures. That's where Launch Ahead was born—a digital platform that helps youth set and track goals, from obtaining an ID to finding

stable housing and pursuing career paths.

"Youth in foster care are supposed to have a transition plan starting at 14, but in reality, that often doesn't happen until just months before they age out," she says. "You can't build a future in three months."

Foster Care Through a Child's Eyes: How Schools and Parents Can Help

While much of the focus on foster care reform is on policy, everyday people—including parents and educators—play a crucial role in making foster youth feel seen and supported.

How can we help grade school students understand and support their peers in foster care?

- **Normalize Different Family Structures:** Foster children may move frequently, live with relatives or be in group homes. Helping kids understand that families look different fosters empathy and inclusion.
- **Books & Stories Matter:** Introducing books like *Maybe Days* by Jennifer Wilgocki helps young readers understand foster

care in an age-appropriate way.

- **Encourage Kindness at School:** Foster kids often change schools multiple times. Teaching children to be welcoming and inclusive—whether it's inviting a new classmate to lunch or simply being a friend—can make all the difference.
- **Rethink Assignments:** Instead of traditional family tree projects, allow students to create "Circles of Support," showcasing the people who care about them.
- **Model Support and Advocacy:** Teach kids that helping others isn't just about grand gestures—it's about small, consistent acts of kindness.

What Needs to Change in Schools?

Amnoni believes the education system can do more to support students in foster care. She suggests:

- **Trauma-Informed Training for Educators:** Teachers need to understand how trauma impacts learning and behavior so they can provide support instead of punishment.
- **A Dedicated Support System for Foster Youth:** A mentor or counselor should be assigned to foster students to help them adjust and build relationships.
- **Flexibility with Academic Requirements:** Many foster youth fall behind due to multiple school moves. Schools should offer tutoring, flexible deadlines and alternative credit recovery.
- **Stronger Collaboration Between Schools and Child Welfare Agencies:** Foster youth interact with multiple systems, including education, child welfare and sometimes juvenile justice. These entities need to work together to ensure students don't fall through the cracks.

How You Can Make a Difference

Supporting foster youth isn't just about government policy but community action. If you want to help, here's where to start:

- **Become a Mentor:** Programs like Fostering Connections and Big Brothers Big Sisters provide foster youth with stable adult relationships.
- **Volunteer with Local Organizations:** Groups like Youth Services of Tulsa and Family & Children's Services provide critical support for foster youth aging out of care.
- **Advocate for Better Policies:** Attend school board meetings, support trauma-informed training for teachers and push for extended foster care programs.
- **Provide Practical Support:** Many young adults aging out of care struggle with housing, transportation and job opportunities. Offering a spare room, donating essentials or hiring a foster youth can change a life.

The Bottom Line: Every Child Deserves a Future

At the end of the day, supporting foster youth is about showing up, being consistent and ensuring they know they are not alone.

"My sister used to tell me, 'You are the prize.' That's the message I want every foster youth to hear," Amnoni says. "No matter what they've been through, they are whole, they are valuable and they are worthy of success."

With the right support, foster youth don't just survive—they thrive. And that's a future we all should work toward.

Dr. Tamecca Rogers serves as Director of Student Access and Success at Tulsa Technology Center. An award-winning author and filmmaker, she is committed to diversity, equity and inclusion in all her endeavors.



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MissHelens.com | 4849 South Mingo, Tulsa

An advertisement for Summer Piano Lessons. On the left, there is a circular inset photo of a woman, Brie Jones, sitting on a piano bench and playing a black Steinway piano. To the right of the photo, the text reads: "Summer Piano Lessons!" in a large, elegant font. Below that, it says "With Brie Jones Institute of Music". Further down, it states "Now Enrolling 4 - 6-year olds for our Musical Beginnings short course!". At the bottom, it mentions "Afternoon and evening time availability" and provides the email bjones@briejonesmusic.com and the phone number 918.600.2551. A small circular logo for "STEINWAY SELECT SCHOOL" is visible near the bottom left of the piano.

Preventing Teen Sexual and Dating Violence

By **Julie Wenger Watson**



Keeping children safe is a top priority of parents and caregivers. However, as kids grow older and venture out on their own, the world can become more complicated and the risks less obvious. Unfortunately, for many Oklahoma teens, sexual and dating violence is one of those risks, and it's a very real problem. April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, which makes it a good time to explore this important issue and what can be done to prevent it.

Defining the Problem

While the definition of sexual and dating violence might seem self-evident, in reality, many less obvious behaviors qualify. It's important to understand that assault and violence can take many forms.

Sexual violence broadly includes any type of unwanted sexual contact such as sexual abuse, assault and harassment. This can range from rape (or attempted rape) and unwanted sexual contact or touching to nonconsensual image sharing (including AI generated images) and using drugs or alcohol to force a sexual act.

Dating or relationship violence is a pattern of coercive, intimidating or manipulative

behaviors used to exert power and control over a current or former romantic partner. It encompasses a broad range of behaviors that may include physical violence, sexual violence, emotional violence, stalking and digital abuse (using technology and/or social media to intimidate, harass or threaten).

A 2021 Youth Risk Behavior Survey by the Oklahoma State Department of Health found that one in five public high school students reported having experienced some form of sexual violence, with one in 10 having experienced dating violence.

Females are more likely than males to have encountered this type of violence, and it disproportionately affects populations that have been historically marginalized, such as people with disabilities, people of color, and gender and sexual minorities. Although the sexual violence is often carried out by their peers, 8 percent of public high school students reported that an adult or person at least five years older than them was the perpetrator.

While the Youth Risk Behavior Survey was limited to high school students, this type of violence isn't. According to Lori

Gonzalez, Domestic Violence and Intervention Services' (DVIS) vice president of advocacy services, kids as young as 12 and 14 are also experiencing physical and sexual abuse.

Because sexual and dating violence can look so many different ways, it's not always easily recognized. Gonzalez emphasizes that it's important for parents to be aware of what is going on in their child's life. For example, power and control dynamics in a relationship can often indicate a bigger problem.

"With our youth that are experiencing dating violence, it looks a little bit different than what we see on the big screen," she notes. "They may experience things like having a partner that tracks their social media and demands to be on their social media. They may have a partner that calls them constantly and is really jealous."

Repercussions

Adolescent victims of sexual and dating violence can have mental and physical health consequences that last well beyond the act itself. They're 66 percent more likely than their peers to experience symptoms of depression, and a full 52 percent of them consider or attempt suicide. A

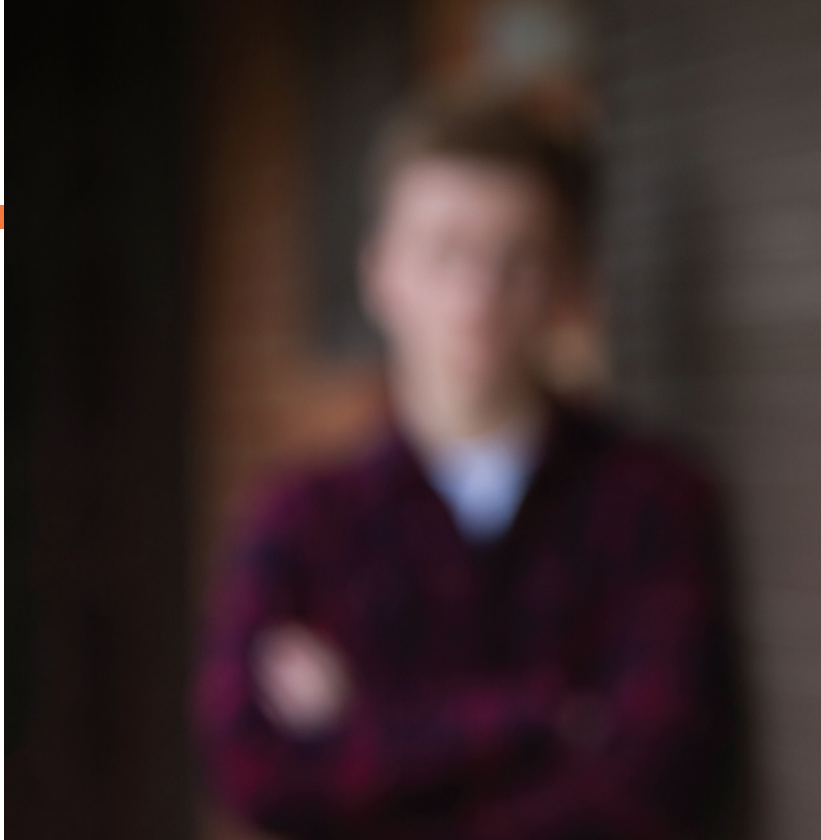
high percentage also experience anxiety, engage in unhealthy behaviors and exhibit antisocial behaviors.

Violence in adolescent relationships also sets the stage for future relationship problems. Youth who are victimized are at a higher risk for re-victimization during their college years. This can range from sexual assault to rape.

Recognizing Relationship Violence

Teens who are involved with abusive dating relationships are often afraid or reluctant to tell their parents or another adult for fear of being judged, not believed or having their experiences minimized. However, you can't address a problem until you recognize it. There are a number of behaviors that can indicate a problem.

Adolescents who are victims of dating violence may become isolated from friends and family, lose interest in activities they used to enjoy, apologize and make excuses for their dating partner's behavior, or have unexplained bruises or injuries. Their dating partners may call them names or demean them in public, exhibit extreme jealousy, or constantly monitor the victim through phone calls, texts or





RESOURCES FOR HELP

DVIS

dvis.org, call the 24-hour information and crisis line at 918.7HELP.ME (918.743.5763) or text "SAFE" to 207-777 to communicate with a DVIS advocate daily between the hours of 8 p.m. and 1 a.m.

Oklahoma Safe Line

1.800.522.SAFE (7233)

National Dating Abuse Hotline

1.866.331.9474 or text 77054

other people.

Response & Prevention

Responding and preventing teen sexual and dating violence is a multi-pronged approach. Education is key, not just for potential victims, but also for teachers, friends and family who want to help. Teaching kids safe and healthy relationship skills is crucial. Towards this end, DVIS Education Outreach Coordinator, Annie Bast, brings the organization's healthy relationship curriculum into a number of schools in the greater Tulsa area.

"We talk about all kinds of things, whether it's healthy relationships, or online safety," she says.

The curriculum also features reality-based activities, including a game called "Red Flag, Green Flag," which presents real life scenarios. These can be as simple as talking about what to do if your partner is rude to strangers, and whether that behavior is okay. According to Bast, these types of conversations open the door for more communication, which is also a vital part of prevention. When adolescents feel comfortable talking to the adults in their lives about a wide range of topics, it opens the door for ongoing conversations about

their own experiences.

Gonzalez believes it's important to educate, empower and encourage students to be good bystanders and friends who are willing to help when their own friends are in need. The curriculum Bast teaches focuses on this, as well.

Responsible and trusted adults, as well as proactive peers, can and do make a difference, according to Gonzalez.

"What I've found is that there are one or two teachers at schools that kids really trust, and they will go talk to that teacher. Teachers can be good support," she says. "Students may also find good support within their church community, and parents may be good support, but I think we are living in a time where people need to be good bystanders and help their fellow man, and that starts with teaching our kids how to support others in situations like this."

Julie Wenger Watson is a freelance writer who's worked in all aspects of music promotion. She's also Co-Director of "Live From Cain's," a public radio show pilot.

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Kristin Switzer: Spring into Clean

By **Nancy A. Moore**



Spring is in the air, and that means spring cleaning. Clearing the clutter can be intimidating, but it doesn't have to be. This month we're visiting with local mom Kristin Switzer, owner of 2B Organized Tulsa, who will share some easy tips and tricks that will get you and your kids ready to tackle your clutter and get organized. Kristin also shares a challenge for those who are up for it!

TK: Tell us a little about yourself.

Kristin: I grew up in the heart of Kansas City before heading south to Tulsa for college—Go TU! It was there that I met my husband, Nick, and ever since, Tulsa has felt like our true home. Today we're raising two daughters in elementary school alongside our two energetic rescue dogs who keep things lively and always on the move.

TK: How did you get into the organizing business?

Kristin: I've been in love with order and organization for as long as I can remember. As a kid, I would take it upon myself to tidy up the medicine cabinet or rearrange the pantry in our family home—little projects that brought me pure joy. At the time, I genuinely thought everyone shared my love for organizing,

but it turns out I was a bit of an anomaly in that department.

Fast forward to 2020 when my husband, children and I moved into our new home, and I turned to social media for inspiration on organizing methods. That's when I discovered just how many people struggle with decluttering and the true need for organizing services. Through my research on this business concept, I found the 2B Organized franchise and opened the Tulsa business a couple of months later.

TK: People are attached to their things. What is the value of decluttering and parting with items?

Kristin: A recent client shared a powerful insight with me: "Possessions possess you," and I couldn't agree more. Our stuff often carries a hidden weight that many don't realize is affecting them until they begin decluttering and experience that immediate sense of relief. I want people to feel that elation and peace, so we start with shorter sessions to make sure we accomplish real progress without the overwhelm.

TK: What strategy do you recommend for people who are ready to start their spring cleaning?

Kristin: If someone is organizing

on their own, I recommend starting small with a quick win, like tackling a junk drawer. It's amazing how quickly a small project like that can shift energy, and once they see the weight lifted, momentum builds, making the next decluttering task feel that much easier.

TK: Several years ago, the Marie Kondo Method of organizing was popular with the question, "Does it spark joy?" What is your approach when people are considering what items to keep? Do you have a question or way of expressing the importance of an item?

Kristin: Instead of getting bogged down in the overwhelming task of evaluating every single item in a space, try focusing on selecting your favorite pieces from each category. For example, if you have 20 pairs of pants and I ask you to pick your favorite five to six pairs, that's a much simpler and more manageable task than making a yes-or-no decision on each one. Plus, let's be real: you're probably wearing those same five to six pairs most of the time anyway.

However, if you prefer to tackle things one item at a time, ask a trusted friend or family member to help you—and I challenge you to be ruthless. Ask yourself: When was the last time I used it? Do I

need it? How much do I love it? You will never miss an item you didn't use, need or love.

TK: It seems that people are mentally lighter when they get organized. What other benefits are there to being organized?

Kristin: One of the best perks of an organized home is the ease of finding what you need and the ability to tidy up in a flash. When everything has its designated spot—like cleaning products neatly stored under the kitchen sink—anyone in the house can quickly locate what they need. The goal of an organized home isn't to make it look like no one lives there, but to make living there easier. When you can effortlessly find your items and clean up in minutes, managing your space becomes much easier and far less stressful.

TK: What are some easy spring cleaning tips that people can implement today?

Kristin: Here are a few simple ways to get started:

1. Begin small, focusing on an area where you spend a lot of time like that ever-growing stack of mail on the kitchen counter. Tackling small, visible tasks in high-traffic areas will help you build momentum, and you'll



instantly see the payoff of your effort.

2. With warmer weather around the corner, spring is the perfect time to go through your cold-weather clothing. Your favorite sweaters and boots will be fresh in your mind, making it easier to part with the items you didn't use or wear.
3. Try the 20-in-20 challenge: Spend just 20 minutes a day for the next 20 days, and pick out 20 items each time to donate. Go through your sock drawer, your kids' toys, your cookbooks and that box of cords. By the end of it, you'll have cleared out a staggering 400 items from your home!

TK: A tip to involve kids in the organizing process:

Kristin: Make clean-up a breeze for kids by setting up easy-to-follow systems. If you're not sure where things belong, your kids won't know, either. By designating specific spots for things, you're not only making these items easy to find, but you're empowering your kids to take responsibility for their belongings. When everything has a home, it's easier for them to pitch in and put things back where they belong—and it's one less thing for you to worry about!

TK: What else would you like to share?

Kristin: My friends and I are beginning to enter the sandwich generation where we're juggling caring for aging parents and raising our kids. Whether you're moving your family or helping your parents declutter and downsize, it can quickly feel like a mountain of stress. Luckily, there are so many amazing resources out there to make these transitions smoother, and we're here to guide you through every step of the way.

You can connect with Kristin online: kristin@2b-organized.com; 918.518.1239; 2b-organized.com

Check out the Sharing Passion and Purpose Podcast to listen to the full interview at sharingpassionandpurpose.com to find out what Kristin is doing every month to thrive in 2025.



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Picture This:

Great Picture Book Series

By **Laura Raphael**, MA, MLIS, Children's Services Coordinator, Tulsa City-County Library

Beloved characters pop up again and again – for your child's cognitive benefit

The world is a busy and complex place, no matter what age you are. Evolutionary scientists surmise that ancient humans living 10,000 years ago met, at most, 250 different people in their entire lives. Farthest distance they traveled from birth to death? No more than 20 or 25 miles. (No wonder watching a fire and cave drawings were the most exciting entertainments at that time!)

Today, of course, humans have a million things to look at, think about, interact with and ponder – just consider the number of streaming services available, much less the number of shows to watch on each one.

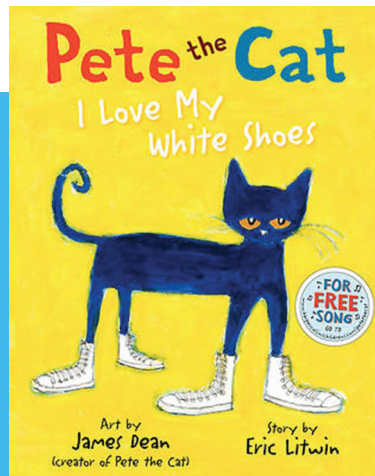
We need a break!

That's where series books come in. Cognitively, reading a book where you are already familiar with the main characters, setting and language helps reduce intellectual demand and increases brain pleasure.

This is true for adults, teens, children, and even very young children and babies.

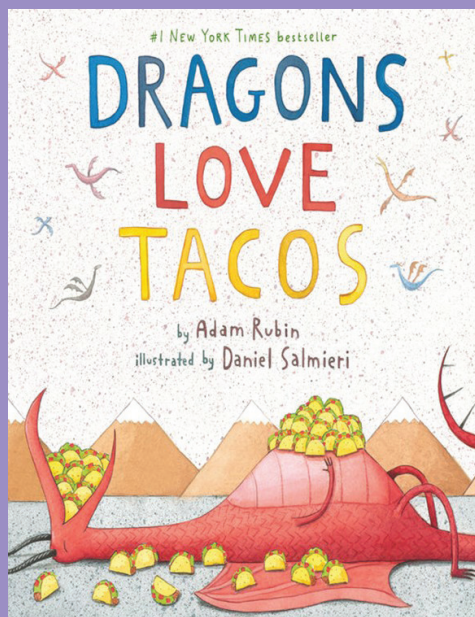
Fortunately, series abound for all of these ages, including fabulous picture books, which is not always the first format you think of for series. (James Patterson novels, yes. Colorful illustrated books for kids? Not so much.)

Check out some of my favorites for your – and your child's – brain's sake! All books listed below are first in the series.



Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes written by Eric Litwin and illustrated by James Dean

Changing shoe colors was never so much fun, or musical! Pete turns up again and again in multiple locales and challenges, but is always a cool (and kind) cat.



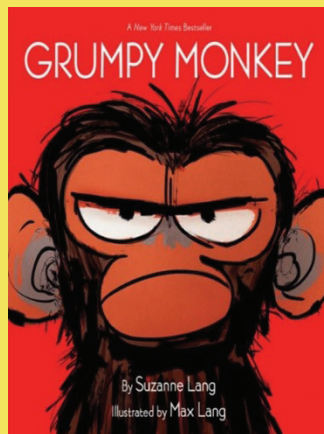
Dragons Love Tacos written by Adam Rubin and illustrated by Daniel Salmieri

Who wouldn't get a little worked up when delicious tacos are involved? Follow these dragons in multiple books.



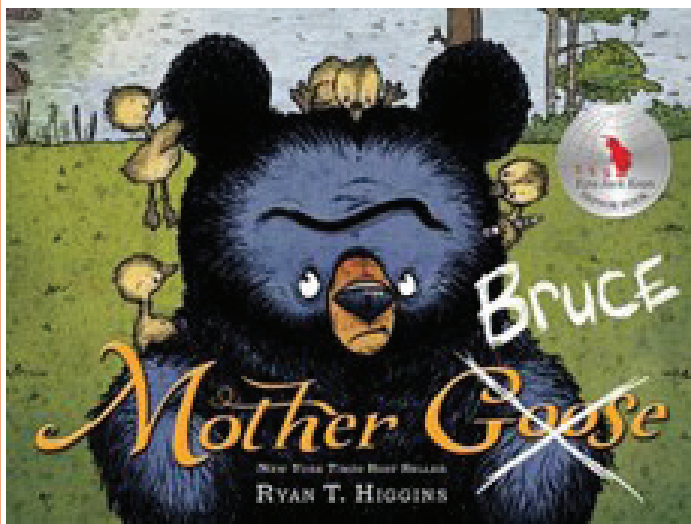
Olivia written and illustrated by Ian Falconer

This first introduction to Olivia, "a feisty pig with too much energy," might remind you of a typical toddler, both in delights and frustrations. Later books in the series see Olivia being a princess, going to Venice and forming a band.



Grumpy Monkey written by Suzanne Lang and illustrated by Max Lang

In this first book of the series, Jim Panzee is in a bad mood. He doesn't want to do anything at all but grump around...and that's OK! This and later books in the Grumpy Monkey series explore the role of emotions in our everyday lives, and how to handle even the "difficult" ones.



Mother Bruce written and illustrated by Ryan T. Higgins

An out-of-sorts bear is surprised that his breakfast of eggs hatches and he's suddenly "Mother Goose" to a gaggle of goslings. Despite his best efforts, he becomes an excellent and loving mother. In later books in this series, Mother Bruce faces a storm, is "swapped" with his cousin Kevin, and plays Santa.

Other great picture book series to explore at one of your favorite library locations (there are 24 all across Tulsa and Tulsa County!):

- *The Day the Crayons Quit* written by Drew Daywalt and illustrated by Oliver Jeffers
- *We Don't Eat Our Classmates* written and illustrated by Ryan T. Higgins
- *The Questioners* written by Andrea Beatty and illustrated by David Roberts

Growing Herbs with Kids – and Recipes to Try

By **Natalie Mikles**



One of the first—and easiest—things to grow with kids is herbs.

Watching their little fingers place seeds for basil, parsley and mint in the dirt is about making sweet memories, but it also has very practical implications. Children can watch with their own eyes as their seeds become seedlings and then big plants. And while being simply decorative is good enough, with herbs they will see how useful their gardening endeavor can be. Letting them then harvest the basil for a marinara sauce or the mint for a mint lemonade allows them to see, smell, touch and taste the fruits of their labor.

Beyond the joy of feeling soil between their fingers and the excitement of watching tiny sprouts emerge, there's another reason to garden with kids—it can actually encourage healthier eating habits. A study in the *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics* showed a correlation between fruit and vegetable intake in children who participate in gardening. The study found that children who garden—at school or with their parents—tend to eat more

fruits and vegetables. And parents don't need a study to know that kids are more likely to try new things either when it's their idea or they have had a hand in it. Unfamiliar foods are not so scary if you've been the one to pick it out at the farmers market, wash it and cut it. The sensory experience of gardening is similar to the sensory experience of cooking in that kids can become part of the process.

Growing herbs is one of the simplest gardening projects for kids and adults alike. Start with seeds for the whole experience or pick up some seedlings at an herb festival or nursery. The seedlings might be a better bet if you've had trouble growing from seeds in the past or if you want a gardening project with more instant gratification.

Whether you have a big backyard garden or just a few pots on a windowsill, growing herbs is a simple, rewarding way to introduce kids to gardening. And the best part? They'll be excited to use what they grew! Here are a few easy, kid-friendly recipes that make the most out of fresh herbs.



Simple Minty Lemonade

- ½ cup fresh lemon juice (from about 3 to 4 lemons)
 - 4 cups water
 - ¼ cup honey
 - ¼ cup fresh mint leaves
1. Squeeze the lemons, using a hand juicer.
 2. In a pitcher, mix lemon juice, water and honey until dissolved.
 3. Drop mint into pitcher and muddle it by pressing the leaves against the bottom and sides of the pitcher to release the flavor.
 4. Chill and serve over ice.



A fun way to introduce kids to gardening and the love of digging in the dirt is by taking them to one of the local herb and plant festivals. All of these events are free.

Herbal Affair

April 19, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Downtown Sand Springs

Jenks Herb and Plant Festival

April 26, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Downtown Jenks

SpringFest

April 11-12, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Tulsa Garden Center at Woodward Park,
2435 S. Peoria Ave.



Buttery Garlic and Herb Bread

- 1 small baguette
 - 3 tablespoons butter, softened
 - 1 small garlic clove, minced
 - 2 tablespoons fresh herbs (parsley, basil or any of your favorites), finely chopped
 - ¼ teaspoon salt
 - ¼ cup Parmesan cheese
1. Let kids help mix the butter, garlic, herbs and salt in a small bowl.
 2. Slice the baguette in half lengthwise to create two open-face halves. Spread mixture onto bread. Sprinkle with cheese.
 3. Toast in oven at 375 degrees for 5 to 7 minutes or until golden.

Kid-Friendly Basil Pesto

- 2 cups fresh basil leaves
 - ¼ cup grated Parmesan cheese
 - ¼ cup pine nuts (or skip for nut-free)
 - 1 small garlic clove
 - ¼ cup olive oil
 - Salt, to taste
1. Tear up basil leaves and add to food processor. Add cheese, nuts and garlic.
 2. Pulse until combined, then drizzle in olive oil while blending.
 3. Taste and adjust for seasoning. Serve over pasta or as a dip for veggies.



GARDENING WITH KIDS: START SIMPLE – AND EMBRACE THE MESS

By Kirsten Lang



In my early adult years, it was a joke among my family that I had anything but a green thumb. In fact, my aunt would gift me a pot of lavender with the line: “Don’t worry, you can’t kill it.” But inevitably, it wound up dead in my yard one month later.

About six years ago I became a mother. And now, three kids later, I have found the start of a new hobby for something that I once never expected: gardening.

It started as a teaching tool for my young children. I wanted them to find joy in caring for something that they could watch grow. I often laugh that my kids and I are all learning together on this one.

This past winter was a chilly one for Tulsa. With several snowstorms in the city that caused schools and businesses to close, we had above-average snowfall totals for the months of both January and February, according to records from the National Weather Service.

But now with April upon us, the threat of freezing temperatures is less likely, making it the perfect time to start pulling out those gardening gloves with the kids and getting messy!

“The point of introducing kids to gardening isn’t to make them gardeners but rather to expose them to how the food we eat is grown,” said Paul James with Southwood Garden and Nursery. “Getting kids interested in gardening is really quite simple, just think like a kid!”

James says for any adult looking to expose their children to gardening, just start off simple. It doesn’t have to be expensive or elaborate, and it definitely doesn’t need to be neat or orderly. In fact, he suggests it will likely be quite the opposite!

So where do you start?

“Growing veggies from a seed is a real eye-opener for kids,” James said. “Especially those that germinate quickly such as beans, cucumbers, potato or even watermelon.”

These projects don’t necessarily require a lot of supplies. You can start with supplies as simple as an empty egg carton, potting soil and some seeds.

“One of the easiest ways to start with kids is to fill an empty egg carton with potting mix and plant a seed or two in each cell,” James said. “Keep the mix moist and place the carton in a spot in your house that gets a lot of light.”

This is also a good opportunity to teach kids that plants need three things to survive: water, sunshine and air. The sunshine is being converted to energy, and when mixed with water from either a watering can or rain, plus air that plants breathe like humans, these three ingredients are converted into food for plants by a process called photosynthesis, which helps them grow.

Planting seeds in egg cartons at home is a great way to explain to your kids the science lesson of growth. But for those who want to take it one step further, you can head outside to your flower bed or pots, if you live somewhere without a yard.

This year our family decided to go with a few easy ones. I had my daughter pick out a few perennials for the flower bed. For a little girl, flowers are sometimes more exciting from day one.

And then I always love to have herbs – rosemary, mint, basil and thyme. Not only are they fun to grow, but it also saves money!

And finally, this year we are tackling the cherry tomato plant. Like James suggested, teaching kids that food starts as a seed and finishes out as something we can eat can be quite rewarding.

Happy gardening!

Kirsten Lang has been a meteorologist in Tulsa for nearly a decade. She is a mother of three and a STEAM enthusiast, working as an outreach coordinator for a local non-profit to get more science resources and funding into Oklahoma’s public schools.



Kirsten and her kids learn some gardening skills at the Teaching Garden at Woodward Park.

TULSAKIDS 2025

Spring Fun Guide



Grow Your Garden

SPRINGFEST

April 11-12, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Tulsa Garden Center, 2435 S. Peoria Ave.

Gardening enthusiasts shop from a variety of plant vendors while supporting educational programs at Tulsa Garden Center.

tulsagardencenter.org/springfest

OWASSO SPRING FLING

April 12, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Redbud Festival Park, 109 N. Main St., Owasso

The Spring Fling is a FREE, family-friendly event featuring Master Gardener seminars, product demonstrations, plant sales, kids' crafts and food trucks.

cityofowasso.com

SAND SPRINGS HERBAL AFFAIR

April 19, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Downtown Sand Springs

Shop the many vendors on hand who will be offering herbs, perennials, natives and heirloom plants and more. Find unique arts and crafts, herbal products, gardening supplies and décor while enjoying live music and great food!

sandspringsok.org

JENKS HERB AND PLANT FESTIVAL

April 26, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Downtown Jenks

The Jenks Herb & Plant Festival is widely anticipated as the official signal of the start of spring. There are fun events for kids as well as plenty of vendors to shop from. jenksgardenclub.com

LUNCH & LEARN WITH THE TULSA COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

For adults. Find additional details at tulsalibrary.org/events

- April 1, 12-1 p.m. at Central Library: Outdoor Hardscapes and Water Features
- April 3, 1-2 p.m. at Hardesty Regional Library: Outdoor Hardscapes and Water Features
- April 8, 12-1 p.m. at Central Library: Irrigation and Xeriscape Gardening
- April 10, 1-2 p.m. at Hardesty Regional Library: Irrigation and Xeriscape Gardening
- April 15, 12-1 p.m. at Central Library: Container Gardening for Vegetables
- April 17, 1-2 p.m. at Hardesty Regional Library: Container Gardening for Vegetables
- April 22, 12-1 p.m. at Central Library: Perennial Native Plants
- April 24, 1-2 p.m. at Hardesty Regional Library: Perennial Native Plants



PLANT SWAP

April 5, 2-4 p.m.

Broken Arrow Library, 300 W. Broadway Ave., Broken Arrow

Join the TCCL Seed Library in sharing seedlings, volunteers, cuttings, bulbs and garden miscellany. More details at tulsalibrary.org/events

SPRING SWAP

April 5, 2-4 p.m.

Nathan Hale Library, 6038 E. 23rd St.

Join the library for a plant and gardening supply swap. There will be fun activities for the whole family. tulsalibrary.org

SPRING PLANT SWAP

April 19, 100-11:30 a.m.

Owasso Library, 103 W. Broadway St., Owasso

Bring your surplus plants, seedlings, bulbs, cuttings and usable gardening tools and exchange them with other gardeners. More information at tulsalibrary.org/events



Stop and Smell the Flowers

TULSA BOTANIC BLOOMS

Mid-March through Mid-April (Follow @tulsabotanic on social media for updates)

Tulsa Botanic Garden, 3900 Tulsa Botanic Dr.

As one of the largest spring flower festivals in the region, Tulsa Botanic BLOOMS! offers loads of color, fragrance and fun in the Garden.

tulsabotanic.org



Azalea Festival at Honor Heights Park. Photo by Kenny G Photography

AZALEA FESTIVAL

April 1-30

Honor Heights Park, 1400 Honor Heights Dr., Muskogee

Honor Heights Park will be full of beautiful Azalea blooms throughout the month of April. Don't miss the Azalea Parade on April 5 in Downtown Muskogee at 11 a.m.; the Azalea 5K and Fun Run on April 12; and the Flower Power Bicycle Ride on April 26. muskogee parks.org

ART IN BLOOM WEEKEND

April 4-5, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; April 6, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Philbrook Museum, 2727 S. Rockford Rd.

Art in Bloom is a museum-renowned experience that features stunning structures made by local floral designers, inspired by the architecture and art of Philbrook. philbrook.org

SAPULPA PETUNIA FEST

May 10, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Herald Square, 16 S. Park St., Sapulpa

The Sapulpa Chamber of Commerce celebrates as downtown Sapulpa blooms with beautiful pink petunias! There will be vendors, food trucks, flowers and more. sapulpachamber.com

Art in Bloom, courtesy Philbrook Museum



Easter Egg Hunts & Activities

SPRING WITH THE BUNNY

April 19, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Tulsa Zoo, 6421 E. 36th St. N.

Celebrate spring at the zoo with this new family-friendly, interactive come-and-go style event. Guests will enjoy animal chats, participate in crafts and enrichment opportunities for some of our zoo animals and most importantly, meet the Easter Bunny. Spring with the Bunny is a new interpretation of the Zoo's previous event, Breakfast with the Bunny. tulsa.zoo.org/bunny

SPRING CARNIVAL EGGSTRAVAGANZA!

April 5, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Chandler Park, 6500 W. 21st St.

Enjoy a carnival-like atmosphere with exciting activities for all ages, in addition to an egg hunt. All activities are free to attend. Registration for the egg hunt is required.

www2.tulsa-county.org/parks/parks-facilities/chandler-park/spring-carnival-eggstravaganza-2025

EASTER FUN DAY DOWNTOWN

April 12, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Washington Irving Park, 13700 S. Memorial Dr., Bixby

This community event will feature a candy drop at 11 a.m., petting zoo and pony rides, face painting, Easter photos and more.

facebook.com/downtownriverdistrictbixby

EASTSIDE EGG HUNT

April 12, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

1801 S. Garnett Rd.

Join TICDC for a celebration of Spring! There will be lots of eggs for the kids to enjoy, resource tables, pictures with the Easter Bunny and more!

Facebook: @TICDC

SPRING FLING EGG HUNT

April 12, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Owen Park, 560 N. Maybelle Ave.

Explore the picturesque Owen Park while hunting for eggs and creating cherished memories with your loved ones. For ages 3-10. tulsaparks.recdesk.com

BUNNY COMES TO BIKES & BALLS

April 16, 9:30-11 a.m. (Bunny will visit 10-10:30 a.m.)

Whiteside Park, 4009 S. Pittsburg Ave.

The Easter Bunny will come to Whiteside's weekly Bikes & Balls event for kids ages 1-5. There will be an egg hunt as well. tulsaparks.recdesk.com

REED PARK EASTER EGG HUNT

April 17, 6-7 p.m.

Reed Park, 4009 S. Yukon Ave.

Expect egg hunts for children under 12, games and activities, and the Easter Bunny! Pre-register online, by phone or in-person at the Reed Park Community Center. tulsaparks.recdesk.com

EASTER EGG DECORATING

April 17, 6-8 p.m.

Central Park Community Center, 1500 S. Main St., Broken Arrow

Central Park Community Center and Arts@302 will provide all the materials you need to paint or dye eggs — just remember to bring your own eggs, as they are not provided. Free, for all ages. facebook.com/centralparkcommunitycenter

EASTER EGG HUNT AT THE WILL ROGERS MEMORIAL MUSEUM

April 19, 11:30-11:45 a.m.

Will Rogers Memorial Museum, 1720 W. Will Rogers Blvd., Claremore

Bring the kids to hunt 20,000 eggs, thanks to Cedar Point Church. Arrive early — the eggs disappear fast! willrogers.com

CITY OF OWASSO COMMUNITY EGG HUNT

April 19, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Rayola Park, 8300 N. Owasso Expy., Owasso

Ten thousand eggs will be scattered across the park with the hunt divided into age groups.

The Easter Bunny will be on-hand, too. Registration is recommended: pathwayowasso.church



Celebrate Earth Day

EARTH DAY STORYTIME

April 17, 10-10:30 a.m.

Tulsa International Airport, Schwab Hall, 7777 Airport Dr.

Celebrate Earth Day with a recycling-inspired storytime for children of all ages.
tulsalibrary.org

PARTY FOR THE PLANET

April 19, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Tulsa Zoo, 6421 E. 36th St. N.

Discover what Tulsa Zoo and its conservation partners are doing to conserve and protect wildlife with specialty keeper chats from animal care experts.
tulsazoo.org/planet

EARTH DAY GARDEN PARTY

April 25, 1-3 p.m.

Chamberlain Park, 4940 N. Frankfort Ave.

Celebrate Earth Day with eco-friendly activities, music and garden-inspired delights. tulsaparks.recdesk.com

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

April 26, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Ray Harral Nature Center, 7101 S. 3rd St., Broken Arrow

Connect with local organizations, play games and participate in themed activities to learn about recycling, water conservation, pollinators and more!
facebook.com/rayharralnaturecenter



Farmers Markets

TULSA FARMERS' MARKET

Saturdays, 7-11 a.m.

Kendall-Whittier Square

tulsafarmersmarket.org

DOWNTOWN TULSA MARKET

Wednesdays, April 16-Nov. 5, 4:30-7:30 p.m.; break in August

Chapman Green, 600 S. Main St.

downtowntulsa.com

OWASSO FARMERS AND ARTISANS MARKET

Saturdays, May 3-Aug. 30, 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

Redbud Festival Park, 109 N. Main St., Owasso

owassofarmerandartisanmarket.com

RIVERWALK SPRING MARKET

Thursdays, April 3-May 29, 4-8 p.m.

Jenks Riverwalk, 300 Riverwalk Terrace, Jenks

jenksriverwalk.com

ROSE DISTRICT FARMERS MARKET

Saturdays, 8 a.m.-12 p.m.; Tuesdays, 4-8 p.m.

Broken Arrow Rose District

brokenarrowok.gov



Party for the Planet, courtesy Tulsa Zoo

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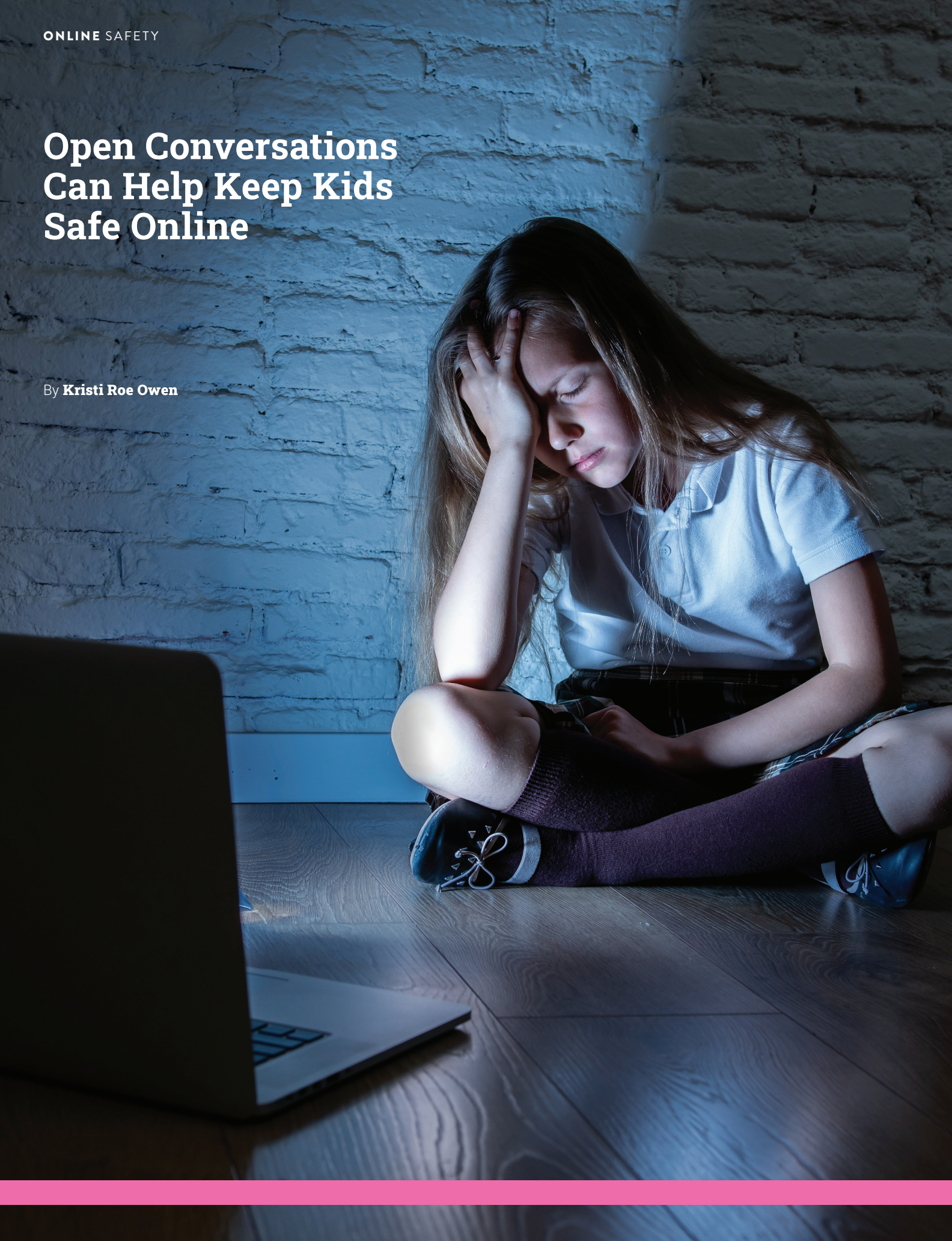
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Open Conversations Can Help Keep Kids Safe Online

By **Kristi Roe Owen**



Shortly after Delphi, Indiana, besties Libby German (14) and Abby Williams (13) were murdered in 2017, Libby's sister discovered her younger sibling had been catfished by an adult male hiding behind a stolen identity and photos in an attempt to solicit child sexual abuse material (CSAM) from Libby and some of her friends. When Dateline correspondent Erin Moriarty interviewed Libby's grandparents, Becky and Mike Patty, in "A Walk Through the Woods," Becky replied, "I was in shock," adding, "I kept thinking she would never do that. It was hard to accept that she had."

For all the copy-paste I see on local parenting groups warning about weird markings on cars or claims that someone was followed around Walmart, the reality is that many sex offenders and human traffickers connect with and groom their victims through social media and technology. Many traffickers lure vulnerable young victims through manipulation, coercion and/or fraud by convincing victims through romantic schemes, blackmail or promises of help and support.

And in far too many of those cases, the victims' families express shock that strangers were able to access their child or that their child had been getting online at all.

Swimming in a Vast, Dark Ocean

As a parent of three teens bridging the Gen Z-Alpha divide who were at critical ages for socialization during the lockdown years, I often feel like I'm in uncharted territory — sort of a Beta tester for parenting in the digital era.

I've always believed clear eyes and open communication go a lot further in protecting kids than trying to place them in a protective bubble, which has meant trying to fully understand the risks and engaging in serious and ongoing conversations as a family from the time my people were little. To my great relief, this has paid off too many times to count as my kids have come to me with concerns over sketchy or potentially dangerous online interactions. And now that they're teenagers, they've got a lot to say about keeping younger generations safe online.

All three of my teens see online engagement as a two-way street. "It can open up a world of social circles and social interactions and passions, new interests, new shows, new people to be friends with...as long as you have parents

who are involved and teach you how to use it safely," my 13-year-old daughter Lucy insisted.

At the same time, danger is everywhere online. "It's about having the entire internet open to them. It's like going swimming and your boat is right next to you except you're swimming in the open ocean," her 17-year-old brother Noah explained. "There's so much internet, there's so many dangers in there that you can't see until it's too late."

And it's not just predators that parents need to be worried about. When asked about the online dangers they'd encountered personally or heard about from close friends' experiences, my kids quickly rattled off a long list: ideological radicalization, privacy risks, internet addiction, extortion, hacks, microtransactions, scams, bullying, death threats, stalkers, and people impersonating or sexualizing minors.

"Let's say best-case scenario, no one is trying to radicalize you, no one is trying to groom you — you still might end up getting upset because people are mean as part of the culture, and someone who doesn't know how to handle that might end up getting too worked up and not know how to handle their feelings," Arthur, 17, interjected. "The internet is complex — there are an infinite number of things that can help you, so much good, but for every bit of good there's always going to be some bad."

But knowledge is power, the teens insisted, adding that the kids who end up in real trouble are the ones who go online behind their parents' backs.

How Digital Restrictions Can Backfire

"Banning doesn't work because it can cause a lot of issues — strict parents make kids more rebellious," Lucy clarified. "If the kid does get online, there's no way to protect them because their parents aren't aware." Comparing digital education to sex ed or the lack thereof, she added, "I've noticed that some people, some children can be easily coerced. If parents don't teach their child, they could end up secretly 'dating' a 40-year-old."

And as terrifying as it is to think of, when kids go missing, parents who learn that their kids were sneaking around don't know who their child was talking to online and can't access their digital footprint.

It's a frightening and yet all-too-common occurrence according to all three of my teens, who insisted they know kids with strict parents who regularly go online behind their parents' backs. "Like people who give their children phones but give them screen restrictions, app timeouts, or genuinely 'ban' them from installing apps, trust me, they will find a way around it," Lucy divulged.

Call it crowdsourced hacking, but kids from a young age share tricks and workarounds to website blocks and limiters, from installing LINUX so they can access banned websites to downloading third-party browsers or off-limit apps by directly accessing APKs (app files) online via links.

"I know someone whose mom banned installing things, and someone else sent them an APK. People can find APKs by just searching up 'insert app and APK,'" one of the teens confessed.

Even allowing a narrow range of apps is no guarantee kids will be safe since some platforms feature built-in search engines that let users access other sites.

"Even if you take away all the devices, kids will find a way around it," Lucy says.

I've heard similar stories from desperate Facebook group moms who can't seem to lock down their kids' internet access. My conclusion? Short of going completely off the grid, there's no way to completely insulate kids from online communication and access.

Start With Education and Engagement

I asked the teens to tell me honestly, based on their experience, what they felt parents should do to protect their kids. One thing they all immediately agreed on was parental involvement, emphasizing that the bigger the platform, the more difficulty moderators tend to have in keeping things safe for kids — especially when it comes to online gaming like Minecraft and Roblox.

"Parents need to talk about where not to go and what not to do when you're on the internet and who to look out for," Lucy advised, emphasizing that parents should explain the reason in age-appropriate terms as part of an ongoing conversation, so kids don't just think they're being strict for no reason and immediately try to get around the rules.

"A large factor in internet safety is parents — if you don't have

a parent to help teach you about internet safety, you're not protected," she explained.

That starts with talking about safe online interactions from an early age while closely monitoring kids' activities to guide them. When kids are very young, the teens insist parents should watch them as much as possible when they're online.

"People can be really predatory in certain communities, especially Roblox," Lucy emphasized. "Moderators can't properly moderate them, so people just need to report them as much as possible."

"With an online game, you might actually want to monitor their interactions and know who they are talking to. You also need to look out for things like microtransactions and links to scams promising things like free Robux," Arthur added.

"When they're little, check on them," Lucy added. "Young children should have parents involved in what they watch and play...show them shows that are safe and stay in their business. And never let anything autoplay."

One danger many parents aren't aware of, they insisted, is age-inappropriate content that slides through the YouTube algorithm — even YouTube Kids — as recommended or autoplay content. Citing a specific type of extremely sexualized, fetish and/or violent content farm video aimed at kids who like Elsa and Spider-Man several years back as the source of his concern, Arthur advised, "I would recommend things for them to watch, monitor what they watch, watch it with them, and turn off autoplay."

Teach Online Privacy

Central to online safety, the teens continued, should be a reverence for online privacy and the awareness that you can almost never truly know if an individual you're talking to is who you think they are.

Lucy refuses to share her real name, age, appearance or any personal information with anyone she doesn't know IRL (in real life). She also stays in smaller online communities where she feels safe. Kids need to understand they can never be certain of someone's true identity, the teens emphasized — which not only means they need to worry about predators, but also the impact of their own actions and speech on other users.

Talk to your kids about grooming and predators from an early age and let them know you need to know who they're talking to for their own safety. "I'm aware of how (predators) act and what I should or should not do," emphasized Lucy.

Advice from the Professionals

I spoke with Karen Lacy, a licensed professional counselor with Exhale Counseling and Wellness in Tulsa, and Faith Crittenden, vice president of Children's Mental Health and Family Support with Family and Children's Services, and both agreed that digital safety requires an ongoing conversation with kids.

"You can set up an app, but you and I know teenagers are going to do what they want to do. If they want to, they are going to find a way to do it," Lacy told me. "The conversation has to be about how to stay safe."

And much like conversations about consent and bodily autonomy, the digital talk should be something that starts early and continues throughout childhood and adolescence.

"Much like a talk about sex is not a talk, it should be a series of ongoing conversations with our kids," Crittenden emphasized. "You cannot isolate children from the internet and social media. You can't isolate them, but you can insulate your exposure."

"Good, open, ongoing communication is the most important thing you can have with your children when it comes to protecting them from anything," Lacy advised. "I think it has to be an ongoing conversation and do those check-ins. Letting them know if they made a mistake, let's talk about it, let's find out how to fix it. Kids are going to make mistakes, they need the freedom to make mistakes — if they have a parent to guide them. Keeping that communication open with your kids and making them aware of the dangers that are out there."

"It creates these ports of entry for us to have a learning moment with our kids," Crittenden told me.

As for what those conversations need to include, Lacy emphasized limiting kids' screen time and talking to them about why it's important.

The conversation should also address the potential long-term consequences of online behavior. "Teenagers are incredibly impulsive and don't have long-term thinking skills or framework because their little amygdalas are just so fuzzy," Lacy advised. "So they don't think about how a choice they make today could affect them six months down the road. To say my child would never? Just don't even go there."

Emphasizing that the human brain doesn't stop growing until a person's mid-20s, Lacy continued, "Don't ever assume that your kids have these critical thinking skills or that they know better. As a parent it is up to you to do that critical thinking and guide those critical thinking skills. You can't just stick your head in the sand."

Lacy also emphasized the importance of teaching kids to vet information every time they engage with new information, skills that could help protect them from scammers, predators, and cults or radicalization. "Making sure they have those critical thinking skills and questioning anytime they read an article somewhere," Lacy suggested. "What's the source, what's that person's agenda, who's funding this? What's this person's motivation? There is so much misinformation and disinformation, you gotta use those critical thinking skills."

It's also important to talk about online bullying, Lacy added, and the fact that online identities aren't the whole picture. "When I create a profile, it's a curated version of myself. It's an avatar. When people attack me online, I see the difference. They don't know me as a person; they are responding to this identity, this avatar I have created."

Kids, Lacy emphasized, can't always tell the difference. "Kids don't make that differentiation; being attacked online is the same thing as being attacked when they are in person. That's why cyberbullying has such a huge impact."

Crittenden advised discussing the good and bad of online interactions. "There are healthy things that happen on social media and on the internet," Crittenden noted. "Affirming their identity, getting a larger circumference of social support."

"And then there's all of the negative things that we talk about," she added. "Isolating, bullying, we know that kids that have long-term exposure, it interferes with their sleep patterns, it can create depression."

Like Lacy, Crittenden emphasized adolescence is a time for

experimentation and boundary-pushing as part of kids' natural development, adding that the safest way for kids to experiment is having a safe way to evaluate their experiences.

Crittenden suggests taking an "I wonder if" approach to encourage kids to think through scenarios before they play out with real-world consequences. "I wonder if" — what if behind that profile is someone who is looking to steal your game tokens?"

Ask kids to consider a variety of possibilities. "Wondering with them creates bridges for deeper, more reflective thought processes and opens discussions surrounding safety when we're dealing with something that's just a part of life," Crittenden says.

As much as we might want to, parents living in the digital age can't close Pandora's box. But taking the time to understand the real risks kids — and all of us, for that matter — face online and engage in meaningful ongoing conversations with children about things like privacy, boundaries, consent, and online situational awareness are all part of the armor kids need to get by safely in the digital age.

Kristi Roe Owen is a full-time freelance writer and mother to three teens.

ONLINE SAFETY TIPS

- **Explain to kids that they should never give out personal information (name, age, address, phone number, social security number) or photos.**
- **Explain to kids that they should never meet an online stranger in person. Talk to parents or another adult if they are invited to do this.**
- **Never invite a stranger to come to their home or call.**
- **Research and use digital controls but do so alongside ongoing conversations with your kids.**
- **Tell kids not to respond to a threatening email, post or text. Share with a parent or trusted adult if they feel threatened.**
- **Encourage kids to talk to a parent or trusted adult about any communication they find unsettling, confusing or scary.**
- **Check your credit card and phone bills for unfamiliar charges.**
- **Listen to your child and take what they say seriously.**
- **Keep an open, nonjudgmental line of communication open with your kids.**
- **Teach kids to never share passwords with others.**
- **Ask your kids/teens about their online experiences, apps they use, etc. and listen to them.**

Kwame Alexander to Receive Zarrow Award for Young Readers' Literature

By **Betty Casey**



Telling a story in verse came naturally to Kwame Alexander. He says he has always written love poems, but after his daughter was born, he started writing poems for her. Young adults may be drawn to his book *Crush: Love Poems*, while children may love his picture books or his bestselling series, *The Door of No Return*. In fact, children through adults can find a Kwame Alexander book to love. He has written more than 40 books for children and adults.

Of course, fans of Alexander will know that he is a poet, and they may have seen the Disney+ series made from his Newbery and Coretta Scott King award-winning book *The Crossover*. So, add Emmy Award-winning producer to Alexander's numerous talents and accolades. The show was produced in partnership with LeBron James' Springhill Company and Alexander's production company, Big Sea Entertainment.

The New York Times bestselling author will be in Tulsa in May to receive the Tulsa Library Trust's 2025 Anne V. Zarrow Award for Young Readers' Literature. The presentation will be May 2, 2025, 6 p.m. at Hardesty Regional Library.

As *The Crossover* enters its 10th anniversary, I asked Alexander

about using poetry to tell a story about basketball and where he got the inspiration for the book.

"It wasn't even my idea," Alexander said. "It was the idea of an editor at a publishing house. She thought I had a really strong voice, and she said I should write a novel about basketball, using poetry to tell the story."

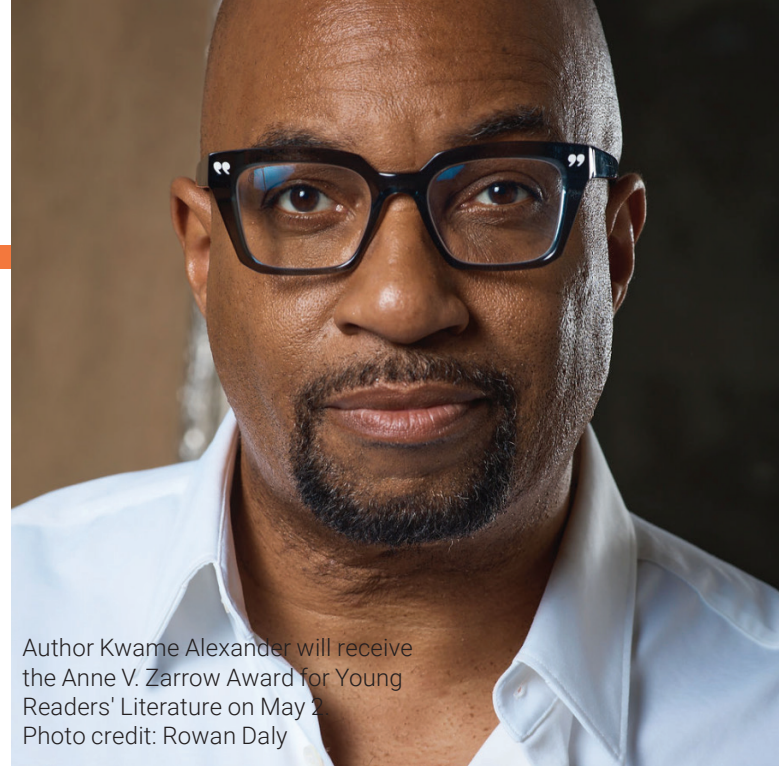
Alexander said he decided to tackle the project.

"It was a matter of figuring out which types of poems to use," he said. It wasn't a quick process. The book was published "after five years and 22 rejections."

Alexander said he was saddened by the rejections but he "knew that it was a really good book. All the folks who didn't get it, just didn't get it. I believed in myself."

While some publishers may not have understood *The Crossover*, kids loved it. "A seventh grader in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, told me he'd never read a book before, and he couldn't put *The Crossover* down, so I went to the school and surprised him," Alexander said. "The real reward is kids reading the book."

Alexander said he grew up around books because both of his parents were writers. As he began to seriously pursue his



Author Kwame Alexander will receive the Anne V. Zarrow Award for Young Readers' Literature on May 2. Photo credit: Rowan Daly

Meet Author Kwame Alexander

Anne V. Zarrow Award for Young Readers' Literature

Friday, May 2, 6 p.m.

Hardesty Regional Library, 8316 E. 93rd St., Tulsa

Alexander will speak about his life, his writing process, and his works and help present awards to winners of the 2025 Young People's Creative Writing Contest.

own writing career, Alexander said poet Nikki Giovanni became a close mentor.

"Reading books was my breathing," he said. "I read a lot of poetry growing up, and I went to the library every Saturday."

Alexander said his family also took a lot of road trips and he paid attention to everything, figuring out where they were and how they got there. The habit of noticing details may have contributed to Alexander's prolific writing.

"I never run out of ideas," he said. "Ideas may come from other people. I walk around and I pay attention in life."

When asked about why people respond to poetry, Alexander said, "I think it's important for everyone to read poetry. It distills the human heart and allows us to feel something. If you want to change the way someone acts, change the way they feel. Poetry is immediate,

emotional language."

Because of their honest, real language, several of Alexander's books have been banned, including the bestselling *The Undeclared*.

"It's wrong to tell my kid that they can't read a book," he said. "Other people shouldn't tell me what my kids can or can't read."

Alexander said that he made sure that his children were exposed to many different people, books, experiences and cultures. Books are one way to expose children to others and to also help them understand themselves. Censoring or banning books limits that understanding.

"If you want to create kids that become empathetic, connected adults, you have to start as children to show them what's possible and who their neighbors are," he said. "The mind of the adult begins in the imagination of the child."

Forced Housing, Hidden Kickbacks: How Stay-to-Play Squeezes Sports Parents

By **Jennifer Palmer**, Oklahoma Watch



The deal is taking place all over the country, in volleyball and softball and hockey and soccer: Travel to our tournament and, unless you stay in one of our partner hotels, your kid doesn't play.

They know parents are already shelling out big bucks for their child's sport. But if you want to find a cheaper hotel, drive your RV, stay with family or use hotel points, forget it. It's against the rules.

That's because hidden in the hotel bill are kickbacks to the tournament. The more rooms booked, the more money they make. It's called stay-to-play.

Some tournaments push the policies hard. The tournament organizers are often neighborhood clubs, but they can also be national companies and, in at least one case, a top-tier professional sports franchise. While the policies have become pervasive, antitrust attorneys question whether they violate federal law.

One hockey tournament threatened a \$500 fee if out-of-town teams didn't book rooms through their system. Another hockey tournament warned participants away from seeking out hotel deals on their own. "No other booking sites, discounts,

points awards, special rates or programs, regardless of how obtained, will be accepted," the rules said.

A soccer tournament directed teams to only stay in approved hotels booked through a specific travel agency. "Failure to do so may result in your team not getting scheduled," the tournament website read.

"You're really locked into whatever they tell you, and if you want to play, you have to stay where they let you stay," said Diane Portillo of Goldsby.

Portillo has spent hundreds of nights in hotels over the past decade, traveling to softball tournaments with her daughter, who now plays in college, and hockey tournaments with her son, a high school senior.

Portillo's a teacher and single mom who worked three side jobs — as a bus driver, umpire and concessions salesperson — to help pay for her children's sports. Each travel tournament costs families hundreds of dollars, sometimes thousands.

Tournament organizers claim their hotels have the best rates, but parents said they always find better deals on their own.

"I have not seen a single tournament ever where the hotel

prices were comparable, or fair, or lower than the surrounding hotels," Portillo said.

Last Thanksgiving, her son's hockey team traveled to Dallas and checked into a Hilton hotel for \$159 a night. The tournament host was the Dallas Stars, a National Hockey League franchise worth an estimated \$2 billion, according to Forbes.

"No one wants to be the parent that causes a team to get kicked out." -Diane Portillo

The tournament required every player's family to book at least three nights from a list of hotels, all Hiltons. Players who didn't comply, by staying with family or at a different hotel, could be disqualified from competing. Worse, the entire team could be removed from the tournament and lose their \$2,000 registration fee.

"No one wants to be the parent that causes a team to get kicked out," Portillo said.

A Common Policy

Not every youth sports tournament requires a hotel stay. But according to the Sports Events & Tourism Association, a nonprofit that tracks the business of traveling to watch or play sports, nearly 40% of tournament destinations did in

2023, down from 60% in 2021.

Sports travel is a huge market for hotels. According to Sports ETA, 63% of destinations in 2023 said sports are their largest generator of room nights. U.S. sports travelers booked 73.5 million room nights in 2023 and spent \$10.9 billion on lodging.

Tournament organizers argue that with stay-to-play policies, they can reserve room blocks early and lock in better nightly rates. They also can more easily gather data on the number of rooms booked to prove the event's economic impact. And it relieves teams of doing the legwork themselves.

"You can get a deal with the hotel where it's a discounted rate ... and the coach may get a free room or something," said John Allgood, whose career includes more than 15 years with the Oklahoma City RedHawks baseball team, Oklahoma City Barons hockey team and the Oklahoma Energy soccer team. "That's pretty common. I don't think there's anything bad with that."

Allgood, now an instructor of sports management at the University of Delaware, said the bigger issue is the overall cost of competitive youth sports — known as pay to play — which is



Oklahoma City high school hockey player Brent Bailey, right, and his father, Bill Bailey, check into an Olathe, Kansas, Hampton Inn in February. (Ted Streuli/Oklahoma Watch)



pricing out low-income families.

Parents spend thousands of dollars for each child to play on a travel team, with uniforms, equipment, club fees, and other costs. One 2019 study found baseball parents spent \$1,500 to \$6,000 on their child's sport the previous year. Some sports cost much more.

And when teams register for a tournament and it's stay-to-play, parents say they feel as though they have no choice.

Guthrie resident Michelle Hostetler, whose son plays baseball and hockey, said stay-to-play policies are so common that sports parents have come to expect it.

"Bigger tournaments have plenty of teams applying, so if one chooses not to comply, the host would likely just fill slots with teams that are willing to," Hostetler said.

Mad Enough to Sue

Some families have sued, alleging such deals run afoul of federal antitrust laws. Tying arrangements, in which a seller agrees to sell an item only on the condition the buyer purchases a different item, can be illegal if they restrain trade in the market for the second item.

If Apple, for instance, required someone buying an iPhone to also buy a case, that would be a tying arrangement, said Kent Meyers, an attorney at Crowe & Dunlevy and an adjunct law professor at the University of Oklahoma specializing in antitrust law. In the case of a stay-to-play policy, the tournament would be the iPhone and the hotel room would be the case.

"The person imposing the tie is in control of an extremely desirable item ... and they choose to exercise their power in this extremely desirable product to force you to buy something you wouldn't necessarily buy otherwise," he said.

Cheerleading juggernaut Varsity Brands recently settled an antitrust lawsuit filed in Tennessee by families who alleged the company created a monopoly to overcharge in several ways, including forced lodging. As part of the settlement, Varsity agreed to limit stay-to-play requirements but did not eliminate the practice entirely.

Varsity Brands executives knew the policy was unpopular with cheerleaders, their families and gym owners, so in 2018 they renamed it Stay Smart. The company continued to force athletes to stay at preselected hotels and, according to an internal document referenced in the lawsuit, described the rebrand as putting lipstick on a pig.

Tournament hosts sometimes manage hotel policies with a booking agent, who either charges a commission or shares in the rebates. That can make the travel process more convenient but at a cost. Families are unaware of how much extra they are paying.

In Varsity's case, one agreement had the company collecting \$20 per room; in another instance, Varsity received 30% of the booking agent's commission plus a rebate.

Court records show that Varsity collected \$4 million per year just from the room rebates.

Varsity's former director of strategy and special projects,

Jamie Parrish, described how the practice exacerbated the costs for families participating in an already expensive sport.

"You know, if you are going to make them pay for it, at least tell them how much it's going to be."
-Jamie Parrish

"They have to stay at a preferred hotel as dictated by Varsity, and pay not only the hotel, but pay Varsity a kick on top of that and they don't even know what the kick is," Parrish said, according to court records. "You know, if you are going to make them pay for it, at least tell them how much it's going to be. Don't just slide it under the guise of the hotel's charging you this and then pocket the money"

Sometimes, the kickback amount is evident, such as when it's charged separately. In February, families attending a hockey tournament in Tulsa were quoted \$127 per night for rooms at a Fairfield Inn. However, \$28 went to the booking agent as a non-refundable deposit, 22% of the total lodging cost. The hotel charged \$99 per room night.

Growing Reliance on Fees

Don Schumacher founded the National Association of Sports Commissions (now renamed the Sports Events & Tourism Association) and, for 25 years, was its president and chief executive officer. He's now an independent sports travel consultant in Ohio, and he's been warning organizations for more than a decade about the overreliance on room rebates.

"The fees were increasingly used to properly fund events rather than watching the budget or charging more in the team registration fee, and it's even worse now," he said.

A big driver is tournament hosts' desire — or, sometimes, requirement — to prove their economic impact on the city where the event is held. That's because cities often use public money to build and maintain the fields, courts and rinks used for tournaments.

Overland Park, Kansas, a Kansas City suburb, built a \$36 million soccer complex in 2009 to host tournaments as a

significant piece of its economic development strategy. The city hosted 16 soccer tournaments at the complex last year and Oklahoma teams played in 12 of them.

City councilors planned to pay for the fields with hotel tax revenue and to maximize it, they wanted all tournaments to be stay-to-play.

"You can get a deal with the hotel where it's a discounted rate ... and the coach may get a free room or something. That's pretty common. I don't think there's anything bad with that."

-John Allgood

The priority for the complex, which boasts 12 quality turf fields, was to attract "other people's money," while secondarily accommodating local teams, longtime city councilman Fred Spears recalled in a 2023 committee meeting, public records show. Spears also said the deal to build the complex was based on "stay to play and no leakage," meaning all participants booked their rooms in Overland Park, not surrounding cities.

Pushing back, City Manager Kate Gunja told Spears they couldn't legally require tournament families to stay in the city limits but tried to provide incentives for them to do so.

By 2016, out-of-town soccer families were booking 23,000 hotel rooms per year and paying \$7 to \$10 per room in rebates, adding up to hundreds of thousands of dollars annually, according to a study of the complex's economic impact by Schumacher's association. Those families also paid one of the highest hotel taxes in the country, with a combined lodging and sales tax rate of 18.1%, according to a 2023 analysis by hospitality consulting firm HVS.

The study found it wasn't nearly enough. The city needed visitors to book an additional 1.5 million room nights per year to recover their investment.

In 2023, the city raised its fee to rent the complex for a tournament but implemented incentives for events that draw more hotel business. If participants book at least 2,000

rooms, the tournament pays half as much to use the fields as they would without the hotel bookings.

All upcoming spring soccer tournaments at the complex are stay-to-play.

In One Pocket, and the Other Pocket Too

Another destination for Oklahoma teams is Dallas, especially in hockey, where nearly all youth hockey tournaments are run by the Dallas Stars.

Until recently, the Stars had one of the strictest stay-to-play policies, according to several parents.

Public records reveal a potential conflict: Stars' staff owned the travel company that the teams were required to book through.

An LLC based in Frisco, Texas, Stay2Play's officers include Damon Boettcher, senior vice president of StarCenter Facilities, according to a Sept. 10 article in D Magazine, which highlighted Boettcher as one of the most powerful figures in the Stars franchise; his wife, Cassandra Boettcher; Lucas Reid, the vice president of amateur sports and business development for the Stars since 2014, according to LinkedIn; and Brad Buckland, the Stars' tournament series director.

Last fall, the Stars temporarily halted its stay-to-play policy and appear to have cut ties with Buckland, Boettcher and Reid.

Dan Stuchal, the Stars' chief operating officer, said the team no longer works with Stay2Play but refused to explain why. He said they plan to hire a new company that better meets the team's values.

Stuchal would not confirm Buckland, Boettcher or Reid's departure, but they've all been removed from the Stars' website. Reid and Buckland list new jobs with other sports organizations on their LinkedIn profiles. Boettcher does not, but shows his employment with the Stars ended in December. Attempts to reach Buckland, Boettcher and Reid were unsuccessful.

Stuchal defended the Stars' stay-to-play policy and said they plan to bring it back this fall.

He said the practice is very common, only generates a small amount of revenue, and is necessary to show economic impact to cities that build the facilities. The Stars now operate two city-financed indoor basketball and volleyball facilities in Texas, with a third opening next year, according to the Dallas Stars.

Without the stay-to-play rules, the organization could not track the rooms tied to its tournaments, he said.

The afternoon of Oklahoma Watch's inquiries, details of past tournaments were scrubbed from the Stars' website. Joe

Calvillo, director of communications for the Stars, said past references to stay-to-play were removed to eliminate confusion for the remainder of the season.

Stuchal said when they paused stay-to-play, team managers were disappointed. He said stay-to-play is a service to the teams to have the rooms blocked at the best rates.

Best Rate?

Some tournaments may offer the best rate for a specific hotel, but families who shop around said they always find cheaper alternatives.

"If they were trying to help you, and you said, 'I'm going to stay with family,' they'd say, 'Great, glad you found a cheaper option.' They don't say that."

- Molly Tolbert

For the Winter Magic soccer tournament played in the Kansas City area in January, one hotel option through the tournament website was the Holiday Inn and Suites Convention Center for \$170 per night. Guests could have reserved that very hotel on their own for \$85 to \$109 per night, according to published rates.

The policies draw more revenue from traveling teams to fund their events using what amounts to a surcharge that local teams don't have to pay.

"If your team is from outside (75+ miles) the local area and does not show up on our booking report when you check-in to the event, you will be required to pay an additional stay-to-play fee of \$500. ABSOLUTELY NO EXCEPTIONS!" one set of hockey tournament rules read.

That \$500 of revenue to the tournament can be a fraction of the additional cost to participants. For example, a 20-player team forced to spend a minimum of three nights in a \$159-per-night hotel spends \$9,540 for lodging. That same team, depending on the game schedule, might have been able to spend just \$119 per room for one night if allowed to book their own, collectively saving \$7,160. That's a difference of \$358 per family.

Families want out, and some tournaments offer an out — for a fee.

At the Premier Girls Fastpitch Nationals softball tournament, teams could pay \$2,400 to opt out of the lodging policy, which required at least eight rooms per team.

Molly Tolbert, an Oklahoma City attorney, reviewed some of the examples of stay-to-play policies for this story. The buyouts, she said, seem to indicate the tournaments aren't trying to help families get the best deal on hotel rates; they are simply replacing revenue.

"If they were trying to help you, and you said, 'I'm going to stay with family,' they'd say, 'Great, glad you found a cheaper option,'" Tolbert said. "They don't say that. They say, 'If we're going to lose the revenue from you staying in a hotel, you have to pay a buyout.'"

Portillo's daughter's team paid a buyout fee a couple of times for longer tournaments. It typically amounted to \$100 per player.

Parents were so committed to their daughters' success that complying with tournament rules came with the territory.

"It was never questioned," she said. "Every tournament was (stay-to-play), and it's what you did, and no one questioned it. It's just the industry to get your kid to play college-level sports. It's the rough side of it."

Jennifer Palmer has been a reporter with Oklahoma Watch since 2016 and covers education. Contact her at (405) 761-0093 or jpalmer@oklahomawatch.org. Follow her on Twitter @jpalmerOKC.

Oklahoma Watch, at oklahomawatch.org, is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news organization that covers public-policy issues facing the state.



TulsaKids 2025

SUMMER CAMPS

& ACTIVITIES

GUIDE

Browse the Summer Camps + Activities Guide online at [TULSAKIDS.COM/GUIDES](https://tulsakids.com/guides).

CAMP PATRIOT

campaotittulsa.com

918.745.9868 x154
6363 S. Trenton Ave., Tulsa

AGES: PRE-K THROUGH 12TH GRADE

DATES: JUNE 2 - AUG. 1, ONE-WEEK SESSIONS

Welcome to Metro Christian Academy's Camp Patriot...Where Summer Is Meant For Adventure! Metro Christian is so excited to offer our summer programming for the ninth consecutive summer. With more than 40 camp options to choose from, Camp Patriot has something for everyone. One-week camp sessions begin June 2 and continue through Aug. 1. Morning, afternoon and full-day options available.

Camp Patriot is open to all children in the area! Many sessions are new while others are back by popular demand including musical theater camp, lego week, craft camps, water camp and more. There's even a STEM camp at Camp Loughridge. With more than 100 unique theme-based camps – Camp Patriot has something for every student from every age group – pre-K through 12th grade.

Camp Patriot is designed with students in mind. Campers will enjoy a relaxed, supportive, healthy Christian environment promoting creativity, learning and personal growth.

For a complete list of classes available, go to campaotittulsa.com.
Registration opens March 25.

CAMP PHILBROOK

philbrook.org/camp

918.749.7941
2727 S. Rockford Rd., Tulsa

AGES: 5-14

DATES: JUNE 2-6, JUNE 9-13, JUNE 23-27, JUNE 30-JULY 3, JULY 21-25, AUG. 4-8

Camp Philbrook offers unparalleled opportunities for children ages 5–14 to work with local artists and outdoor educators to make art and explore nature. Camps take full advantage of Philbrook's beautiful gardens, extensive art collection, special exhibitions and hands-on art studios.

Camp Philbrook is dedicated to providing high quality, developmentally appropriate, safe and FUN summer experiences.

MVP SPORTS AND TRAINING

mvpsportstraining.com/mvpsummer

918.972.1181
12808 S. Memorial Dr. #207, Bixby

AGES: ENTERING K-6TH GRADE

DATES: 9 WEEKS OF CAMPS, STARTING JUNE 2

Sports Camp: 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

MVP Fun Camp: 1-3 p.m.

Get the best of both worlds with skill-building sports training in the morning and action-packed fun in the afternoon! Choose from basketball, baseball/softball, soccer, speed and agility, cheerleading, and introducing golf (sports subject to registration and attendance). Then, keep the energy going with dodgeball, kickball, ultimate frisbee and even water games!

The perfect all-day camp experience!

Register now at mvpsportstraining.com/mvpsummer





LAFORTUNE PARK
Tennis Camps
TULSA
AGES 4-15

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918-496-6230 • LAFORTUNETENNIS.COM/CAMPS



discovery LAB

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JUNE JULY AUGUST

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3123 RIVERSIDE DRIVE, TULSA, OK 74105

discoverylab.org/camps 918-295-8144

SUMMER CAMPS &

PRIMROSE SCHOOL OF BROKEN ARROW

primroseba.com

918.355.6827

1701 W. Albany St., Broken Arrow

AGES: KINDERGARTEN - 5TH GRADE

DATES: MAY 19-AUG. 7

TUITION RATES: 8 A.M.-3 P.M., \$275/WEEK;
EXTENDED DAY (ANY HOURS 6:30 A.M.-6 P.M.), \$315/WEEK

At Primrose Schools Summer Adventure Club, there's much to explore, discover and learn. Each week, children explore new themes while trying various hands-on activities like sports, arts, robotics, coding and culinary arts that help build skills around literacy, creative problem solving, STEAM and more. We offer fun activities throughout the time, such as weekly field trips, water activities and more.

Children become engineers, athletes, artists and more as they discover the joys of design thinking, a fun and innovative way to learn. Engineering design challenges, experiments and themed activities await as children unlock new ways of thinking—all while having a blast!

Ready for the best summer? Join us; together, we'll create active minds, healthy bodies and happy hearts.

RIVER RUN FARM

riverrunfarmok.com

918.855.5032

9300 S. 51st W. Ave., Tulsa

CHAPS & BRITCHES CAMP AND HORSIN' AROUND CAMP

AGES: 5-7 AND 8-12

DATES: MAY 26-30; JUNE 2-6; JUNE 9-13; JUNE 16-20; JUNE 23-27; JUNE 30-JULY 4; JULY 7-11; JULY 14-18; JULY 21-25; JULY 28-AUG. 1

LITTLE BOOTS PONY CAMP

AGES: 2-4

DATES (SINGLE-DAY CAMPS): MAY 19; MAY 20; MAY 21; MAY 22; SEPT. 18; SEPT. 19

Located in a magical setting of 40 acres of wooded and tame pasture land with three ponds, River Run Farm is an escape to a Virginia-style farm with a variety of summer camps for all ages.

Little Boots Pony Camp, ages 2-4, is an age-appropriate introduction to size-appropriate miniature horses. Chaps & Britches Camp, ages 5-7, provides a unique learning environment for young equestrians. Horsin' Around Camp gives horse lovers ages 8 and up a chance to learn all aspects of horse ownership.

The weeklong camp includes daily riding and fun activities, covering all aspects of our equine friends with an emphasis on safety and fun with the horses. Each camp includes new, fun activities. Camps are held in our large, well-ventilated barn and indoor riding arena, so kids are not out in the sun. Visit the website for more details.

Also check out our popular Pony Parties – a memorable way to celebrate birthdays, end of school, team parties or family reunions!

ACTIVITIES GUIDE

SOCCERCITY TULSA

soccercitytulsa.com/camps

918.249.0044

5817 S. 118th E. Ave., Tulsa

Want your kids to have some fun and stay active this summer? We have your solution...

Bring your kids to one of SoccerCity's 2025 Camps!!

Comfy clothes and tennis shoes are all that are required.

AGES: 5-15

DATES: MAY 27-30 (4-DAY); JUNE 9-13 (5-DAY); JUNE 23-27 (5-DAY); JULY 21-25 (5-DAY); AUG. 4-8 (5-DAY); AUG. 11-13 (3-DAY).

HALF-DAY OPTIONS: 9 A.M.-12 P.M. OR 1-4 P.M.

FULL DAY: 9 A.M.-4 P.M.

To register, please visit soccercitytulsa.com and click on the camps tab.

SPRING LIL' KICKERS - NOW-MAY 23

For more information, please contact dustin@soccercitytulsa.com

SOUTH TULSA DANCE CO.

southtulsadanceco.com

918.369.JAZZ (5299)

10031 S. Yale Ave., Tulsa

AGES: 2 AND UP

South Tulsa Dance Co. is celebrating over 25 years of dance in Tulsa! Owner Keally Lilly is proud to offer the best training for kids of all ages in a positive atmosphere. South Tulsa Dance Co. offers something for everyone! This summer we are offering six camps and an 8-week session in June and July.

Facebook: South Tulsa Dance Co.

Instagram: [southtulsadanceco](https://www.instagram.com/southtulsadanceco)

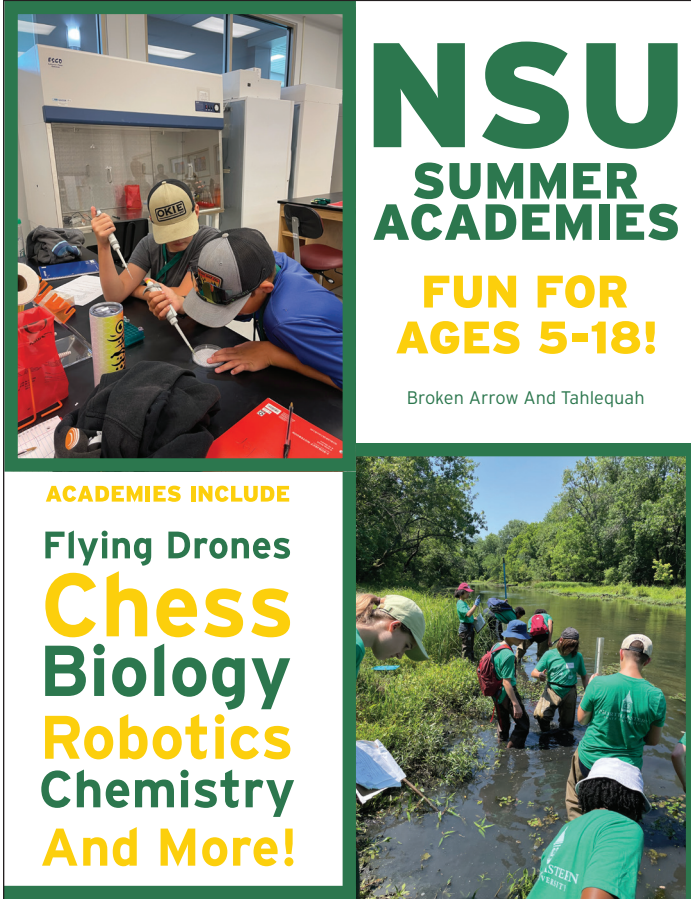


Junior Camps & Programs ENROLLING NOW

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61ST & Yale, Tulsa | 918-496-6200
LaFortuneParkGolf.com

SOUTH LAKES GOLF COURSE
91ST & Elwood, Jenks | 918-746-3760
SouthLakesGolf.com



NSU SUMMER ACADEMIES


**FUN FOR
AGES 5-18!**

Broken Arrow And Tahlequah

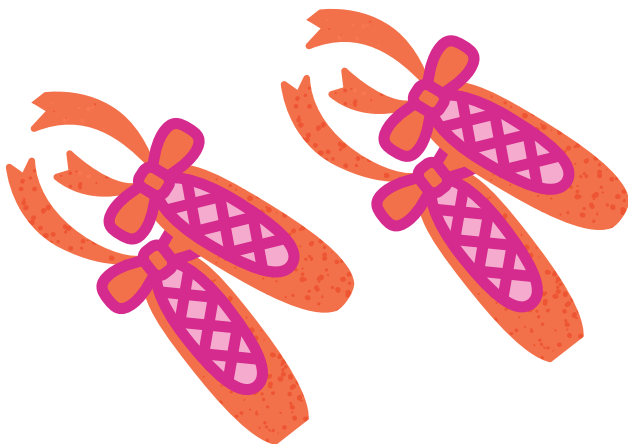
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Chess
Biology
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Chemistry
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SCAN FOR MORE INFO!
918-444-4610





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- Horse-related Arts & Crafts
- Intro to Horsemanship
- Games
- Friday Horse Show and Cook-out

ENROLL NOW AT: kjmequestrian.com/summer-camps
CALL: 918-299-9283 • **TEXT:** 918-863-9556
EMAIL: office@kjmequestrian.com
ALSO AVAILABLE: Riding Lessons • Gift Certificates

SUMMER CAMPS &

TULSA ZOO

tulsazoo.org/camps

918.669.6204

6421 E. 36th Street N., Tulsa

AGES: PRE-K THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL

A wild adventure awaits at Tulsa Zoo Camp!

Tulsa Zoo Camps inspire youth to build a connection with nature, learn about animals from around the world, and become good stewards of our planet. Camps feature age-appropriate programming and include opportunities to interact with zoo staff and Education Department ambassador animals. Experiences include zoo exploration, engaging games and activities relevant to the camp's theme, nature-based art making, and of course making friends and lasting memories in a safe, fun and supportive environment.

Camps are offered for grades pre-K through high school. All registrations include a camp T-shirt. Aftercare is available. Spots fill fast – reserve your child's adventure today!

ARTS@302

arts302.com/art-classes/camps

918.936.2806

302 S. Main St., Broken Arrow

AGES: 6-12

DATES:

JUNE 9-13: ICE AGE ESCAPADE

JUNE 23-27: ELEMENTAL MYSTERIES

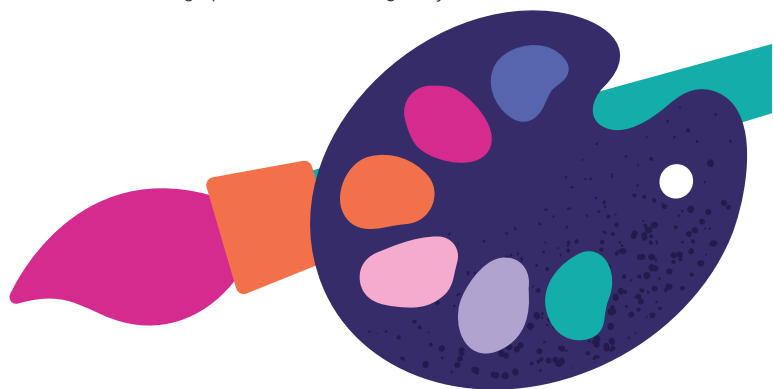
JULY 14-18: GLOW!

JULY 28-AUG. 1: MONSTERS VS. MACHINES

Get CREATIVE this summer with Arts@302! Campers will work on multiple hands-on art projects and group activities based on the theme of the week. Each day, campers will rotate between four different classes, each led by one of our teaching artists. Kids will be introduced to drawing, painting, clay sculpture and more, while also learning to think creatively. Visit arts302.com/camps for more information on camp weeks and pricing.

On the last day of each week of camp, we will hold a special mini-exhibit and reception that will showcase all the projects that our campers have worked on. We encourage all parents and friends to come out!

Arts@302 is Broken Arrow's premier destination for all things art! You can also check out our classes and workshops for all ages, family events and our large professional artist gallery.



ACTIVITIES GUIDE

BRIE JONES INSTITUTE OF MUSIC

bjones@briejonesmusic.com

918.600.2551

5147 S. Harvard Ave., Suite D, Tulsa

AGES: 4-6

DATES: ONE-HOUR LESSONS SCHEDULED TWICE WEEKLY FOR TWO WEEKS (4 LESSONS TOTAL) IN JUNE AND JULY; DAYTIME AND EVENING OPTIONS

Igniting a LOVE for music: The Musical Beginnings Short Course

Looking for a fantastic introduction to piano for your child? Our short-course beginner lessons are the perfect way to sample the curriculum we use during the school year, offering prospective students a magical first experience with music. These classes are designed for a "mommy and me" setting, fostering a warm and engaging environment where parents and children can bond over the joy of learning music together.

Why Choose Our Classes?

- Hands-On Learning: Interactive and fun piano activities that build foundational skills.
- Engaging Curriculum: A sneak peek into our school-year program.
- Supportive Environment: Enjoy the class with your child and share in their musical journey.
- Skill Development: Our program emphasizes key areas such as ear training, rhythm, keyboard proficiency, grand staff note reading, listening skills, hand-eye coordination and boosting self-confidence. We cultivate these fundamental skills in a lively and supportive atmosphere.

Join our waitlist today!

B-SEW INN'S PROJECT SEW

bsewinn.com

918.664.4480

5150 S. Sheridan Rd., Tulsa

AGES: 9-16. SEWING LESSONS FOR BOYS AND GIRLS.

DATES: JUNE 16-20, JULY 14-18, JULY 21-25

B-Sew Inn's Project Sew Summer Camp is one week and has two sessions each day. Session 1 is 9 a.m.-noon, and Session 2 is 2-5 p.m. With the camp fee of \$299, attendees will get a Starter Sewing Kit, printed instructions, fabric kits and supplies. Plus, upon completion of camp, each participant will receive a sewing machine, valued at \$199. Learn a life skill today. B-Sew Inn is the world's largest Baby Lock dealer. B-Sew Inn has been in business for 30-plus years. Space is limited, so sign up today.





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THE PERFECT ALL-DAY CAMP EXPERIENCE!
SPORTS CAMP: 9:30 am-12:30 pm | MVP FUN CAMP: 1-3 pm

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MVPsportsBixby.com
 12808 S. Memorial Dr. #207, Bixby, OK 74008
 Call or Text: 918-972-1181



SUMMER DANCE

JUNE 30-JULY 24
AGES 3-12

CLASSES OFFERED AT
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6 CAMPS

ALOHA CAMP: JUNE 9-13
CAMP BLUEY: JUNE 23-25
I "HEART" NY: JULY 9-11
MAGIC MIRROR: JULY 14-18
SWIFTIE SUMMER: JULY 23-25
FROZEN: JULY 28-30

8 WEEK SESSION
JUNE 2-27, JULY 7-AUGUST 1

101ST & YALE
(918) 369-JAZZ
SOUTHTULSADANCECO.COM

SUMMER CAMPS &

CAMP ARCHITECTURE AT TULSA FOUNDATION FOR ARCHITECTURE

tulsaarchitecture.org/programs

918.583.5550

633 S. Boston Ave., Tulsa

AGES: FOR STUDENTS ENTERING GRADES 3-6 (AGES 8-11)

DATES:

JUNE 2-6 (SPACES OF WONDER)

JUNE 9-13 (ARCHITECTURE AROUND THE WORLD)

JUNE 16-23; JUNE 23-27 (DREAM HOUSE DESIGN, WEEKS 1 AND 2)

TFA CAMP ARCHITECTURE gives curious kids an opportunity to dive into an architectural topic of interest and test out their own creative design ideas. Each week explores a different theme through hands-on creativity, guided investigations of architectural examples, and interactive presentations and discussions led by our highly qualified Educators and special guests (architects, engineers, interior designers, etc.).

SPACES OF WONDER: Interior Design for Fictional Worlds

This NEW TFA summer camp invites kids to unleash their creativity by designing imaginative spaces for their favorite fictional characters! Whether it's a cozy hobbit hole, a futuristic spaceship, or a superhero lair, campers will explore the art of interior design while learning about color, layout, and storytelling through space.

ARCHITECTURE AROUND THE WORLD: A Design Adventure

In this fun, hands-on camp, kids will explore famous buildings and design styles from around the world. Campers will dive into different cultures, learn about unique architectural techniques, and create their own amazing designs using a variety of materials.

DREAM HOUSE DESIGN

In our most popular camp, students will imagine and design their own personal dream house using a variety of materials. Although the curriculum is the same, it is possible for a student to attend both weeks and create something entirely new each week.

More information is available on our website at:

tulsaarchitecture.org/programs

CAMP CLASSEN

campclassen.org

580.369.2272

10840 Main Camp Rd., Davis, OK

AGES: 7-16

DATES: JUNE 1-JULY 19

YMCA Camp Classen is a traditional overnight summer camp nestled on 2,200 acres in the Arbuckle Mountains of southern Oklahoma. Home to campers ages 7-16, Camp Classen provides the perfect setting for adventure, learning, growth and fun! With a wide variety of activities from archery and horseback riding to hiking and canoeing, campers gain skills and confidence to propel them forward in life.

ACTIVITIES GUIDE

CAMP GET CENTERED

tulsacenter.org/camp-get-centered

918.794.4526

815 S. Utica Ave., Tulsa

AGES: 6-16

DATES: JUNE 2-AUG. 1

Join Camp Get Centered for weekly summer sessions filled with adaptive sports and recreation, art, special guests, mindfulness, group games, outings, friends and fun! Campers must have a primary diagnosis of a physical disability and be independent in skills of daily living including toileting, feeding and managing behavior safely. Campers receive a T-shirt, a personalized character award and lifelong memories!

CAMP LOUGHRIDGE

camploughridge.org

918.446.4194

4900 W. 71st St., Tulsa

AGES: 6-16

DATES/TIMES: JUNE 2-JULY 25, 8:40 A.M.-4:40 P.M., MONDAY-FRIDAY

Classic camp activities with Christian programming and a proven safety track record where we exceed the American Camp Association staff-to-camper required ratio. This 180-acre property with four miles of hiking trails and three recreational lakes is located less than 10 minutes from downtown Tulsa and just two miles west of Tulsa Hills shopping center.

Our camp facilities include an Olympic-size swimming pool with high dive, slide and climbing wall; low and high ropes challenge course including a zipline tower; two archery stations; two outdoor, covered basketball courts; and many field and water sport activities (like canoeing and kickball). We get consistent feedback from our camper and parent surveys that we have the best camp food around...our campers are served a locally catered hot lunch each day.

This summer, your kids will have so much fun and experience spiritual growth in a rustic, natural environment at one of the most historic camps in Oklahoma!

A vibrant, jungle-themed poster for 'Wild About Summer Camp Patriot 2025'. The background is a light green with stylized trees and foliage. In the center, a blue elephant is depicted, with a pink monkey hanging from its trunk. To the right, a pink lion stands on a small rock. The text 'Wild About Summer' is written in a large, playful, blue font. Below this, 'CAMP PATRIOT 2025' is written in a smaller, white font. The website 'WWW.CAMPPATRIOTTULSA.COM' is displayed in a blue box. A large orange box contains the text 'STUDENTS ENTERING PRE-K THRU 12TH HALF DAY + FULL DAY OPTIONS'. Below this, a blue banner reads 'REGISTRATION NOW OPEN'. To the right, a blue box shows the dates 'JUNE 2 - AUGUST 1' and the contact information 'CONTACT: ANNA SWANN CAMPPATRIOT@METROCA.COM 918.745.9868 EXT. 154'. At the bottom, the 'METRO CHRISTIAN ACADEMY' logo is featured, along with the address '6363 S. TRENTON AVE. | TULSA, OK | WWW.METROCA.COM' and a small 'CAMP PATRIOT' logo.A colorful advertisement for 'Playtime(+) Summer Camp'. The top features the 'Playtime(+)' logo with the tagline 'Quality Flexible Childcare.' Below this, 'SUMMER CAMP' is written in large, bold, orange letters. The text 'Ages 2 years - 12 years', 'Hourly Drop-ins welcome', 'Camp Rate \$45/day', 'Field Trips', and 'State of the Art Facility' is listed. The address '1211 N Elm Pl. Broken Arrow | 918-451-9936 | playtimeplus.com' is at the bottom. The advertisement is decorated with two smiling suns on either side of the text.

SUMMER WAS MEANT FOR THIS CAMP CLASSEN

Fun and safe overnight camp
in the Arbuckles

- Ages 7-16
- Flexible payment plans
- Pay as little as \$100 to secure your spot



SUMMER CAMPS &

CAMP LUTHERHOMA

lutherhoma.com/summer-camp

918.822.7405

23197 E. 742 Rd., Tahlequah

AGES: 7-18, AND FAMILY PROGRAMS

DATES: JUNE 8-AUG 1, WEEK-LONG PROGRAMS

Camp Lutherhoma is a Christ-centered camp with the mission to nurture discipleship in Jesus Christ in outdoor settings. Campers stay in air-conditioned bunk cabins with a counselor and fellow campers, at a ratio of one counselor for every eight campers. Each cabin group stays together throughout the day while enjoying fun activities, including swimming, hiking, crafts, archery, tomahawks, sports, games and much more.

Nine- to eighteen-year-old campers select two full-day Adventure Options on Wednesday and Thursday. These activity options include: mountain biking, rafting, kayaking, fishing, sports, rock climbing, challenge course or wilderness. All activities are led by trained summer counselors. The daily schedule also includes singing, skits, Bible study, devotions and night campfire.

Summer Family Camp, June 29-July 3 or July 20-24, is a fun way for families to experience camp together and enjoy all the camp activities! Each family is assisted by a host counselor who helps plan their days. Make new family memories!

Camp Lutherhoma is located near Tahlequah, OK, on the East side of the Illinois River, with 120 acres of forest, hills and river views. Counselors and staff have First Aid and CPR certification, background checks and reference checks. All buildings are climate controlled.

Summer Camps 2025 - Enroll Today!

CLARKYOUTHTHEATRE.COM/EDUCATION/CAMPS



918-596-1412

CLARKYOUTHTHEATRE@GMAIL.COM

CLARK YOUTH THEATRE

clarkyouththeatre.com

918.596.1412

4825 S. Quaker Ave., Tulsa

AGES: 5-14

TIMES: 8:30 A.M.-4:30 P.M. WITH OPTIONAL BEFORE- AND AFTER-CARE FROM 7:30 A.M.-5:30 P.M.

Camps at Clark Youth Theatre focus on acting, dance and music skills, with a performance at the end of camp. Each session of camp is taught by industry professionals. Visit Clark's website or Facebook page for more details and pricing.

**1-DAY & 4-DAY
CAMP OPTIONS**
9 AM - 1 PM WITH AFTERCARE
AVAILABLE UNTIL 3 PM

DANCE CAMPS
SUMMER 2025

Princess Camp
Unicorn Camp
Under the Sea Camp
Inside Out Camp
and more!

**SUMMER FUN
FOR AGES 3-9!**
918.361.4134
Tulsa@TippitoesDance.com
TippitoesDance.com/Tulsa



ACTIVITIES GUIDE

COLLEGE FOR KIDS

tulsacc.edu/academics/workforce-continuing-education/youth-programs
918.595.7200

TCC Southeast Campus: 10300 E. 81st St., Tulsa

TCC Northeast Campus: 3727 E. Apache St., Tulsa

AGES: 6-16

DATES: JUNE 2-JULY 25, VARIOUS SESSIONS

Our diverse range of programs is designed to foster creativity, build skills and promote personal growth in a fun and supportive environment. Course options include world languages, arts, gaming and coding, film, AI, and a variety of other in-person and online courses.

Classes will begin June 2, 2025 – July 25, 2025. Early bird rates are available March 1 – April 30, 2025.

Camps are hosted at the TCC Southeast Campus (10300 E. 81st St.) and the TCC Northeast Campus (3727 E. Apache St.).

DISCOVERY LAB

discoverylab.org/camps
918.295.8144

3123 S. Riverside Dr., Tulsa

AGES: LITTLES-6TH GRADE

DATES: JUNE-AUGUST

When school's out, Discovery Lab is in! Keep your kids engaged all summer with hands-on, science-packed fun. From chemistry and coding to art and engineering, each camp is designed to spark curiosity and creativity.

Camp Highlights:

- Unique weekly themes like Detective Science, Game Design and Zombie Survival
- Hands-on experiments and interactive activities
- Full-day and half-day options are available (littles only)
- Before- and aftercare offered
- Camp T-shirt included
- Lunch provided for full-day campers by Elote Café & Catering

Discovery Lab offers camps throughout the year, providing exciting, hands-on experiences in science, engineering and more. Whether for a few hours or an entire week, kids will love discovering and learning in a fun, interactive environment.

Before- and aftercare are available. Registration includes a camp T-shirt and lunch for full-day campers.



GREAT ADVENTURES IN LEARNING



- Infants through Pre-K
- After School Care for School Age
- Child-Centered Philosophy
- Full-and Part-time Programs Available

CHECK OUT OUR NEW BROKEN ARROW LOCATION!

2009 W. Washington St.
918-455-0074

TWO OTHER CONVENIENT LOCATIONS!

Cherry Street
918-584-2779

John Knox
918-742-7656

HAPPYCAMPERSACADEMY.COM



Our family loves Lake Hills Montessori!

Our child gains real-life skills, advanced academics and leadership qualities, even at a young age. The staff meet him where he's at, while encouraging him to pursue challenging tasks that build confidence. They present the work in a thoughtful and creative manner that nurtures hands-on and holistic learning. They develop the whole child, working on everything from academics, emotions to table manners. The classroom is orderly, peaceful and promotes care for the environment, self and the community. They are intentional about creating beautiful spaces for the child to learn and thrive. The outside playground is beautifully kept and encourages the children to explore and enjoy nature and physical play. The children eagerly care for the community garden and together, they enjoy the harvest from the garden. From the directors, teachers and assistants, everyone pours into our child. It's been a such wonderful experience for us!

The John Family



5130 E. 101st St., Tulsa, OK | 918.296.9936
lakehillsmontessoritulsa.com

Camp Lutherhoma

Outdoor Adventures
Christ-Centered Community
Ages 7-18 and family programs
Week long sessions June 8- August 1

Summer Camp 2025

Let's make some memories!

Lutherhoma.com 918-458-0704
Tahlequah, OK

SUMMER CAMPS &

HAPPY CAMPERS

happycampersacademy.com

Happy Campers at John Knox: 2929 E. 31st St., Tulsa

Happy Campers Broken Arrow: 2009 W. Washington St., Broken Arrow

AGES: 4-12

TIMES: MONDAY-FRIDAY, 7 A.M.-6 P.M.

We are pleased to announce that Happy Campers now has TWO locations for summer camp 2025! We have our John Knox location, and now we have a new location in Broken Arrow.

Day campers will enjoy weekly field trips (ages 5 and up), lots of visitors and, this year, our BA campers will be swimming at the pool located right on our campus! Campers will also enjoy arts, crafts, and STEM activities to keep them engaged and learning. We will be participating in the Summer Reading Program and also enjoying many of the free programs that Tulsa provides during the summer.

We will have a fun and exciting balance between learning and fun! Come and have an adventurous summer with us!

HOLLAND HALL

hollandhall.org/summer

918.879.4716

5666 E. 81st St., Tulsa

AGES: 3+

DATES: MAY 27-JULY 25

With nine one-week sessions and more than 200 camps and classes designed for both fun and education, Holland Hall has options for everyone! Sign up for a one-week session dedicated to athletics, the arts, academics or "just for fun" activities. Choose between morning and afternoon sessions, or sign up for both and stay all day.

Participants in Holland Hall summer programs experience educational and enrichment opportunities in an atmosphere dedicated to fostering mental, physical and creative growth. Classes are available for 3-year-olds to adults and are open to Tulsa and the surrounding communities.

Online registration is set to launch April 1, at hollandhall.org/summer. We look forward to you sharing your summer with us!

2025 Living Arts of Tulsa New Arts Camp



June
10-13

12:30pm-4:30pm
Julia Hale
Mixed Media
Painting
Camp



June
24-27

8:30am-12pm
Amber Marie
Deen
Through the
Viewfinder



July
8-11

12:30pm-4:30pm
Amber Marie
Deen
Back to Basics



August
5-8

12:30pm-4:30pm
Amber Marie
Deen
Enchanted
Forest
(Littles)



ACTIVITIES GUIDE

KJM EQUESTRIAN

kjmequestrian.com/summer-camps

918.299.9283

4300 S. Butternut Ave., Broken Arrow

AGES: 7-12

DATES: MAY 27-JULY 25

Conveniently located near 111th & Garnett (just west of the Creek Turnpike), KJM's week-long summer camps include daily riding, an intro to horsemanship, games, horse-related arts and crafts, plus a Friday finale horse show and cook-out.

Our camp facilities include an air-conditioned camp house with kitchen, bathroom, tack room and tacking stalls. In addition, large riding arenas are available as well as shaded trails and a riding park, which are perfect for warm-day rides.

Safety on and around horses is a major objective of our riding program, and our counselors are well versed in educating beginner riders

KRAVIS SUMMER ARTS CAMP

tulsaschools.org/kravis

918.625.0614

Lewis & Clark Elementary (elementary and middle school camps), 737 S. Garnett Rd.

Phillips Hall, The University of Tulsa (high school camps), 2930 E. 5th St.

AGES: 5-18

DATES: JUNE 2-13, 8:30 A.M.-2 P.M., MONDAY-FRIDAY

Kravis Summer Arts Camp offers a dynamic and immersive creative experience for young artists, with expert instructors leading classes in a variety of artistic disciplines, including visual art, music, dance and theatre. Each teacher brings specialized knowledge and years of experience in their field, ensuring that students receive high-quality instruction in every area of their chosen art forms.

Throughout the camp, students engage in hands-on projects, crafting unique art pieces and performance works. The camp culminates in a vibrant showcase on the last day, where students proudly present their creations to friends and family, celebrating their artistic growth and accomplishments.

Whether exploring painting, drumming, choreography or acting, students at Kravis Summer Arts Camp are inspired to express their creativity and develop their skills in a supportive, fun-filled environment.

TENNIS - SWIMMING - GAMES - PICKLEBALL

SUMMER TENNIS CAMP

FOR AGES **6-14** NEW SESSIONS EACH WEEK
MONDAY - FRIDAY
10AM - 2PM

WWW.PHILCRESTHILLSTENNIS.COM/SUMMERCAMP

LAFORTUNE PARK JUNIOR GOLF CAMP

lafortuneparkgolf.com/junior-golf

918.496.6200

5501 S. Yale, Tulsa

AGES: 6-13

DATES: JUNE 2-5, JUNE 23-26, JULY 14-17, AUGUST 4-7

Every junior will receive hours of valuable instruction each day on different aspects of the game including full swing, putting, chipping, bunker play, and pitching, accompanied by skills challenges and on-course instruction.

Camps run Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

PGA Jr. League

AGES: 13 AND UNDER

DATES:

SPRING: MAY 1-JUNE 7

SUMMER: JULY 10-AUG 16

FALL: SEPT 4-OCT 11

Includes weekly practices (Tuesday and Thursdays) with their coach and matches (Saturdays or Sundays) against other local teams at LaFortune and South Lakes. Practices and matches will be at LaFortune Park Golf Course.

Sign up at: pgajrleague.com/junior-league-events/search?radius=100&programStatus=open



AVANT GARDE
Preschool & Early Learning Centers

12928 E. 43rd Place, Tulsa, OK 74134 | 918-940-8484
4103 S. Detroit Ave, Tulsa, OK 74105 | 918-743-0975
7607 S. Sheridan Rd, Tulsa, OK 74133 | 918-497-1335

Thriving Kids

Our specialty... more focus, more confidence, and more FUN!



Kids 4 Week Trial

Martial Arts Advantage
603 S Aspen Ave,
Broken Arrow, OK 74012
www.MartialArtsAdvantage.net



SUMMER CAMPS & ACTIVITIES GUIDE

LAFORTUNE TENNIS CAMPS

lafortunetennis.com/camps

918.496.6230

5302 S. Hudson Ave., Tulsa

AGES: 4-6 AND 7-15

Serve Up Fun This Summer! Pee Wee & Junior Tennis Camps

Introduce your little one to the exciting world of tennis at Case Tennis Center at LaFortune Park! Our Pee Wee & Junior Tennis Camps are designed to help young players develop basic skills, coordination, and a love for the game in a fun, encouraging environment.

Pee Wee Camps (ages 4-6) feature 45-minute sessions filled with engaging drills, movement games, and activities that build hand-eye coordination and foundational tennis skills. Junior Camps (ages 7-15) run for 1.5 hours and focus on developing technique, rally skills and gameplay in an interactive and supportive setting. Both programs emphasize teamwork, sportsmanship and—most importantly—having a great time on the court!

Join us this summer for a fantastic tennis experience! Visit our website for registration details and session dates. All camp registrations include a free camp T-shirt. We can't wait to see your little champs on the court!

LIVING ARTS OF TULSA NEW ARTS CAMP

livingarts.org/programming

918.585.1234

307 E. Reconciliation Way, Tulsa

AGES: 5-16

DATES (ALL SESSIONS ARE FROM 12:30-4:30 P.M.): JUNE 10-13, JUNE 24-27, JULY 8-11, AUG. 5-8

Camp sessions are \$115 for the week; this includes supplies!

Apply Here SOON: livingarts.org/programming

Please contact Laura Ruiz at projects@livingarts.org with any questions.



MARTIAL ARTS ADVANTAGE

martialartsadvantage.net

918.258.9821

603 S. Aspen Ave., Broken Arrow

AGES: 3-ADULT

Greetings! My name is Jim Hammons, and I'm excited to personally invite you and your child to discover the life-changing benefits of martial arts at Martial Arts Advantage.

From the moment families walk into our school, they realize that martial arts is about much more than just punches and kicks—it's a powerful tool for confidence, discipline and personal growth that lasts a lifetime.

At Martial Arts Advantage, we've designed a program that goes beyond physical training to focus on the structured growth of every student. Through our award-winning summer camps and year-round programs, kids don't just learn self-defense—they develop the skills and mindset to become leaders.

Our high-energy classes help students build strength, focus and self-discipline, all while having an incredible time. And through our unique mentorship approach, students gain confidence, respect and perseverance.

We take pride in our strong, supportive community, where families feel welcome and kids thrive in a safe, uplifting environment.

Experience our school firsthand! Right now, we're offering an exclusive TulsaKids 4-Week Trial—a perfect opportunity to see how martial arts can positively impact your child's confidence, focus and discipline.

Contact us today, and we'll get you set up for your first class.

Looking forward to seeing you on the mat!

Jim Hammons

Owner, Martial Arts Advantage

MILLER SWIM SCHOOL

millerswimschool.com

918.254.1988

Tulsa: 6415 S. Mingo Rd., Tulsa

Jenks: 525 W. 91st St. S., Jenks

Owasso: 10001 N. 127th E. Ave., Owasso

Tulsa South: 7820 E. 101st St., Suite A, Tulsa

With over 60 years of expertise, Miller Swim School stands as the premier provider of swim lessons and water safety education in the greater Tulsa area. Students are grouped by age and swimming ability, with classes available year-round in both morning and evening sessions across our four locations.

Get ready to make a splash into the summer spirit with our Swim Camp sessions! These dynamic two-week intensives provide a focused and immersive learning experience, creating a perfect opportunity for swimmers to enhance their skills.

Give us a call at 918.254.1988 for more information and mention that TulsaKids sent you! Check out our website for a comprehensive list of programs, and stay tuned on Facebook and Instagram for the latest news and specials.

Dive into a summer of aquatic adventures with Miller Swim School!

SUMMER CAMPS & ACTIVITIES GUIDE

MISS HELEN'S PRIVATE SCHOOL

misshelens.com

918.622.2327

4849 S. Mingo Rd., Tulsa

AGES: 3 YEARS-5TH GRADE

Miss Helen's provides a safe environment of summer fun activities to accentuate the positive in students. Fun and appropriate activities are offered. Preschool theme-based weeks include our annual pet parade and weekly water play days. Elementary students' activities include: STEM activities, chess, sewing, mystery games and cooking experiences. Individualized reading, writing and math included.

In addition to daily classes, preschool students may choose to take cheerleading, swimming lessons, gymnastics or karate classes. Elementary students may choose swimming lessons, gymnastics, cheerleading, tennis, golf, karate, soccer and musical theater. Community service projects included.

Join Miss Helen's family by contacting us today! We'd love to help celebrate our 70th year with your family!

NEW LIFE RANCH

newliferanch.com

918.422.5506

160 New Life Ranch Dr., Colcord

GRADES: 2-6 (FRONTIER COVE); 7-12 (FLINT VALLEY)

DATES:

JUNE 1-JULY 19 (FRONTIER COVE)

JUNE 1-JULY 26 (FLINT VALLEY)

JULY 20-23, HALF-WEEK OVERNIGHT SESSION (CAMP HOWDY AT FRONTIER COVE)

New Life Ranch is a Christ-focused summer camp with the mission to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and equip believers for ministry! Campers have epic fun while riding horses, canoeing, rock climbing, launching off the blob and worshipping God. More important than the fun, though, are the relationships campers will build with peers, counselors and, ultimately, Jesus Christ.

Our Summer Camps are split into Jr. Camp (going into grades 2-6) at New Life Ranch Frontier Cove and Sr. Camp (going into grades 7-12) at New Life Ranch Flint Valley.

Register at newliferanch.com.

Promo Code: Use TULSA25 for a \$100 discount (\$50 for Camp Howdy)!



Happy Smiles Are in Full Bloom!

Spring is the perfect time for a fresh, clean smile! Our Board-Certified Pediatric Dentists and Orthodontists have advanced training to provide expert care tailored to every child—making visits comfortable, fun, and stress-free for both kids and parents!

We're here to keep little grins happy and healthy. Now accepting new patients!

Scan the QR to book today!

on the cusp
PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY & ORTHODONTICS

918.921.6778
onthecuspdds.com
Midtown: 4444 S. Harvard Ave. Suite 100
South Tulsa: 8222 E. 103rd St. Suite 133

TULSAKIDS Family Favorites 2020-2024 WINNER

NOW ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS



Drillers

HORNSBY'S KIDS CLUB

PRESENTED BY **tulsakids**
FOR PARENTS. FOR FAMILIES. FOR LIFE.

JOIN TODAY FOR JUST \$30 AND RECEIVE EXCLUSIVE ACCESS TO GAMES, DEALS & OPPORTUNITIES: FIREWORKS ON THE FIELD, POPCORN PALOOZA & MORE!

SCAN THE LINK TO JOIN HORNSBY'S KIDS CLUB TODAY!
CONNECT WITH US AT
918.744.5901 | @TULSADRILLERS | TULSADRILLERS.COM

SUMMER CAMPS & ACTIVITIES GUIDE

NORTHEASTERN STATE UNIVERSITY

[academics.nsuok.edu/continuingeducation/](https://academics.nsuok.edu/continuingeducation/YouthPrograms/default.aspx)

[YouthPrograms/default.aspx](https://academics.nsuok.edu/continuingeducation/YouthPrograms/default.aspx)

918.444.4618

512 N. Muskogee Ave., Tahlequah

3100 New Orleans St., Broken Arrow

AGES: 5-18

NSU has camps for kids 5-18. Come explore other worlds, learn how to fly drones, play chess or respond to a disaster. Learn about biology, robotics or chemistry all while engaging in fun activities. With camps in Broken Arrow and Tahlequah throughout the summer, we have options for everyone.

Space is limited, so act today.

PHILCREST HILLS SUMMER TENNIS CAMP

philcresthillstennis.com/summer-camp

918.299.2643

10900 Riverside Parkway, Tulsa

AGES: FOR BEGINNERS, AGES 6-14

DATES: WEEKLY SESSIONS, MAY 27-AUG. 8, 10 A.M.-2 P.M.

Smash some balls and make a splash with Philcrest this summer!

At our Summer Tennis Camp, campers will participate in tennis drills in the morning, learning basic strokes, court etiquette and scorekeeping. They will engage in an introduction to match play, as well as participate in fun hand-eye coordination exercises. After lunch they will swim, play games or play pickleball. They will have afternoon snacks in our pool and outdoor grill area. Safari's Sanctuary will come visit us once a month with a selection of exotic animals for the campers to engage with and learn about.

Each camper will need to wear tennis shoes and bring a swimsuit, towel and sunscreen. Lunch and snack are provided.

PLAYTIME (+)

playtimeplus.com

918.451.9336

1211 N. Elm Pl., Broken Arrow

AGES: 4 MONTHS-12 YEARS

At Playtime (+) we believe every child deserves a safe and nurturing environment to learn and grow at their own pace. We're here to partner with you to focus on what matters most - your child's bright future. We balance structured learning and free play with our new state-of-the-art facility, which offers a well-rounded curriculum, nutritious meals, large classrooms, full-sized indoor gym and a large outdoor playground including a Gaga pit, basketball and soccer.

Our experienced team has over 50 years of childcare experience. Playtime (+) is a 3-Star DHS licensed facility and has served the community for over 30 years. We offer parents the flexibility of choosing full-time, part-time, hourly drop-in, before and after care with transportation to and from Broken Arrow schools, summer camp, and no-school day camps.

We believe Playtime (+) will give your child the skills and confidence he/she needs to succeed both today and in the future.

We're open 7 a.m.-7 p.m., Monday-Friday. Our tuition and daily rates are thoughtfully structured to reflect the exceptional quality of education and care we provide while striving to make childcare as affordable as possible for our families. Tours can be taken between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on a day that's convenient to you.

REJOICE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL ATHLETIC SUMMER CAMPS

rejoiceschool.com/camps

918.516.0050

7018 E. 90th St. N., Owasso

AGES: 6-18

DATES: JUNE AND JULY

At Rejoice Christian School, our athletic camps reflect our vision of developing students spiritually, intellectually, physically and socially to equip them to impact their communities and the world for Christ! Each camp begins with our "First Things First" devotional and prayer led by one of our coaches, setting the tone for an immersive, Christ-centered experience. Campers then engage in skill-building, teamwork and games in our world-class athletic facilities. Join us for an RCS Athletic Camp this summer!



SUMMER CAMPS & ACTIVITIES GUIDE

SOUTH LAKES GOLF COURSE

southlakesgolf.com

918.746.3760

9253 S. Elwood, Jenks

AGES: 6-14

DATES:

SUMMER LIL HOOKS: JUNE 11-JULY 9, EVERY WEDNESDAY FOR FIVE WEEKS

SLAKES SUMMER CAMP: JUNE 3-5, 9-10:30 A.M.

Every junior will receive an hour of valuable instruction each day on different aspects of the game including full swing, putting, chipping, bunker play, and pitching, accompanied by skills challenges and on-course instruction.

SUMMER ARTS STUDIOS AT LIGGETT STUDIO

liggettstudio.com/25/summerstudios

918.694.5719

314 S. Kenosha Ave., Tulsa

AGES: GOING INTO 3RD-8TH GRADE

DATES: JUNE 16-27

Summer is the time for fun and to explore new ways of thinking about who we are and to make new friends who share the same interests as ourselves. This summer, Liggett Studios starts a whole new program geared towards those three areas: FUN, EXPLORATION and NEW FRIENDS in a 2-week program that is aimed at helping develop children's imaginations and techniques through a variety of media centered around the concept of making Artist's Books.

Through the investigation of the individual's response to different media like photography, papermaking, clay, printmaking, story writing, wood, video and mixing those media together through experimentation, the individual comes up with their own way to interpret what an "Artist's Book" is ... to them! There will be a final presentation of whatever they come up with on the final day.

Taught by STEVE LIGGETT, who has a long history of teaching children from his time at Philbrook, Johnson Atelier, Holland Hall, Riverfield Country Day School, the Virginia Myers Education Program and Living Arts. And by MERY MCNETT, a Tulsa-based multimedia artist for over 15 years, creating graphic visuals, arts programming and teaching various forms of art at institutions such as Living Arts, ahha Tulsa and Gilcrease Museum.

Enroll at liggettstudio.com

TIPPI TOES TULSA

tippitoesdance.com/tulsa

918.361.4134

5976 S. Yale Ave., Tulsa

AGES: 3-9

DATES:

AUG. 4-7 (4-DAY CAMP)

SINGLE-DAY CAMPS AVAILABLE SELECT DATES, JUNE 3-JULY 29

We are so excited to announce our Tippi Toes Tulsa 2025 Summer Camp dates!

Tippi Toes Tulsa is excited to offer more fun and engaging dance camps

in 2025! *NEW* this year...camps are now from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., and we are also offering extended care until 3 p.m. if you need a little extra time!

All camps are held at our Tippi Toes Studio located in KingsPointe Village Shopping Center at 61st and Yale. Camps are geared toward dancers ages 3-9 years old. Dancers must be potty trained.

With exciting themes like Princess Camp, Under the Sea, Unicorns and more, space will fill up quickly, so enroll TODAY! Discounts are available when you enroll in three or more camps. Use the code 3CAMPS to save \$15 on 3 or more camps or use the code 4CAMPS to save \$20 on 4 or more. Email TulsaMgr@TippiToesDance.com if you have any questions or would like help enrolling.

Visit tippitoesdance.com/tulsa for more information and to enroll TODAY!

TULSA BALLET CENTER FOR DANCE EDUCATION

tulsaballet.org/summer-classes

918.712.5327

Brookside Campus: 1212 E. 45th Pl., Tulsa

Broken Arrow Campus: 1901 W. New Orleans St., Broken Arrow

AGES: 3-12

DATES: JUNE 20-JULY 24

Join TBCDE for Summer Dance classes the entire month of July! With classes at our Broken Arrow and Brookside campuses for ages 3-12, there's sure to be a time for your child to continue their dance classes this summer. Is your child new to dance and just wants to see what it's all about? No experience required, beginners welcome!

YMCA OF GREATER TULSA

ymcatulsa.org/summercamp

918.466.1424

Tulsa, Owasso and Bixby

AGES: 4-15

DATES: MAY 27-AUG. 15

Ready to give your kids a summer they'll never forget? YMCA Summer Day Camps offer the ultimate experience for kids to unplug and dive into non-stop fun, adventure and discovery! With five camp locations across Tulsa County—Herman & Kate YMCA, Tandy Family YMCA, Daily Family YMCA, Okmulgee Family YMCA and Owasso Family YMCA—there's a perfect camp for every child.

Whether your child is into basketball, swimming, arts and crafts, or exploring the great outdoors, YMCA camps are all about fun! Get ready for days packed with games, sports, crafts, swimming and even outdoor adventures—no devices in sight!

We've created a safe, exciting space where kids can build confidence, develop new skills, make lifelong friendships and discover new interests. No matter what your child is passionate about, YMCA Summer Day Camps offer the perfect setting to explore, learn, and thrive. So, get ready to watch your kids create unforgettable memories and leave with a smile!



GRAND MENTAL HEALTH

How can schools and community programs work together to better support children's mental health and emotional well-being?

Collaboration between schools and community organizations ensures a more comprehensive approach to mental health. Schools can integrate social-emotional learning into curriculum, helping children develop coping skills, resilience and emotional intelligence. Community programs can reinforce these lessons by offering mentorship opportunities, extracurricular activities, and access to trained professionals to support children's mental health outside of school hours.

These partnerships offer key support as well, ensuring children have access to early intervention and ongoing care as needed. For example, GRAND Mental Health's Behavior Intervention Services in Schools (BISS) program serves 130+ schools in Oklahoma, embedding Behavioral Health Coaches in schools to offer clinical support to individual students without removing them from school or disrupting classrooms. This allows teachers and administrators to do what they do best – teach and manage their classrooms. Programs like this bridge gaps in mental health care and make services more accessible.

Fostering open communication between educators, community leaders and families is key. Hosting workshops, parent meetings and support groups help break down stigmas around mental health while equipping caregivers with the tools needed. Encouraging a shared commitment to mental health helps children feel seen, heard and valued.

(844) 458-2100
24/7 Crisis Line: (800) 722-3611



MILLER SWIM SCHOOL

I want to start a family conversation about water safety and drowning, but it's such a scary topic! Where do I begin?

Statistics tell us that drowning is still the leading cause of unintentional injury-related death among children between 1 and 4 years of age. This means we have to make pool and water safety a key point of focus in conversations with our kids.

Here are a few tips to get the conversation started:

- **Be truthful about danger:** Be honest, but age-appropriate. Share facts rather than emotionally charged stories. Let them know how quickly drowning can happen, and that even if they're a strong swimmer, they could still slip near a pool and be in danger.
- **Discuss family rules:** Keep your rules short and memorable. Talk about them prior to any event near water. It can be easy for children to get caught up in fun and forget safety guidelines, so talk about them often.
- **Enroll in swim class:** An important line of defense for your children is having the ability to swim on their own. If your kids are not already enrolled in swim class, there's no better time than the present to get them started.

6415 S. Mingo Rd., Tulsa
525 W. 91st St. S., Jenks
7820 E 101st St, Tulsa OK

918.254.1988
MillerSwimSchool.com



DENTAL DEPOT

What are some signs that a child's toothbrush needs replacing, and how often should parents swap them out?

A good rule of thumb is to replace toothbrushes every 90 days. A worn-out toothbrush loses its ability to effectively remove plaque and food particles, making it less efficient at keeping teeth and gums healthy. Over time, frayed and flattened bristles can miss crucial areas, increasing the risk of cavities, gum disease, and bad breath. If you notice that the bristles are frayed, it's time for a new one—even if it's before the three-month mark.

At Dental Depot, we provide new toothbrushes at every visit, but there are plenty of great options available in stores as well. You can help talk to kids about why toothbrush replacements are important for clean, healthy teeth.

Dr. Gavin Martindale, Dental Depot Owasso



Six Convenient Tulsa Metro Locations
DentalDepot.net



FAVORITE NEWBORN
PHOTOGRAPHER

@MAKENZIEHOWARDPHOTOGRAPHY



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

APRIL 2025

SCAN THE QR CODE
to find more events at
[tulsakids.com/calendar!](https://tulsakids.com/calendar)



BROUGHT TO YOU BY



Blippi: Join the Band Tour, April 4.
Photo courtesy Mabee Center



Back to the Future Tour: Lucas Hallauer
Photo by McLeod9 Creative

**Visit Tulsa Zoo this month to see
some of their newest arrivals!**
Photo courtesy Tulsa Zoo

Photo courtesy Tulsa Zoo



Does your kid love Blippi? Don't miss Blippi: Join the Band Tour on April 4! Photo courtesy Mabee Center

April 1 Tuesday

TUESDAYS WITH TULSA GARDEN CLUB **F** **W**

All ages, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Woodward Park, 2435 S. Peoria Ave., tulsagardenclub.org

Enjoy free come-and-go activities, and explore the gardens, arboretum, conservatory and mansion at Tulsa Garden Center.

MOONS: WORLDS OF MYSTERY

Recommended ages 6+, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Jenks Planetarium, 205 E. B St., Jenks, jenksps.ce.eleyo.com/planetarium

Moons: Worlds of Mystery immerses you in the amazing diversity of moons and the important roles they play in shaping our solar system.

April 2 Wednesday

BIKES & BALLS **W**

For toddlers and preschoolers, 9:30-11 a.m., Whiteside Community Center, 4009 S. Pittsburg Ave., tulsaparks.recdesk.com

This indoor open gym time gives little ones a chance to explore, learn and play in a secure environment. Repeats weekly when TPS is in session. \$1 per child.

STORY TIME AT TULSA ZOO **W**

10-10:30 a.m., Tulsa Zoo, 6421 E. 36th St. N., tulsazoo.org

Story time meets at the world globe near the main entrance or, in case of inclement weather, at the COX Nature Exchange in the Life in the Cold building.

1-2-3 PLAY WITH ME PARENT-CHILD WORKSHOP **F**

For parents and kids ages 1-3, 6-7 p.m., Central Library, 400 Civic Center, tulsalibrary.org

This program offers opportunities for children to play with developmentally appropriate toys in a playgroup atmosphere. Early childhood specialists will be available to talk about child development and more. Must pre-register at tulsalibrary.org/events or call 918.549.7323.

April 3 Thursday

G.R.O.W. MOBILE LIBRARY + STORYTIME **F**

9:30-11:30 a.m., Gathering Place, 2650 S. John Williams Way, gatheringplace.org

Listen to a fun, tree-themed story time to celebrate an early Arbor Day! Afterwards, explore the G.R.O.W. Mobile Library Cart.

STORYTIME AT PHILBROOK **W**

Ages 10 and under, 10-10:30 a.m., Philbrook Museum, 2727 S. Rockford Rd., philbrook.org

Drop in for imaginative stories geared towards kids 10 and under. On April 3, Tulsa Zoo will join with an animal ambassador.

HOMESCHOOL SKATE

All ages, 1-3 p.m., Wheels and Thrills, 10637 N. Garnett Rd., Owasso, wheelsandthrills.com

Homeschoolers, wear your superhero cape or favorite superhero T-shirt while enjoying all that Wheels and Thrills has to offer.

April 4 Friday

KIDS LOVE BUGS: BA VIRTUAL DAY EVENT **F**

For elementary schoolers, 2-3 p.m., South Broken Arrow Library, 3600 S. Chestnut Ave., Broken Arrow, tulsalibrary.org

Meet living ambassador animals, inspect expired critters and examine types of evidence that they leave behind. This program aims to reduce anxiety around bugs and instead inspire curiosity and respect.

BLIPPI: JOIN THE BAND TOUR

All ages, 6 p.m., Mabee Center, 7777 S. Lewis Ave., mabeecenter.com

Grab your drumsticks, tune up your guitar and move those feet with Blippi!

April 5 Saturday

SATURDAY MORNING BIRDING **F**

All ages, 8-9:45 a.m., Oxley Nature Center, 6700 Mohawk Blvd., oxleynaturecenter.org

Meet in Oxley's parking lot for their monthly birding walk. Bring binoculars if you have them.

PEQUEÑOS VOLCANES: HABLAR ES ENSEÑAR **F** **W**

0 a 3 años, 11-11:30 a.m., Gathering Place, 2650 S. John Williams Way, gatheringplace.org

Este programa interactivo da vida al parque con una serie de actividades divertidas destinadas a fomentar habilidades esenciales del desarrollo en los niños pequeños. Es necesario registrarse para asistir.

LITTER CLEANUP KICKOFF! **F**

For tweens to adults, 1-2 p.m., Veterans Park, Pavilion #1, 305 S. Birch St., Jenks, tulsalibrary.org

Work together to clean up litter and learn how to take this idea into your own neighborhood.

THE THREE MUSKETEERS

7:30 p.m., Tulsa PAC, 110 E. 2nd St., tulsaballet.org

A rip-roaring ballet with a classic love story at its heart, *The Three Musketeers* is an exciting ballet adventure for the whole family. Additional showtimes, April 3-6

April 6 Sunday

KEYSTONE ANCIENT FOREST ART HIKE **F**

All ages, 2-4 p.m., Keystone Ancient Forest, 160 Ancient Forest Dr., Sand Springs, facebook.com/keystoneancientforest

Liz Dueck leads a monthly art hike at Keystone Ancient Forest. This month's theme is Redbuds in Pastel. Bring your own supplies.

TULSA OILERS: SUNDAY FUNDAY

All ages, 3:05 p.m., BOK Center, 200 S. Denver Ave., tulsaoilers.com

Cheer for the Tulsa Oilers as they play the Idaho Steelheads! The first 1,000 kids ages 12 and under get a free jersey, and everyone can enjoy a post-game skate with the players.

April 7 Monday**MUSIC MONDAY ^F**

For toddlers and preschoolers, 10:30-11 a.m., Central Library, 400 Civic Center, tulsalibrary.org

Enjoy a fun morning of singing and dancing to help foster early literacy skills. Repeats April 21.

LITTLE LAB PROGRAMMING ^W

Ages 0-4, 11-11:30 a.m., Discovery Lab, 3123 S. Riverside Dr., discoverylab.org

Activities will focus on learning shapes, colors, working on fine motor skills, identifying emotions and more!

April 8 Tuesday**KIDS READ: SCIENCE RULES – SEEDLING POTS ^F**

Ages 5-12, 3-4 p.m., Martin Regional Library, 2601 S. Garnett Rd., tulsalibrary.org

Come for a hands-on experience exploring different ways to grow plants. Create a recycled pot to take home.

AUTO KNOW-HOW ^F

For teens and tweens, 4:30-5:30 p.m., South Broken Arrow Library, 3600 S. Chestnut Ave., Broken Arrow, tulsalibrary.org

Want to know how to check the family car's oil or tire pressure, or how to change the air filter? Come learn the basics of auto maintenance.

YOGA FOR EVERY BODY ^{F W}

All ages, 6-7 p.m., Central Library, 400 Civic Center, tulsalibrary.org

Participate in a beginner-friendly yoga class taught by certified yoga instructor Beth Richmond.

April 9 Wednesday**LITTLE GARDEN EXPLORERS ^W**

Ages 5 and under, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Philbrook Museum, 2727 S. Rockford Rd., philbrook.org

Spark wonder at this easygoing play invitation designed for children under five.

April 10 Thursday**NATURE CRAFT ^{F W}**

Ages 2+, 3-4 p.m., Ray Harral Nature Center, 7101 S. 3rd St., Broken Arrow, facebook.com/rayharralnaturecenter

Register at baparks.org for this free, drop-in crafting program.

BANDS & BLOOMS: JOHN DEPEW

All ages, 6-8 p.m., Tulsa Botanic Garden, 3900 Tulsa Botanic Dr., tulsabotanic.org

Listen to live music while enjoying a peaceful evening in the garden. Food and drink available for purchase.

April 11 Friday**APOLLO 13 – 55TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

April 11-12, Tulsa Air and Space Museum, 3624 N. 74th E. Ave., tulsamuseum.org

Embark on a journey through history as TASM honors the 55th anniversary of Apollo 13 with a weekend of unforgettable events, including a panel discussion with Apollo 13 individuals, a pre-flight mixer and more.

HELMERICH LIBRARY ANNUAL BOOK SALE ^F

All ages, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Helmerich Library, 5131 E. 91st St., tulsalibrary.org

The Friends of the Helmerich Library's annual book sale features thousands of gently used books and media. Repeats April 12, 18 and 19.

PETER AND THE WOLF

All ages, 1 p.m., Hardesty Center for Dance Education, 1901 W. New Orleans St., Broken Arrow, tulsaballet.org

Your family will love learning about music, dance and theater in this exciting, fun-filled production. Additional showtimes available; tickets may sell out.

April 12 Saturday**OKLAHOMA CENTRAL CREDIT UNION ZOORUN PRESENTED BY COMMUNITY CARE**

All ages, 8 a.m., Tulsa Zoo, 6421 E. 36th St. N., tulsazoo.org/run

Now in its 55th year, ZooRun is the second-oldest running event in Tulsa. With a 10k, 5k and the MedWise 1-mile FunRun, there is a pace for everyone!

TREE FORT STORYTIME

Ages 10 and under, 10:30 a.m., Tulsa Botanic Garden, 3900 Tulsa Botanic Dr., tulsabotanic.org

Enjoy a nature-themed story in the Tree Fort in the Children's Discovery Garden. Free with admission.

RIVERWALK POP! ^F

All ages, 12-5 p.m., Jenks Riverwalk, 300 Riverwalk Terrace, Jenks, jenksriverwalk.com



Celebrate pop culture at Riverwalk Pop! on April 12. Photo courtesy Jenks Riverwalk

This event celebrates pop culture through unique vendors, a costume contest, live music, games and more.

WE ARE OKLAHOMA BOOK DISCUSSION: WOODY GUTHRIE ^F

For adults and teens, 3-5 p.m., Woody Guthrie Center, 102 Reconciliation Way, tulsalibrary.org

Read *Woody Guthrie: Songs and Art* by Nora Guthrie, then join to put your knowledge to the test. Must pre-register at tulsalibrary.org/events or call 918.549.7323.

DVOŘÁK AND STRAUSS

7:30 p.m., Tulsa PAC, 110 E. 2nd St., tulsasympphony.org

The performance begins with Dvořák's joyful *Carnival*

Overture, followed by Hanson's "Romantic" Symphony No. 2 and an arrangement of Strauss' Suite from *Der Rosenkavalier*.

April 13 Sunday**SENSORY-FRIENDLY FAMILY HOURS**

All ages, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Discovery Lab, 3123 S. Riverside Dr., discoverylab.org

These early hours are designed for families with children on the spectrum and other sensory needs. Lights are dimmed and exhibit sounds are turned down.

HELLO, DOLLY!

2 p.m., Tulsa PAC, 110 E. 2nd St., tulsapac.com

Enjoy the magic of love and laughter as matchmaker Dolly Levi works her charms in *Hello, Dolly!* Presented by Theatre Tulsa. Additional showtimes, April 11-20

April 14 Monday**BUILD A READER STORYTIME: BABIES ^{F W}**

Ages 0-2, 10-10:20 a.m., Hardesty Regional Library, 8316 E. 93rd St., tulsalibrary.org

Learn and enjoy songs, stories and activities that are just right for your little one at this lapsit storytime.

April 15 Tuesday

BUILD A READER PLAY WORKSHOP ^F

For parents and ages 1-3, 10:30-11:30 a.m.,
Martin Regional Library,
2601 S. Garnett Rd.,
tulsalibrary.org

This fun play workshop features a special music time with Katherine Battenberg.

CHAMBERLAIN PARK COMMUNITY FOOD AND RESOURCE FESTIVAL ^F

All ages, 5:30-7:30 p.m.,
Chamberlain Park,
4940 N. Frankfort Ave.,
foodonthemoveok.com

Food on the Move provides individuals and families in the community with fresh produce, a hot meal and access to essential resources.

BACK TO THE FUTURE: THE MUSICAL

7:30 p.m., Tulsa PAC,
110 E. 2nd St.,
celebrityattractions.com

Great Scott! Back to the Future, the beloved, cinematic classic is now a Broadway musical! Additional showtimes through April 20.

April 16 Wednesday

BUILD A READER STORYTIME: FAMILY/ STAY AND PLAY ^{F W}

Ages 0-5, 10:30-11:30 a.m.,
Rudisill Regional Library,
1520 N. Hartford Ave.,
tulsalibrary.org

After storytime, join for games, toys and activities that foster critical early literacy skills.

April 17 Thursday

CRAFT CASTLE: DÍA – TREE PENS AND POEMS ^F

Ages 4-12, 3-4 p.m., Martin Regional Library,
2601 S. Garnett Rd.,
tulsalibrary.org

Celebrate Children's Day/Book Day by making tree pens that will be used to write a poem.

DECODING THE HIDDEN MEANING IN JOB DESCRIPTIONS ^F

For adults and teens, 6-7 p.m.,
Central Library,
400 Civic Center,
tulsalibrary.org

Elaina Ross, Ph.D., associate professor of communication studies at Northeastern State University, will explain strategies to interpret what employers are looking for in their job descriptions. Must pre-register at tulsalibrary.org/events or call 918.549.7323.

BANDS & BLOOMS: HI-FI HILLBILLIES

All ages, 6-8 p.m.,
Tulsa Botanic Garden,
3900 Tulsa Botanic Dr.,
tulsabotanic.org

Listen to live music while enjoying a peaceful evening in the garden. Food and drink available for purchase.

April 18 Friday

STILLWATER ARTS FESTIVAL ^F

All ages, 12-8 p.m.,
1001 S. Duck St., Stillwater,
artscenter.okstate.edu

The Stillwater Arts Festival showcases more than 50 regional artists and offers live music, making activities, a farmers' market and other fun. Repeats April 19, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

DÍA: COZY FAMILY READING AND CRAFTING ^F

All ages, 3-6 p.m., Central Library,
400 Civic Center,
tulsalibrary.org

Celebrate Children's Day/Book Day with a craft activity and cozy reading time with bilingual books. Repeats April 19, 1-5 p.m.

April 19 Saturday

WILDFLOWER WALK ^F

All ages, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.,
Oxley Nature Center,
6700 Mohawk Blvd.,
oxleynaturecenter.org

Learn about the lives of the plants in Oxley Nature Center's habitats.

LITTLE VOLCANOES: TALKING IS TEACHING ^{F W}

Ages 0-3, 10-10:30 a.m.,
Gathering Place,
2650 S. John Williams Way,
gatheringplace.org

This interactive program brings the park to life with a series of fun activities that foster essential developmental skills for young children. Registration is required.

THE MUSCOGEE CREEK FREEDMAN SAGA: CREEK FREEDMEN HISTORY AND GENEALOGY ^F

For adults and teens, 1:30-3 p.m.,
Rudisill Regional Library,
1520 N. Hartford Ave.,
tulsalibrary.org

Join Ron Graham, chairman of the Muscogee Creek Freedmen Coalition, as he shares the history of the Creek Freedman and shares tips on researching Freedmen ancestors.

April 20 Sunday

VISIT OUR SPRING FUN GUIDE FOR A LIST OF EASTER EVENTS.

TULSA BOTANIC GARDEN IS OPEN

All ages, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.,
Tulsa Botanic Garden,
3900 Tulsa Botanic Dr.,
tulsabotanic.org

Tulsa Botanic Garden will be open on Easter Sunday.

April 21 Monday

BUILD A READER STORYTIME: FAMILY ^{F W}

Ages 0-5, 6-7 p.m., Central Library,
400 Civic Center,
tulsalibrary.org

There's something for everyone – simple songs and books for the little ones, more interactive stories and activities for your older children.

April 22 Tuesday

NATURE BUDDIES: FLOWER POWER

Ages 0-3, 10:30-11:30 a.m.,
Tulsa Zoo,
6421 E. 36th St. N.,
tulsazoo.org/learn

Enjoy some creative playtime with your toddler as you meet with a zoo educator to start building a connection with nature in this free

play, fun and interactive sensory experience.

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS FOR TEENS AND TWEENS ^F

For teens and tweens, 4-5:30 p.m.,
Pratt Library,
3219 S. 113th Ave. W.,
Sand Springs,
tulsalibrary.org

Make new friends and explore exciting worlds. This is the second session of this campaign – a perfect time to jump into the fun.

April 23 WEDNESDAY

INTRO TO CHESS ^F

For elementary schoolers, 4-5 p.m.,
Broken Arrow Library,
300 W. Broadway Ave.,
Broken Arrow,
tulsalibrary.org

Learn the basics of chess in a kind and supportive environment.

TEEN CONNECTION ^F

For 6th-12th graders, 4:30-6 p.m.,
The Arc of Oklahoma,
2516 E. 71st St., Suite A,
thearcok.org

This is a social group for middle and high school students with high-functioning autism. For more information, call 918.582.8272 or email SWalton@TheArcOK.org.

April 24 Thursday

BUILD A READER STORYTIME: SENSORY ^F

Ages 2-10, 10:30-11 a.m.,
Broken Arrow Library,
300 W. Broadway Ave.,
Broken Arrow,
tulsalibrary.org

Sensory Storytime focuses on learning with all five senses and is designed for children with a variety of learning styles or sensory integration challenges. Must register at tulsalibrary.org/events or call 918.549.7323.

BANDS & BLOOMS: PAT HOBBS AND JOHN HAMIL

All ages, 6-8 p.m.,
Tulsa Botanic Garden,
3900 Tulsa Botanic Dr.,
tulsabotanic.org

Listen to live music while enjoying a peaceful evening in the garden. Food and drink available for purchase.



The cutest prom ever, Baby Prom, is back at Martin Regional Library on April 25. Photo courtesy Tulsa City-County Library.

April 25 Friday

MOVIE NIGHT AT THE WILL ROGERS THEATRE

All ages, 6-8 p.m.,
Will Rogers Memorial Museum,
1720 W. Will Rogers Blvd.,
Claremore,
willrogers.com

This month's film is *The Prince of Egypt*. Enjoy fun activities from 6-7 p.m., as well as free popcorn and drinks.

BABY PROM

Ages 0-5, 11-11:45 a.m.,
Martin Regional Library,
2601 S. Garnett Rd.,
tulsalibrary.org

Join the library for Baby Prom. Dress up or choose comfortable clothes. There will be light snacks, music and crafts.

April 26 Saturday

TULSA HEART WALK

All ages, 8 a.m., ONEOK Field,
201 N. Elgin Ave.,
www2.heart.org

Join the American Heart Association's Heart Walk to advance health and hope for everyone, everywhere.

TREE FORT STORYTIME

Ages 10 and under, 10:30 a.m.,
Tulsa Botanic Garden,
3900 Tulsa Botanic Dr.,
tulsabotanic.org

Enjoy a nature-themed story in the Tree Fort in the Children's Discovery Garden. Free with admission.

FAFSA AND OKLAHOMA'S PROMISE WORKSHOP

For adults and teens, 12-2 p.m.,
Suburban Acres Library,
4606 N. Garrison Ave.,
tulsalibrary.org

Join the Tulsa Higher Education Consortium for this workshop focusing on the FAFSA and Oklahoma's Promise program. Must register at tulsalibrary.org/events or call 918.549.7323.

SENSORY SENSITIVE DANCE

All ages, 6-8 p.m.,
Central Park Community Center,
1500 S. Main St., Broken Arrow,
brokenarrowok.gov

This special event offers a calm and comfortable atmosphere, featuring soft lighting and a quiet room for those who need a break before returning to the dance floor. Tickets are on sale now.

GO BIG OR GO HOME

7:30 p.m.,
TCC VanTrease PACE,
10300 E. 81st St.,
signaturesymphony.org

The Signature Symphony is augmented by the brass sections of area marching bands performing Ottorino Respighi's monumental *Pines of Rome*, in addition to other exciting works. There is a free open rehearsal April 24, 6:30-8 p.m.

April 27 Sunday

OKLAHOMA RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL

All ages, 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m.,
Castle of Muskogee,
3400 Fern Mountain Rd.,
Muskogee,
okcastle.com

Step back in time at Castle of Muskogee's annual Renaissance Festival, happening Saturdays and Sundays, April 26-June 1, plus Memorial Day.

April 28 Monday

FIND MORE EVENTS AT TULSAKIDS.COM/CALENDAR

April 29 Tuesday

BUILD A READER STORYTIME: BILINGUAL

10:30-11 a.m.,
Maxwell Park Library,
1313 N. Canton Ave.,
tulsalibrary.org

Enjoy stories, songs and activities in English and Spanish.

PRATT TEEN ADVISORY BOARD: VOLUNTEER AT THE LIBRARY!

For teens and tweens, 4-5:30 p.m.,
Pratt Library,
3219 S. 113th Ave. W.,
Sand Springs,
tulsalibrary.org

Be part of a dynamic team that plays games, brainstorms future library programs and assists with important

tasks like shelving books and preparing for events.

FAM FICTION BOOK CLUB CELEBRATES DÍA

Ages 5-10, 6-7 p.m., South Broken Arrow Library,
3600 S. Chestnut Ave.,
Broken Arrow,
tulsalibrary.org

Discuss Stef Soto, *Taco Queen* by Jennifer Torres to celebrate Children's Day/Book Day.

April 30 Wednesday

STORY TIME WITH MS. HOLLY

All ages, 10:30-11 a.m.,
Ray Harral Nature Center,
7101 S. 3rd St., Broken Arrow,
facebook.com/rayharralnaturecenter

Ms. Holly will be at the Ray Harral Nature Center to sing songs and read interactive stories to all who wish to listen.

AFTER-SCHOOL ART HOUR: A WEEKLY TEEN HANGOUT

For teens, 4-5 p.m.,
Herman and Kate Kaiser Library,
5202 S. Hudson Ave.,
tulsalibrary.org

Scribble. Doodle. Blend. Join in the young adult section every Wednesday.

CHEER FOR TULSA DRILLERS!

We're excited to swing into Tulsa Drillers' 2025 season!
The following games take place at ONEOK Field, 201 N. Elgin Ave.
Purchase tickets at tulsadrillers.com

Kids ages 12 and under are invited to join Hornsby's Bullpen to receive free
tickets to Sunday day games and other perks!
Join today at milb.com/tulsa/community/kids-club

4/4: 7 p.m. vs. NW Arkansas*

4/5: 7 p.m. vs. NW Arkansas*

4/6: 1 p.m. vs. NW Arkansas**

4/15: 6 p.m. vs. Wichita

4/16: 11 a.m. vs. Wichita

4/17: 7 p.m. vs. Wichita

4/18: 7 p.m. vs. Wichita*

4/19: 1 p.m. vs. Wichita

4/19: 6 p.m. vs. Wichita*

4/29: 7 p.m. vs. Arkansas

4/30: 12:05 p.m. vs. Arkansas

*Fireworks

**FUNday Sunday! Kids Eat Free



COMING

soon

TO TULSAKIDS



MAY

AMAZING MOMS
FAMILY FAVORITES
VOTING

JUNE

AMAZING DADS
PARTY PLANNER
GUIDE

JULY

FAMILY FAVORITES WINNERS
EDUCATION GUIDE

TO BE INCLUDED IN THE GUIDES, PLEASE CONTACT
LINDSEY COPES, LINDSEYCOPESTK@GMAIL.COM OR
AMANDA MURPHY, AMANDAMURPHYTK@GMAIL.COM

Kiddlestix Owners Celebrate 10-Year Milestone

By **Tara Rittler**

On April 1, 2015, Jana and Chuck Doyle officially became owners of Kiddlestix Toy Store, ready to build on the legacy of founders Sue and Mike Burdock. “I was shopping in the store for a gift and overheard that the owners were retiring,” Jana Doyle says. She and her husband had been talking about starting a business but weren’t sure what that would look like. However, when she heard about the Burdocks’ retirement plans, “I jumped on it and got her phone number and it just kind of went from there,” Jana says.

Now, they’re celebrating their 10-year ownership anniversary with a month of special in-store events (like a visit from Calico Critters!) and giveaways. Follow @kiddlestix on social media so you don’t miss their 10 days of giveaways, coming toward the end of April.

It’s no secret that owning a small business isn’t easy, and challenges like COVID and online shopping certainly don’t help. However, the Doyles’ commitment to top-tier customer service (and free gift wrapping!) has kept Kiddlestix thriving.

“COVID especially was a big challenge,” Jana says. “We had our kids here, we were homeschooling the kids. The business was closed. I think what helped us get through that was social media.”

Jana explains that they would post new products, like art supplies, on social media, captioned with messages such as, “Hey, this will get you through the next few weeks!” And again, they maintained that personal touch. “We gave customers our cell phones... They wanted to support us,” Jana says. “It was during Easter, too, so we were putting together Easter basket ideas on the floor and sending them to customers, and they’d be like, ‘Yeah, let’s do all of that, wrap it up, and we’ll be by to pick it up.’ We were busy.”

When it comes to choosing that perfect gift – no matter what age you’re shopping for – Kiddlestix no doubt has what you need. And if you don’t know what the child in question would like, the Kiddlestix staff can make expert recommendations. They know all the latest toy trends, keeping the most recent viral TikTok toys in stock along with classics that never go out of style such as LEGO and Playmobil. Current top sellers include NeeDoh Nice Cubes and JellyCat stuffed animals, which draw even adult collectors into the store.

Where will the shop be in another 10 years? “I don’t see a lot changing,” Jana says. “The foundation of Kiddlestix is our customer service and free gift wrapping, and I don’t see that changing anytime soon.”



Kiddlestix Assistant Manager Alex Rumley and Owner Jana Doyle





ZOORASSIC WORLD
FROZEN IN TIME 

HONEY, I'M HOME.

DID YOU KNOW THE ACROCANTHOSAURUS ATOKENSIS IS THE STATE DINOSAUR OF OKLAHOMA?

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