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Letter from the Editor Boredom is Good and Farewell

By Dara Kasza



Hello Mamas! Winter is definitely upon us and its either too wet or just too cold to head outside to get the kids that much needed energy release. Thankfully Santa Rosa has SO many indoor options to chose from. The new Epicenter is absolutely amazing! Rock'n'Jump, the huge play structure and bowling are all great ways to let off some steam. Margaret has some great ideas in the Playdates section as well so be sure and read through.

As for playing at home, I read an article by Janet Lansbury a while back about not entertaining our kids and how boredom is the catalyst

for creativity. This article really struck a chord with me. At the time my daughter was having a hard time playing by herself or would sometimes get frustrated when I played with her because, as the article states, I was directing her play. Janet states: "Little-known fact: when we sit quietly and are passive, yet receptive and attentive to our children while they play, they feel just as nurtured by our companionship (if not more so) than they do when we are actively involved. It is a profoundly validating experience for children to be able to hold our interest without having to ask or work for it. Without a word of our praise, our appreciation is palpable." This was such a relief that is was ok for me to watch my daughter play but not always have to be involved. Its ok for my daughter to be bored, I do not need to entertain her all the time. The first few days of me taking a small step back were a bit challenging but now, she makes up whole play lines and acts out multiple different characters. Her imagination has blossomed! I have included the article on page 10, I hope you enjoy.

Finally, I want to thank everyone who contributed to the magazine this past year and to everyone who read it! This has been a great year and I am so grateful I said yes and was able to work on this fantastic magazine! The Editor position is now open so if anyone would like to know more please contact myself or Maitreyi. All the best!

Cheers!

Housekeeping

Opinions expressed in this issue are those of the contributors. Acceptance of advertising does not constitute endorsement by SRMC of any products or services. The editor reserves the right to accept, edit, or reject any content submitted to the magazine. **ADVERTISING:** Advertisements are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. For submission information, email advertising@santarosamothersclub.org

THIS ISSUE MADE POSSIBLE BY: WINE

COMING NEXT: ?

Have an idea for an issue theme or article? Please email *editor@santarosamothersclub.org*

Letter from the Executive Board

Playing Indoors

Maitreyi Siruguri



Come winter and our mommy brains are working a bit overtime to figure out how to expend the energies of our little bundles on rainy days. There is the option of landing up at a paid entertainment center but in reality that is most likely a "special outing" rather than the norm. Besides, if it's a really cold and rainy day, mommy inertia is probably a bigger battle to overcome than keeping the energetic toddler engaged.;-)

Whereas it can seem like a daunting task to keep our toddlers indoor and away from cabin fever, there are definitely a few simple ideas that have come to my rescue over the years. One of them is the good old cardboard box! A nice big size box that can fit at least a toddler and an adult is perhaps ideal. With a few "windows" and a splash of color, it can be much more than just an eyesore in the family room.

Another easy-to-set-up idea is to ensure that at least one of the bottom level shelves in the kitchen is made fully accessible and safe to operate for little fingers. Filling this shelf with a combination of real and play food items and mini utensils is a great way to keep your kids engaged while you fix that next meal or snack.

There cannot be a better thing to beat the winter blues than rocking out the dance floor with the littles or even singing along together. Don't forget, your doe eyed wonders are your best audience until they cross this golden age and become your biggest critics. So truly crank up that music and shake those 'simmons down if you will.

The costume corner is another great option to take your imaginative toddlers into fantasy land within the walls of your beautiful castle!

Painter's tape has been my best friend on many a rainy day when we've had to play hopscotch indoors or build a crazy obstacle course or tape up race tracks all over the floors.

Impromptu puppet shows from under the dining table have helped channel our emotional roller coasters on many days and are a great way to bring that boxful of softies alive.

The big elephant in the room in this discussion is of course the temptation to turn to media/ technology and as addressed in our previous issue, if planned well and used appropriately, it can surely keep your little ones happy and out of your hair for some precious moments.

All said and done living in a place like Sonoma County with so many outdoor options for kids through the rest of the year, does make it a bit challenging to think about extended periods of indoor play. That said, sometimes I feel the biggest challenge at home is not so much what the kids can do but what they are willing to do on their own. I personally am at a sweet spot right now where my two kids play well with each other most of the time as they are 6 and 3yo. And yet, without strategic interventions, hell will break lose! I hope this month's issue gives you some new ideas to think about and make your winter days fun and cozy while you are at home.

Do write to us if you would like to see some new themes addressed in our upcoming newsletters as we transition to a new term beginning April 2017. A big "THANK YOU" to all our contributors over the last year and the newsletter team led by our Editor Dara Kasza, for churning out wonderful issues every month for the Club!

Maitreyi Siruguri President, SRMC

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NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:





Lindsey Ehrlicher Styles

I am originally from a very small town, Spearfish, South Dakota. It is not far from the famous town of Sturgis, where a Vegas style motorcycle rally happens every summer; if that helps to figure where in the heck I am talking about.

My daughter, Lucille Ivy, was born May 4th 2016; one day before her due date. My husband and I are completely obsessed with her, to say the least. She is the coolest, most smiley, relaxed baby; she is a dream come true for us. We have enjoyed swimming lessons and Kindermusik class with her. We have done some traveling with her, and she just fits right in to our crazy ideas to go places with her. My husband, Ryan Styles, and I are a husband/wife real estate team, so Lucille has been to see many homes and has attended many office meetings with us.

Orange is the New Black got me through the first few months of having a newborn. I was definitely obsessed, although looking back, not sure I really retained any of the episodes, I think I just got lost in them. Also read the book which was great. We just got back from Hawaii and we had rain several days while there and I read an entire book in a day in a half, Girl on the Train. Loved it!

Favorite place to go with my family- aside from getting out of town, we love the outdoors. Hiking with our daughter just about anywhere is something we do any chance we get.

Dream job- gosh this is going to sound cheesy... I have to say, I have my dream career!

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:





Mika Tanioka

Originally from?: I'm was born and grew up in Osaka, Japan.

Our family: We welcomed our first son in July 20th this year. He was 3 weeks earlier than expected. My husband had to fly back from LA when my water broke. Both my husband and I travel often for business and pleasure. My husband grew up as a "Military Brat" moving from town to town. I grew up in Osaka but lived in many different places after graduating high school, like North Carolina, Tokyo, Shanghai, East Coast, Southern California.. etc. Soon after we got married, we started to look for our ultimate place to start a family. We found Santa Rosa and are hoping this place will be our long time home. We love it here because we have mountains, ocean, and a city all in close proximity.

TV show, Book, music: We started watching "Bull" on CBS. We like it so far. We always have KDFS classical music radio station on at our house when we are around.

Favorite place: We love to hike in Annadel State Park or go to Sonoma Coast State Park. Whenever we get time, we go for hikes.

Dream job: I am very interested in potteries and antiques from Japan and all over the world. I hope I can open a gallery/shop in the future.







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Ask the Expert: Stop Entertaining Your Toddler

By Janet Lansbury

Ah, the entertainment trap. It is such an easy one for doting parents to fall into, especially with the firstborn child. I would definitely have gone this route myself if my baby hadn't sent me a profound and pivotal message in our first RIE Parent/Infant Guidance Class together.

For the first three months of my daughter's life, I'd been entertaining her nonstop, assuming it my duty to occupy and engage her every waking moment with my activity while she remained mostly passive (which is all I thought she could be). Then, following my instructor's suggestion, I placed her on her back on a blanket on the floor...and to my astonishment she lay there perfectly content for the two hour duration of the class.

My daughter's message could not have been more crystal: Please stop keeping my mind so busy, Momma. I need a little time to think.

Taking that giant step back to observe my baby was the ticket to an exciting adventure, because I was then able to begin to know and enjoy my daughter, while also witnessing the physical, cognitive, creative and therapeutic benefits of her play.

But even if we do get the memo about trusting our babies to be capable, active learners and allowing them some time to "be", the toddler years present a whole new challenge. Toddlers are in the process of gaining independence and discovering their power. They are supposed to keep pushing until they find our limits – testing what it takes to make us jump and how high. This is not being "bad" — they're just doing their job.

Taken at face value, our toddler's age appropriate demands might lead us to conclude, "My child obviously needs me desperately and can't possibly play alone!" As parents, we may also be reticent to assert our own needs and wishes, because we want to avoid confronting our child's strong emotions. Either way, we can end up causing our children to "unlearn" to play.

Here are some key steps to freeing children (and ourselves) from play and entertainment dependencies:

1. Learn a less intrusive way to play together

Little-known fact: when we sit quietly and are passive, yet receptive and attentive to our children while they play, they feel just as nurtured by our companionship (if not more so) than they do when we are actively involved. It is a profoundly validating experience for children to be able to hold our interest without having to ask or work for it. Without a word of our praise, our appreciation is palpable.

When adults play with children in the conventional sense, we almost always end up directing, dominating, or at least altering the course of action somewhat. We also tend to "hook" children on our involvement, which makes their transition to solo play a more difficult, almost foreign concept.

Learning to be a play "supporter" rather than playmate takes practice, entails sensitive observation, open-mindedness, acceptance and, most of all, restraint (especially for those more inclined to do than watch). But once we get this down, it is an incredibly relaxing, satisfying, Zen-like experience.

When and how should we respond so as not to interrupt self-directed play?

We simply take cues from our kids, trusting them to request our input, which they usually do by looking at us or expressing themselves verbally. Then we respond by narrating or "sportscasting" succinctly.

For example, let's say our child is stacking blocks and the blocks tumble. If she doesn't look towards us, it's probably best not to say anything or even assume that this is a problem. If she does look toward us, or perhaps we hear her groan, we would then narrate (or "sportscast"): "I saw that. When you tried to put the red block on the top, the green and blue ones fell down."

What if my child asks for help?

Never say no to a request for help, but ask lots of questions and assist as minimally as possible. Using the block tower example, you might go close to your child and ask, "What are you trying to do?"

"I want to make a tower."

"You have the blue and yellow blocks stacked here, what block will you use next?"

"That one."

"Okay, so let's see how you'll place that green one on top of the yellow one..."

Usually, this type of support is all the help children need.

2. Set limits with confidence, honesty and respect

"I almost feel as if we're getting to a tough love approach, where I will have to impose "independent play" time each day so he'll eventually learn how to play alone."

If it were even possible to force independent play, that would defeat the entire purpose. Play isn't play unless it's a choice. But it is up to us to quit our job as entertainment director, get our personal work done, etc., and I certainly don't see this as "tough love". The child who whines, "Mama play with me, Mama when can you play" is only doing his job, seeking a straight answer from us about our limits. In return, our role is to:

Be clear — project confidence: "I am going to do some things in the kitchen" (Remember, our children can't possibly feel comfortable separating unless we are)

Offer a choice, if possible: "Would you like to help me shuck the corn or will you play in your room?"

Acknowledge feelings and desires: "Oh, I know you want me to keep playing with you. I see how upset you are. We can do that again after dinner. "

Develop routine times for independent play so that separation is easier for your child to accept.

Provide your child a 100% safe space and open-ended toys or objects

3. Encourage play that is as mind-active as possible

The more time children spend in passive-receptive mode, the less adept and comfortable they will be playing independently. So...

Avoid screen use or keep it to a bare minimum

Offer simple toys and objects that make for more active, creative play

Instead of offering specific play activities, wait for children to invent their own

Have no fear of boredom

Let whatever children choose to do (or not do) be "enough"

Remember these golden rules of parenting:

The more we do (or toys do)...

the less our child does

the more our child thinks she needs us (or toys) to do for her

the less confident, capable, creative and fulfilled she feels

Recipe Mama

Pull Apart Pizza Bread

Kids Can Make!

Ingredients

3 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil, plus more for brushing Kosher salt

2 pounds store-bought pizza dough, at room temperature

2/3 cup pizza sauce, plus more for dipping

24 pepperoni slices, quartered

1 cup shredded mozzarella (4 ounces)

1/4 cup grated Parmesan (1 ounce), plus more for sprinkling



Directions

Position an oven rack in the center of the oven, and preheat to 400 degrees F. Brush the bottom and sides of a 9-by-5-inch loaf pan with oil. Pour the 3 tablespoons oil onto a large dinner plate, and sprinkle with 1/2 teaspoon salt. Pinch off pieces of dough the size of Ping-Pong balls, and roll them into rough balls. Roll each dough ball around in the salted oil until all sides are coated.

Put half the balls in the prepared pan, squishing them together. Spread half the sauce over the balls, then sprinkle with half the pepperoni, mozzarella and Parmesan. Repeat with the remaining dough balls, sauce, pepperoni and cheeses.

Put the loaf pan on a rimmed baking sheet (to catch any drips), and bake until the bread is puffed up and golden brown, about 25 minutes. Cover loosely with foil, and continue to bake until the bread is cooked through in the middle, about 25 minutes. Let it rest in the pan for 10 minutes, then use dry oven mitts or kitchen towels to carefully unmold. Sprinkle generously with Parmesan, and serve hot. (Let your kids pull the bread apart!)

Have a recipe you love and is kid friendly? Please send to me at editor@santarosamothersclub.org

Recipe Mama

UNICORN HOT CHOCOLATE

For the cold winter days when you need a little bit of whimsy.

Ingredients

1 c. white chocolate chips (I like Ghirardelli brand)

2 c. half-and-half

2 c. milk

1 tsp vanilla extract

pink food coloring (to your liking)

whipped cream (to taste)

sprinkles (for garnish)

Instructions

Place the white chocolate chips, half-and-half, milk, and vanilla in a medium-sized sauce pan.

Heat over medium heat, whisking continuously until hot (do NOT boil).

Whisk in food coloring until you get your desired color.

Add to individual mugs and top with whipped cream and sprinkles.



Have a recipe you love and is kid friendly? Please send to me at editor@santarosamothersclub.org





Why use playdates and playgroups for your children?

Playdates are great for kids! They learn how to interact with other kids, they learn how to share, and just how to get along in general. And it gives parents a great opportunity to connect with other adults to talk about parenting, but also to talk about things totally unrelated to being a parent, which is refreshing.

Using a playdate as an opportunity for parents and children alike is important, experts say. But before you get out your calendar and start making calls to other parents, it's important to understand playdate etiquette. Remember that there's more to it than just scheduling a time, date, and place to meet. Age, frequency, and location are just a few of the important factors to take into consideration when you're planning your little one's social calendar.

There are lots of ways to spend rainy winter days here in Northern California! Take a look at some of the indoor activities offered around Sonoma County.

- Pretend it's a hot summer day at some of the indoor pools in Sonoma County. Both the YMCA and Sonoma Aquatic Center offer day passes so you and your little ones can spend some time in the water.
- Sign up your kiddos for a rock climbing class at Vertex Climbing Gym
- Have a Star Wars fan amongst your kids? Make an appointment to go to Rancho Obi-Wan, a 9,000-square-foot non-profit museum located on the outskirts of wine country in Petaluma, California. Officially recognized by Guinness World Records in 2014, it houses the world's largest private collection of Star Wars memorabilia. Gather up a group of young Jedi's and check it out!
- The Santa Rosa Junior College Planetarium has regular shows for you to watch the clear night sky and look forward to clear summer nights.
- The Charles Schulz Museum is a fun place for kids to run around and their Monday programming for kids will keeps them busy all morning.
- Rebounderz, the trampoline park in Rohnert Park has special jump hours for kids under 7 who need a mellower pace.
- Fundemonium in Rohnert Park has special programming for kids on Mondays. Play with the games, hobbies, and crafts set up for parents and kids.
- Take a tour of Mrs. Grossman's Sticker Factory in Petaluma. It's an up close, interactive tour that will thrill the sticker fans among you and even includes free stickers!

Don't forget to shake things up inside your own home on rainy days. Create a movie theater inside your living room, invite friends over, make popcorn, and choose a fun movie. Build tents, bake some delicious treats, get out all the art supplies, keep a box of rainy-day-only games and supplies, and remember that other kids' toys are also more fascinating so take turns hosting playdates at your home. When all else fails, get out the rain gear and send the kids outside to stomp around in the puddles and enjoy the downpour!

Interested in joining, co-leading or leading a playgroup within SRMC?

If so, please contact playgroups@santarosamothersclub.org

Books for Kids: Playing Indoors

Books about the Rain



Rain! Ages 4-7

One rainy day in the city, an eager little boy exclaims, "Rain!" Across town a grumpy man grumbles, "Rain." In this endearing picture book, a rainy-day cityscape comes to life in vibrant, cut-paper-style artwork. The boy in his green frog hat splashes in puddles— "Hoppy, hoppy, hoppy!"—while the old man curses the "dang puddles." Can the boy's natural exuberance (and perhaps a cookie) cheer up the grouchy gentleman and turn the day around?

Come On, Rain! Ages 4-8

"Come on, rain!" Tess pleads to the sky as listless vines and parched plants droop in the endless heat. Up and down the block, cats pant while heat wavers off tar patches in the broiling alleyway. More than anything, Tess hopes for rain. And when it comes, she and her friends are ready for a surprising joyous celebration....

Through exquisite language and acute observation, Newbery medalist Karen Hesse recreates the glorious experience of a quenching rainstorm on a sweltering summer day. Jon J Muth's masterful and lyrical watercolors perfectly reflect the spirit of the text.

Rain Ages 2-7

When rain comes to the parched African savanna, the animals use all their senses to track the storm. The porcupine smells rain in the air. The zebras see lightning. The baboons hear thunder. The rhino feels the first drops. And the lion tastes the cool water. For a time, the grasslands abound with new green leaves, juicy fruits, and fresh pools of water. But soon the hot sun dries out the land, and the animals must again wait for the next big rain.

Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain Ages 4-8

A well-loved Reading Rainbow book. A cumulative rhyme relating how Ki-pat brought rain to the drought-stricken Kapiti Plain. Verna Aardema has brought the original story closer to the English nursery rhyme by putting in a cumulative refrain and giving the tale the rhythm of "The House That Jack Built."

Worm Weather

Ages 2-5

Drip, drop, skip and hop. Splish, splash, sidewalk dash! It's worm weather! Join in the rainy-day fun, as kids splash through the puddles, affecting another weather enthusiast, a nearby worm. An imaginative and playful story, readers will love seeing the worm delight in the weather just as much as the kids.

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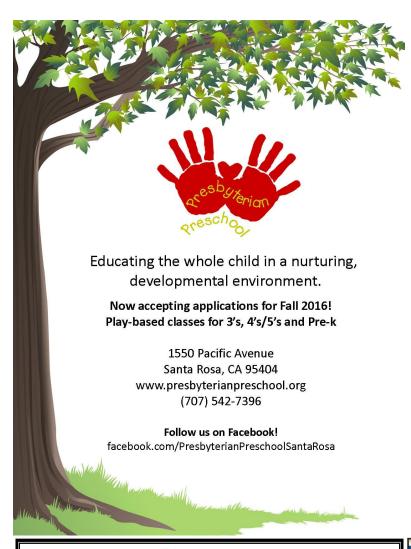
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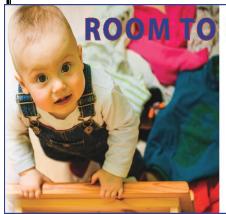
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February 1, 2017

Wee Read

11:00am

Rincon Valley Library 6959 Montecito Boulevard Santa Rosa, CA 95409

Songs, rhymes, fingerplays and simple stories for babies and toddlers and their caregiver. Wee Read lasts 20-30 minutes and is followed by playtime. Wee Read is free and no registration required. For children 0-35 months.

Preschool Storytime

11:00am

Rincon Valley Library 6959 Montecito Boulevard Santa Rosa, CA 95409

Nurture in your preschooler a love of books, listening skills, and interaction with others! Preschool Storytime lasts 30 minutes and includes longer stories, fingerplays, rhymes, and songs followed by playtime. For children ages 3-5, with a caregiver.

<u>February 2, 2017</u> Preschool Storytime

11:00am

Central Santa Rosa Library 211 E Street

Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Nurture in your preschooler a love of books, listening skills, and interaction with others! Preschool Storytime lasts 30 minutes and includes longer stories, fingerplays, rhymes, and songs followed by playtime. For children ages 3-5, with a caregiver.

February 3, 2017

Crazy, Awesome Science! CMOSC 2:00pm

Each Friday afternoon, we'll explore science. This program often includes a scientific demonstration followed by hands-on science for everyone. Check each week for specific program. Children's Museum of Sonoma County! All ages.

First Friday Film Series at the Charles Schulz Museum

7:00pm

Charles Schulz Museum 2301 Hardies Lane, Santa Rosa CA The First Friday Film Series returns with Alfred Hitchcock's classic thriller, *Rear Window* (1954), starring James Stewart and Grace Kelly. Cost: Free for members/\$5 for public.

February 4, 2017

Science Saturday at Environmental Discovery Center

1:00pm to 3:00pm

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Santa Rosa, CA 95407

¡Bienvenidos a la Hora de Cuentos para Niños en español e inglés!

Vamos a leer cuentos en español e inglés. Para niños de 0-5 años

¡Gratis! Welcome to Spanish Bilingual Storytime! We will read stories in Spanish & English

Free Day! At Charles Schulz Museum

10:00am to 5:00pm

Charles Schulz Museum 2301 Hardies Lane, Santa Rosa CA Explore the new exhibit for Free!

February 6, 2017

Museum Mondays for Little Ones

10:00am to 12:00pm

Charles Schulz Museum 2301 Hardies Lane, Santa Rosa CA Enjoy stories, arts and crafts activities, and

movement games for children aged 1 through 5 and their caregivers at the Schulz Museum. Cost: \$5 per child

February 7, 2017 Toddler Time (18-35 months)

10:30am

Central Santa Rosa Library 211 E Street

Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Songs, rhymes, fingerplays, and simple stories for your active toddler! Toddler Time lasts 20-30 minutes followed by playtime. Toddler Time is free and no registration required. For children ages 18-35 months, with a caregiver.

<u>February 8, 2017</u> Wee Read

11:00am

Rincon Valley Library 6959 Montecito Boulevard

Santa Rosa, CA 95409

Songs, rhymes, fingerplays and simple stories for babies and toddlers and their caregiver. Wee Read lasts 20-30 minutes and is followed by playtime. Wee Read is free and no registration required. For children 0-35 months.

Preschool Storytime

11:00am

Rincon Valley Library 6959 Montecito Boulevard Santa Rosa, CA 95409

Nurture in your preschooler a love of books, listening skills, and interaction with others! Preschool Storytime lasts 30 minutes and includes longer stories, fingerplays, rhymes, and songs followed by playtime. For children ages 3-5, with a caregiver.

<u>February 9, 2017</u> Preschool Storytime

11:00am

Central Santa Rosa Library 211 E Street Santa Rosa, CA 95404

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February 10, 2017

Crazy, Awesome Science! CMOSC

2:00pm

Each Friday afternoon, we'll explore science. This program often includes a scientific demonstration followed by hands-on science for everyone. Check each week for specific program. Children's Museum of Sonoma County! All ages.

February 11, 2017

Lake Sonoma Steelhead Festival

10:00am to 4:00pm

Milt Brandt Visitors Center at Lake Sonoma 3288 Skaggs Springs Road Geyserville, California 95441

California's largest celebration of the migration of Steelhead Trout! A great, family-friendly event for all ages. Enjoy food trucks, Bear Republic beer, wines from the Winegrowers of Dry Creek Valley.

Hora de Cuentos para Niños/Bilingual Storytime (edades/ages 0-5)

10:15am to 11:00am

Roseland Community Library 779 Sebastopol Road

Santa Rosa, CA 95407

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Para niños de 0-5 años

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The Beat Goes On Family Day: Valentines

2:00pm to 4:00pm

History Museum of Sonoma County 425 7th Street

Santa Rosa, California 95401

The History Museum of Sonoma County invites the kids and grandkids for a fun afternoon of printmaking and making handbills or valentines. View the exhibit, "The Beat Goes On: Peace, Love, and Rock 'n Roll in the North Bay," and make your own psychedelic artwork, a macrame key chain, a tie-dye tile coaster, and get your face painted. Guaranteed fun.

February 12, 2017

Calling All Little Red-Haired Girls!

10:00 am - 5:00 pm

If you are a little (or not so little!) red-haired girl or boy then you will receive FREE admission in celebration of Valentine's Day and Charlie Brown's affection for a certain Little Red-Haired Girl.

Sunday Boating at the Barn

10:00am to 1:00pm

Free. Volunteers help you try a non-motorized vessel—canoe, kayak, rowboat, or sailboat—on the Petaluma River. Open year-round. Sundays. 10 a.m.–1 p.m. David Yearsley River Heritage Center. Copeland & D Streets, Petaluma.

February 13, 2017

Museum Mondays for Little Ones

10:00am to 12:00pm

Charles Schulz Museum
2301 Hardies Lane, Santa Rosa CA
Enjoy stories, arts and crafts activities, and
movement games for children aged 1 through 5
and their caregivers at the Schulz Museum.
Cost: \$5 per child

February 14, 2017 Toddler Time (18-35 months)

10:30am

Central Santa Rosa Library 211 E Street Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Songs, rhymes, fingerplays, and simple stories for your active toddler! Toddler Time lasts 20-30 minutes followed by playtime. Toddler Time is free and no registration required. For children ages 18-35 months, with a caregiver.

February 15, 2017 Wee Read

11:00am

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Santa Rosa, CA 95409

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Preschool Storytime

11:00am

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February 16, 2017 Preschool Storytime

11:00am

Central Santa Rosa Library

211 E Street

Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Nurture in your preschooler a love of books, listening skills, and interaction with others! Preschool Storytime lasts 30 minutes and includes longer stories, fingerplays, rhymes, and songs followed by playtime. For children ages 3-5, with a caregiver.

February 17, 2017

Crazy, Awesome Science! CMOSC

2:00pm

Each Friday afternoon, we'll explore science. This program often includes a scientific demonstration followed by hands-on science for everyone. Check each week for specific program. Children's Museum of Sonoma County! All ages.

February 20, 2017

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10:00am to 12:00pm

Charles Schulz Museum

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movement games for children aged 1 through 5
and their caregivers at the Schulz Museum.
Cost: \$5 per child

February 21, 2017

Toddler Time (18-35 months)

10:30am

Central Santa Rosa Library 211 E Street

Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Songs, rhymes, fingerplays, and simple stories for your active toddler! Toddler Time lasts 20-30 minutes followed by playtime. Toddler Time is free and no registration required. For children ages 18-35 months, with a caregiver.

February 22, 2017

Home School Day

10:00am to 12:00pm

Charles Schulz Museum

2301 Hardies Lane, Santa Rosa CA

Explore art and literature through our newest exhibition, It was a Dark and Stormy Night. Enjoy live storytelling, book making, paper making, and more. Also, ice skate at Snoopy's Home Ice from 12:00 – 2:00 pm. Cost: \$6 per child before Feb 17; \$8 after Feb 16; chaperones are free. Ice skating is an additional \$5 per person. Advance reservations required--register online by clicking on class title above or call (707) 284-1272.

Wee Read

11:00am

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<u>February 23,2017</u> Preschool Storytime

11:00am

Central Santa Rosa Library

211 E Street

Santa Rosa, CA 95404

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February 24, 2017 Crazy, Awesome Science! CMOSC

2:00pm

Each Friday afternoon, we'll explore science. This program often includes a scientific demonstration followed by hands-on science for everyone. Check each week for specific program. Children's Museum of Sonoma County! All ages.

February 25, 2017 Autism in the Family

4:00pm to 5:00pm

Luther Burbank Center for the Arts 50 Mark West Springs Rd Santa Rosa, CA

Anova presents "Autism in the Family," a new and exciting one-day conference with Dr. Temple Grandin and an inspiring line-up of speakers crusading to make a positive difference for all individuals living with autism. Current speakers include Dr. Temple Grandin, Frank Campagna, Jill Escher, and Feda Almaliti. Tickets include: Conference, lunch, post-conference reception from 4:00pm - 5:00pm, exhibit hall, booksigning, art exhibit, silent auction, and an opportunity to submit a question to Dr. Temple Grandin.

Kid's Night at the Museum

5:00pm to 9:00 pm

Charles Schulz Museum
2301 Hardies Lane, Santa Rosa CA
Drop your kids off for after-hours fun at the
Schulz Museum. Kids will have the Museum to
themselves for pizza dinner, games, art, crafts,
and cartooning. Discount of \$5 off for siblings.
Advance reservations required--register online
by clicking on the class title above or call (707)
284-1272. Fee(s): \$25 for Member, \$32 for Nonmember, \$20 for Sibling Member Discount, \$27
for Sibling Non-member Discount

Hora de Cuentos para Niños/Bilingual Storytime (edades/ages 0-5)

10:15am to 11:00am

Roseland Community Library

779 Sebastopol Road

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Para niños de 0-5 años

¡Gratis! Welcome to Spanish Bilingual Storytime!

We will read stories in Spanish & English.

Aladdin and His Wonderful, Magical Lamp

10:30am and 1:00pm

The Palace of Fine Arts 3601 Lyon Street

San Francisco, CA 94123

Children's Theatre Association's adaptation of Aladdin And His Wonderful, Magical Lamp tells the story of a poor street boy, Aladdin, who (with the help from 3 Genies, a dragon who can talk, his mischievous pet monkey, and his family) uses his wits to outsmart the evil and powerful magician, Jammal, and win the Princess Jasmine's hand in marriage. Price: \$15

February 27, 2017

Museum Mondays for Little Ones

10:00am to 12:00pm

Charles Schulz Museum

2301 Hardies Lane, Santa Rosa CA Enjoy stories, arts and crafts activities, and movement games for children aged 1 through 5 and their caregivers at the Schulz Museum. Cost: \$5 per child

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10:30am

Central Santa Rosa Library

211 E Street

Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Songs, rhymes, fingerplays, and simple stories for your active toddler! Toddler Time lasts 20-30 minutes followed by playtime. Toddler Time is free and no registration required. For children ages 18-35 months, with a caregiver.

March 1, 2017 Wee Read

11:00am

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March 2, 2017 **Preschool Storytime**

11:00am

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Santa Rosa, CA 95404

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March 3, 2017

Crazy, Awesome Science! CMOSC

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March 4, 2017

Science Saturday at Environmental Discoverv Center

1:00pm to 3:00pm

FREE. Tangible experiments & projects let children explore the natural world. Every first Sat. 1, 2 & 3 p.m. Event is free. Parking \$7.393 Violetti Rd., Santa Rosa.

March 6, 2017

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10:00am to 12:00pm

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March 29, 2017 Wee Read

11:00am

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11:00am

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March 30, 2017 Peppa Pig Live! Peppa Pigs Big Splash!

6:30pm to 8:00pm

Luther Burbank Center for the Arts 50 Mark West Springs Rd

Santa Rosa, CA

Peppa Pig's Big Splash is an action-packed live show featuring your favorite characters as life size puppets and costume characters! Come join Peppa, George, Mummy Pig, Daddy Pig and more in an all singing, all-dancing adventure full of songs, games and muddy puddles!

Preschool Storytime

11:00am

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Special Dates with your Little One

Seeing a Movie:

MOANA!

A perfect winter weather date! See a matinee with your little one. The Roxy has great long hallways for running before and after the movie as well as escalators (a favorite of my kid) to ride! If you haven't seen Moana I highly recommend it! The music is outstanding (I listen to the soundtrack by myself), animation is intriguing and the story is one of a strong young girl trying to find her way though



doing what she wants and what is good for her people, whom she will soon become chief – a women chief– HOW COOL?? Go Disney!

Sneak a lunch in for your kid and grab some popcorn, (which is entertainment enough) to make sure to keep meltdowns at a bay but hey, it's a Disney movie so the theater is filled with a bunch of other kids so noise levels are not a huge deal.

We've seen the movie twice!



CRAFT CORNER

SENSORY BOTTLE AND WINTER ACTIVITY FOR KIDS

This super cute snowman sensory bottle is a quick and easy Winter activity for everyone to enjoy. It also makes what some people like to call a calm down bottle for kids who need to take a "sensory" break. My son just loves to shake the hell out of it, let it settle, and then shake again. We have made tons of cool sensory bottles including our popular and inexpensive glitter bottles, a Minion bottle, beach bottle, TMNT bottles, and science discovery bottles. The possibilities to put in sensory bottles are endless and work well with very young kids to older kids!

Supplies Needed:

Water bottle {we like the plastic VOSS bottles from the grocery store}

Clear glue

Water

Glitter

Snowflake confetti and sequins

Buttons and beads for eyes and decoration

Orange foam for noses

Pipe cleaners or fabric scraps for scarves

Sharpies for drawing on the bottles {can also be removed with rubbing alcohol}

TO MAKE YOUR SNOWMAN SENSORY BOTTLE:

Step 1: Empty glue into the water bottle. {You can use the whole bottle or divide up between kids.} The glue helps slow the settling of the glitter and sequins. The more you use the slower the glitter settles, so how much is up to you.

Step 2: Fill up with room temperature water if your bottle was empty.

Step 3: Add glitter and other decorations

Step 4: Seal lid. We do not glue our lids and reuse our bottles. You will have to make the judgmental call for your home or school if it's necessary.

Step 5: Draw on your bottle. Give your snowman sensory bottle a face and buttons.

Step 6: Add a scarf and glue on a nose from foam paper or construction paper. You could also use an orange Sharpie to draw one on too.

Making a snowman sensory bottle for a winter activity.









mission statement:

provide an environment where mothers and young children can develop friendships and community, exchange information, and have valued opportunities for social interaction with other mothers, children and families.

Are you a Sonoma County mom?

Want to receive this magazine?

Join SRMC today at www.santarosamothersclub.org

