

38 Free (or Cheap!) Things to Do with the Kids in Dallas-Fort Worth this Summer

Activity	City	Why It Made the List	More Info
Library Summer Reading Program	All metro cities	More than just books; see performers, make crafts, watch a movie – for free!	See your city's website for library info
Fritz Park Petting Farm	Irving	Farm animals in the heart of DFW – for free!	http://www.ci.irving.tx.us (Click Parks & Rec link)
Dallas Museum of Art First Tuesdays	Dallas	Every first Tuesday is free & includes children's arts and crafts.	http://www.dallasmuseumofart.org
Nasher Sculpture Center First Saturdays	Dallas	Free admission on Target First Saturdays every month & includes family activities.	http://www.nashersculpturecenter.org/
National Scouting Museum	Irving	Free admission every Sunday & Monday.	http://www.bsamuseum.org
Dollar Day at the Zoo	Dallas, Gainesville	Dallas Zoo's Dollar Day (\$1 admission) is on July 15. Frank Buck Zoo in Gainesville is \$2 on July 10 th (+ special Zoo Splash activities) – though always a bargain at \$6/adult and \$4/kids under 12.	http://www.dallaszoo.com/ http://www.frankbuckzoo.com
Kimbell Art Museum	Fort Worth	Always free admission to permanent exhibits. July 31 is their annual summer family festival.	https://www.kimbellart.org
Amon Carter Museum	Fort Worth	Always free admission to permanent exhibits, plus New Parent's Tours year round and summer story times.	http://www.cartermuseum.org
Dallas Heritage Village Family Past Times	Dallas	Every 1 st Sunday of the month, this living history museum with 13 acres and 38 structures offers free admission and family activities.	http://www.dallasheritagevillage.org
American Airlines C.R. Smith Museum	Fort Worth	First museum dedicated to commercial aviation. Admission \$4/adult, \$2/kid 2-12.	http://www.crsmithmuseum.org
Log Cabin Village	Fort Worth	Over 10 historical structures at this living history museum, with admission only \$4.50/adult, \$4/kids & sr's.	http://www.logcabinvillage.org
Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area	Lewisville	On the 3 rd Saturday every month, visitors can tour historic structures like the Minor-Porter Log House. \$5 admission age 6+.	http://www.ias.unt.edu/lela/main.htm
Irving Bible Church Tubes	Irving	Massive indoor play area designed for kids up through 5 th grade, open 7 days/week 8a-10p.	http://www.irvingbible.org/general-information/our-building/
Paradise Pond	Grapevine	Indoor play place for kids age 2-6 th grade. \$1/person, Th-Fri 9-11am.	http://www.fbcgrapevine.com/groups/children/paradise-pond/
Nickelmania Arcade	Carrollton	Play video games with real nickels!	http://www.nickelmania.com
Go to a Farmer's Market	Cross-metro	Buy some fruits & veggies from the actual growers.	Big list + info of area markets at: http://dallas.todaymama.com/2009/09/dallas-area-farmers-market/
Fort Worth Botanical Gardens	Fort Worth	Admission is only \$1/person and the grounds are beautiful. Who could ask for more?	http://www.fwbgo.org/
Texas Discovery Gardens	Dallas	General admission only \$4/adults, \$2 kids 3-11 yrs. (Butterfly house admission is higher.) Check out special Bug Hunt & Caterpillar Crawl Garden Walks.	http://texasdiscoverygardens.org
Free Bowling for Kids!	Fort Worth, Frisco, Plano, Rockwall, Waxahachie	Your child can get 2 free games per day all summer long. Buy a Family Pass (for adults) for \$24.95 for entire summer.	http://www.kidsbowlfree.com (for details and participating centers)
Hit the Beach!	Lake Ray Roberts, Joe Pool Lake	Who knew you could swim at a sandy beach in north Texas? We know of two great places, but there are probably more!	Lynn Creek Park (Joe Pool Lake) - http://www.joe-pool-lake.org Isle Du Bois State Park (Ray Roberts Lake) – http://www.tpwd.state.tx
Learn how to be a Cowboy	Fort Worth (of course)	The Stockyards Station in Fort Worth offers CowCamp every Sat & Sun between Memorial Day	http://www.stockyardsstation.com

		and Labor Day... for free!	
Go on a Train Ride	Fort Worth	The Forest Park Miniature Railroad has delighted kids for over 50 years. Admission is still a throwback - \$3/adults, \$2.50/ages 1-12	http://www.fpmt.us
Pick your own berries	Arlington	Gnismar Farms is an 8-acre farm in the heart of the metro area. Strawberries – Apr/May, Blackberries - June	http://www.gnismar.com Browse a huge list of U-Pick Farms in Texas at http://www.pickyourown.org
Visit the Trinity River Audubon Center	Dallas	Free admission & family activities every third Thursday of the month – plus showing kid movies those evenings during the summer.	http://www.trinityriveraudubon.org
Join the <i>Natural Guard</i>	Fort Worth	Admission to the FW Nature Center & Refuge is only \$4/adults, \$2/kids 3-17 yrs. The Natural Guard is their volunteer organization.	http://www.fwnaturecenter.org
Enter a Crank Off (or Just Eat Lots of Ice Cream)	McKinney	The 15 th Annual Killis Melton Ice Cream Crank Off is June 12 at Historic Chestnut Village. \$5 for tastings of each entry (under 12 yrs free!).	http://www.chestnutsquare.org
See great theater for kids	Hurst	This summer's showings are The Monkey & the Jellyfish (June) and Lucky & the Fairies (July). Tickets to live kid shows are just \$5.	http://www.artisanct.com
Climb a hook & ladder fire truck	Dallas	The Dallas Firefighter's Museum will teach your kids 100 years of fire fighting history – with admission of only \$4/adult and \$2/kid.	http://www.dallasfirerescue.com/museum.htm
See Shakespeare under the stars	Dallas	The Junior Players brings free Shakespeare productions to Dallas every summer. This year it's Romeo & Juliet – a Roaring 20's Romance.	http://www.juniorplayers.org/programs/performances.html
Teach Your Kids About Safety	Frisco	Frisco's Fire Safety Town, a miniature replica of Frisco itself, offers safety classes for kids, and all programs are free.	http://www.friscotexas.gov/safetytown
Join your mall's Kid's Club	Dallas, Garland, Grapevine, Hurst, Irving	The Simon Malls in DFW sponsor the Kidgits Club, which provides special events (cooking demos, storytimes, etc.) all year long.	http://www.simon.com/kidgits/#/home
See a kids show – for free	Dallas	Every Saturday at 11:30am, see a free children's entertainer perform, like Slappy's Puppets or Critterman at the Galleria's Showtime Saturdays.	http://www.galleriadallas.com/index_html.php
Make & take a craft	All over	4 great options: <u>Lakeshore Learning Centers</u> offers weekly free crafts, 11-3pm Sat's. <u>Michael's Stores</u> offers free crafts every Saturday from 10am-1pm. <u>Home Depot's</u> Kid's Workshops are the first Sat of the month 9-12pm. <u>Lowe's</u> Build & Grow Clinics are on various Sat's from 10-11am.	http://www.lakeshorelearning.com (go to store information tab) http://www.theknackkids.com http://www.homedepot.com (search for kid workshop in search box at top) https://www.lowesbuildandgrow.com/
Kid Movies for \$1-\$2 at area Studio Movie Grills	Arlington, Dallas, Lewisville, Plano	With shows like Monsters & Aliens, Charlotte's Web, and Meatballs...how could you not? Mon-Thur, 11am from June 7 – Aug 19.	http://www.studiomoviegrill.com (Easy-to-view schedule on DFWMama.com; enter Summer Kid Movies in search box)
Free Kids Movies at Regal Cinemas	Cedar Park, Dallas, Fort Worth, Grand Prairie	First come, first served at these movies running from June 8 – Aug 4. Tues/Wed, 10am.	http://www.regmovies.com/nowshowing/familyfilmfestivalschedule.aspx
Kid Movies for \$.50 at Cinemark	Mansfield, Plano, Rockwall	Buy advance tickets for \$5 for all 10 shows (\$1 at door). Tues/Wed, 10am, June 8 – Aug 11	http://www.cinemark.com/summermovieclubhouse
\$1 Kid Movies at AMC	Several	No 2010 info available as of May 27, but in 2009 it was \$1/show on Wed mornings for 10 weeks in the summer.	http://www.amcentertainment.com/smc/
50 cent Kid Movies at Harkins Theaters	Southlake	Buy a \$5 season pass for 10 weeks of 10 movies. Shows are M-F at 9:45 am from June 7 – Aug 13.	http://www.harkinstheatres.com/forms/SMF2010-5DollarJune-Web.pdf

