

Alyssa splashes into summer fun
at a Katy neighborhood pool

50 COOL THINGS TO DO THIS SUMMER

From snow cones and swimming to block parties and blockbusters, discover Katy's best bets for family fun

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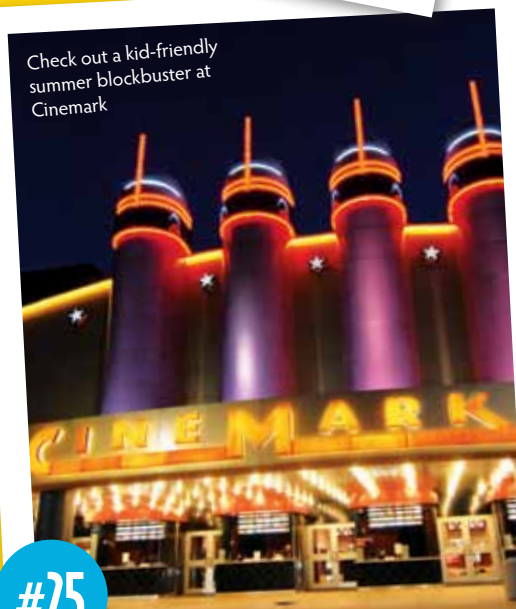
Summer fun doesn't always mean going on vacation or taking a long road trip to a far-off destination. Some of our best memories come from making time to connect with our families and friends. Whether you're looking to stay active, searching for entertaining options for the entire family, hunting for a new local treasure, or just want to make some fantastic memories with the kids, our list will help you create a one-of-a-kind summer. Let the fun begin!

1. Pack a picnic and enjoy some fishing or duck feeding at Mary Jo Peckham Park.
2. Learn about Katy's early days by visiting the historic buildings at Katy Heritage Park.
3. Let the kids burn off steam at Vida Loca, while you enjoy conversation with friends and a margarita under the summer sky.
4. Grab some girlfriends and hit LaCenterra or Katy Mills for some old-fashioned retail therapy.
5. Visit A&W and introduce the kids to the wonderful world of root beer floats!
6. Learn to ride a horse at a local horseback riding camp in the area.
7. Stay cool at Times Square, enjoying a variety of indoor fun and games.
8. Buy lots of bubble wands and supplies and have a giant bubble contest in the backyard or driveway.
9. Take a batting lesson at Frozen Ropes Training Center.
10. Hire a sitter and head to the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion for a concert under the stars.
11. Join a local country club and take advantage of all the fun family activities they offer.
12. Enroll your child in one of the Katy area's many summer camps or vacation Bible schools.
13. Hit Pari's Salon and Day Spa for a mommy/daughter mani/pedi. (Don't forget your *Katy Magazine* 50% off coupon!)
14. Set up a spectacular kids' tea party outside just before dusk.
15. Enjoy a frozen yogurt, while the kids get soaking wet at the LaCenterra water pavilion. (Please verify fountains are operational.)
16. Stop by Snappy's Cafe for some homemade cobbler a la mode.
17. Treat yourselves to a hard-working-parents couples' massage at Bella Salon and Day Spa.
18. Take a leisurely family walk after dinner on the trails around Cinco Ranch or at George Bush Park.
19. Visit one of the many community pools and splash pads across Katy and meet some new friends.
20. Stock up on summer novels, while the kids enjoy one of the many Katy area library programs.
21. Head to an open field at George Bush Park and teach the kids how to fly a kite.
22. Host a neighborhood ice cream sundae party complete with all the toppings, and let the kids make their own creations.
23. Catch a Summer Sounds concert at LaCenterra, featuring Texas artists.
24. Organize a neighborhood block party and get to know everyone on your street.
25. Put on the funny glasses and catch a 3D matinee at Cinemark.
26. Enjoy a family meal where kids eat free. (See our dining guide on page 68.)
27. Plan a backyard water day with slip-and-slides, sprinklers, and splash pools. Finish out the fun with a family water balloon fight.
28. Hit the local snow cone shack and find a great new flavor.
29. Help the kids set up a lemonade stand on your front lawn.
30. Pack up the car and head to SplashTown or Schlitterbahn for the day.
31. Start a summer book club for your friends or your kids' friends.



Reagan enjoys a backyard slip-and-slide

#27



Check out a kid-friendly summer blockbuster at Cinemark

#25



Laura, Mireille, Meagan, and Sarah have fun at the fountains at LaCenterra

#15

32. Meet friends and their kiddos at Chick-fil-A. Let the kids play, while you cool off with a chocolate shake.
33. Host an indoor painting party at Painting with a Twist.
34. Get your fill of hands-on fun at the Children's Museum of Houston.
35. Find new recipes to try and have the family vote on new favorites.
36. Create a forever moment by volunteering together at the Krause Children's Center, Christ Clinic, or Katy Prairie Conservancy.
37. Browse the shelves at Katy Budget Books and stock up on your summer faves.
38. Tell the kids you're taking them on a surprise field trip, but don't tell them where. Then, jump in the car and head off to Chuck E. Cheese's, the Houston Zoo, the Downtown Aquarium, or another fun spot.
39. Romp around outside with your pet at the Millie Bush Dog Park or City of Katy Dog Park.
40. Venture out of your comfort zone and try something new like yoga, ballroom dancing, or zumba.
41. Take a family bike ride just before dusk through the hike-and-bike trail at Terry Hershey Park.
42. Keep learning alive (and fun) by quizzing your kids on current events, U.S. presidents, or state capitals during dinner.
43. Fill some birdfeeders in the backyard and enjoy bird-watching over breakfast.
44. Host a family garage sale and donate part of the proceeds to a cause close to your family's heart.
45. Invite your kids' friends over for a mini summer Olympics. Have each child perform their best talent for the others. Give medals and clap wildly for anyone who participates.



Enjoying a horseback riding lesson in Katy

#6

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46. Grab your bathing suits and let the kids help wash the car. If someone gets a little wet... oh well.

47. Sign up for a family 5K or 1K and buy matching funny T-shirts to wear.

48. Learn to play guitar this summer by taking lessons or going to music camp.

49. Buy tickets for a big musical production in Houston's downtown theater district.

50. Surprise the kids one lazy morning with pizza for breakfast! They will never, ever forget it.

Don't forget to take some summer fun photos and send them to us! Email editor@katymagazine.com. KM

#8



Greeting the friendly Chick-fil-A cow after lunch in Katy



#32

Visit KatyMagazine.com for up-to-date events and happenings in the Katy area.

DON'T FORGET TO TELL THEM YOU SAW IT IN KATY MAGAZINE



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