Shawn enjoys some delicious Katy barbecue

# GUDE

Photo by Marisa Hugonnett

Enjoy a delicious dinner out with these great kids eat free deals around the Katy area

Written by Cherri Northcutt

From dealing with finicky eaters to maneuvering restaurant booster seats, dining out with children is always an adventure. Luckily, here in Katy there are a number of family-friendly eateries that cater to your cuties. With kids eat free specials, parents can enjoy a family night out and save a little money. Who doesn't love that? Check out these great kids' options to go along with the purchase of your meal. Before you head out, be sure to check with restaurants for age restrictions and changes in days and prices, as kids eat free specials are subject to change.

### **Black-eyed Pea**

### 410 S. Mason Rd. 281-392-5313

If you're ready for some good old-fashioned southern cooking, look no further than the Black-eyed Pea. With an extensive list of vegetables and a variety of delicious dishes, you're bound to please every member of the family. Katy mom of four Stephanie Teel shares, "My bunch will typically order burgers or chicken tenders." Kids can also try the meatloaf or the pot roast free on Tuesdays from 4 to 10 p.m. with the purchase of an adult meal.

### Candelari's Pizzeria

### 6825 S. Fry Rd. 281-395-6746

Many of us have a great pizza place on speed dial. If you've got little mouths to feed, you can't go wrong with pizza. Candelari's offers kids eat free specials Monday through Wednesday with the purchase of an entrée or pizza. Their Little Buddy's menu features kid favorites like pepperoni pizza rolls and eight-inch cheese pizzas with any two toppings. Make sure you take advantage of their take-and-make pizza kit, which provides a fun, at-home activity for your cuties.

### **Firehouse Subs**

17758 Katy Fwy., Ste. F1 281-647-7827

With sandwiches like the Firehouse Meatball and New York Steamer, you know you must be at Firehouse Subs. Offering up a variety of sandwiches, sides, and salads, their combos are sure to please even the pickiest of palates. Your young fire chief can choose from a hot meatball sub, grilled cheddar sandwich, and ham or turkey sub with provolone and can eat like a king for free all day on Sundays. For an extra jolt of fun, all kids' combos include a pint-sized fire hat!

### Hacienda Guanajuato

# 1420 S. Mason Rd.

# 281-693-2299

If your Katy cutie loves the flavors of the southwest, they'll enjoy sampling some of the delicious dishes at Hacienda Guanajuato. Kids under 10 eat free Monday through Wednesday with the purchase of an adult entrée, and they can choose from flavorful enchiladas, burritos, crispy and soft tacos, quesadillas, and more. The restaurant's festive atmosphere is perfect for families of all sizes, and with a few American choices offered, like grilled cheese and classic hamburgers, even the pickiest eaters in your family are sure to discover a tasty new favorite.

### **James Coney Island**

# 740 S. Mason Rd. 281-395-4555

Fries, drinks, and frozen treats? A Houston tradition since 1923, James Coney Island boasts the best hotdogs in town, and on Wednesdays after 4 p.m. they serve them up free to your kids. Choose from hotdogs, burgers, chicken strips, and corn dogs. James Coney Island is also a great place to host a birthday or team party. Katy mother of five Leah Dailey says, "James Coney Island has always been good. My kids are pretty much straight up chicken and fries lovers." Katy restaurants dish up a variety of kidfriendly favorites like juicy hamburgers

Along with kids eat free nights, many Katy restaurants also offer special children's menus







### La Finca

### 23930 Westheimer Pkwy., #108 281-693-0141

We Katyites certainly love our Tex-Mex, and our children are no different. A long-time favorite in Katy, La Finca has a variety of choices for the little ones. "Kids like to order chicken quesadillas, grilled cheese, or chicken fingers," says manager Abraham Figaro. "They especially like our queso puffs!" Monday through Wednesday after 4 p.m., kids can pick from 11 menu items for free. Katy mother of three Celia Wentland enjoys taking her family to La Finca. "We don't eat out very much," she says, explaining, "Food allergies make it tough, but my daughter can get their fajitas and it works with her allergies."

### Las Alamedas

### LaCenterra 23501 Cinco Ranch Blvd. 281-347-3030 See ad on pg. 29

This traditional Mexican restaurant tucked into the heart of Cinco Ranch serves up a menu of delicious gourmet creations like quesadillas del norte and fajitas de pollo. Young diners ages 10 and under can eat free on Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., with one free kid's meal per adult meal purchase. Dishing up the authentic flavors of the southwest, Las Alamedas is sure to offer a tasty selection to please even the pickiest of eaters. The restaurant's bright and welcoming interior makes for fun family dinners out.

### Las Mananitas

### 803 S. Mason Rd., #400 281-492-7463

With excellent food and fantastic service, you can't go wrong at Las Mananitas. "We love it," shares working mother of two Heather Harmison. "The kids eat free, and they also have many single items available for those really little kiddos who only eat one taco." Harmison's children enjoy the cheese enchiladas and the fajita tacos. Stop by on a Monday or Tuesday evening for a free kid's dinner at this local favorite.

### Luby's Cafeteria

### 485 Š. Mason Rd. 281-492-2016

With a Lu Ann platter that tastes like it's from your mother's kitchen table, Luby's Cafeteria has been a Texas institution since 1947. Kids can eat free on Wednesdays after 4:30 p.m. and all day on Saturday, with the purchase of an adult meal. Kids love their classic favorites like roast beef, baked almondine, or fried chicken. With a variety of kid-approved and nutritious meals, you don't have to feel guilty about skipping the kitchen and indulging in dinner out.

### Orleans Seafood Kitchen 20940G Katy Fwy.

# 281-646-0700

Getting your kids to try Cajun food may seem like a stretch, but at Orleans Seafood Kitchen they aim to satisfy seafood lovers of all ages. On Wednesdays, kids can eat free with the purchase of an adult meal. Free options range from shrimp and catfish to traditional favorites like corndogs, burgers, and macaroni and cheese. Pair that with a blackened chicken royale or an alligator po-boy for you, and you've got the makings for a delicious and adventurous night out!

### **Vida Loca** 21810 Kingsland Blvd. 281-600-9600 See ad on pg. 73

Locals go loco for the fabulous favorites served up every day at Vida Loca. Long-time Katyite Keri Aschoff enjoys taking her three kids to Vida Loca. "We don't get out as often as we would like to, but when we do, we like the cheese enchilada meal or the quesadillas," she shares. Sit down to family-style fajitas or any other delicious dish on a Tuesday, and enjoy a free kids' meal for ages 10 and under, as well. Keep your eyes peeled for Vida's signature dishes, such as Acapulco shrimp or the Tropicana salad. As an added bonus, your kids will love running off all that extra energy in Vida Loca's outdoor playground.

### Wings and More

### 509 S. Mason Rd. 281-492-0654

You'd better ask for a few extra napkins when you dig into Wings and More's 13 different varieties of chicken wings. Made to order and using the freshest ingredients, this will soon become an American food tradition for your family. Besides being a great place to catch a game on one of their many wide-screen TVs, your sidekick can enjoy a free meal every Wednesday with the purchase of an adult meal. Katy mother of two Leslie Sherrow says, "My kids like the wings and chicken tenders the best." Get the evening started with some hand-breaded pickle chips or their new fire sticks, which combine spicy chicken and jalapeno.

### **7 Rivers Texas Kitchen** 1855 Barker Cypress, #100

### 281-398-1111

With excellent barbecue, chicken-fried steaks, salads, sandwiches, and burgers, 7 Rivers has something for the whole family. If you're headed out on a Wednesday night, make sure you stop in and your little buckaroo can enjoy some no-cost barbecue with the purchase of your meal. Mayde Creek High School student David Uribe serves up the sauce and agrees it has some great family flavor. "Kids love our barbecued sausage," Uribe says. "Of course, they also like the burgers."

## 59 Diner

### 20210 Katy Fwy. 281-599-8500

Take a trip back in time to the 1950s at this 24-hour diner. From the Funny Face pancakes to the chili cheese dog, their menu will give your cutie lots of scrumptious options. Monday through Thursday from 3 to 9 p.m., 59 Diner offers a kids eat free option accompanying an adult entrée. You may run into a dilemma trying to choose between a double cheeseburger or their feisty Fiesta chicken. West Memorial Junior High student Karalee Holmes likes eating at the 59 Diner with her family. "My little sister likes the mac and cheese," she shares. The 59 Diner's kids' menu also features breakfast items served all day. **KM** 

CHERRI NORTHCUTT is a receptionist by day and a connoisseur of fine family dining in Katy by night.

