

# Scoop

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## FAMILY-PERSPECTIVE

### FILM REVIEWS



AP PHOTO

Ben Stiller plays a security guard in "Night at the Museum." It is rated PG.

#### 'Night at the Museum'

**Rated:** PG

**Suitable for:** School-age kids and older

**What you should know:** Ben Stiller stars as a bumbling night watchman at the Museum of Natural History who unleashes a spell that brings all the animals and historical figures in the museum to life with disastrous results.

**Language:** Mild crude language and humor

**Nudity or sexual situations:** None

**Violence/scary situations:** Violent special-effects action involving the bones-only Tyrannosaurus rex is appropriately realistic, as are some of the battle scenes among the diorama characters, but there is no bloodshed.

**Drug or alcohol use:** None

#### 'Freedom Writers'

**Rated:** PG-13

**Suitable for:** High-school students and older

**What you should know:** Hilary Swank plays a white teacher who uses maverick classroom techniques to reach underperforming black and Latino high-school students in California. Based on a real story.

**Language:** Harsh, with some obscenity

**Sexual situations and nudity:** Nothing notable

**Violence/scary situations:** Includes a murder, plus a teen being beaten up.

**Drug or alcohol use:** Adults drink wine, and there are discussions about student drug and alcohol use.



AP PHOTO

Cinderella finds her knight in shining armor in an unexpected place in "Happily N'Ever After."

#### 'Happily N'Ever After'

**Rated:** PG

**Suitable for:** Preschoolers and older

**What you should know:** This animated movie shows what happens when Cinderella's evil stepmother takes charge. She attempts to keep Cinderella from her prince, but he may not be her love match after all.

**Language:** None, although there is rude humor about flatulence.

**Sexual situations and nudity:** Cartoon characters kiss, briefly, and ample cleavage is displayed.

**Violence/scary situations:** Mild and cartoonish, and even a character who appears to die is seen alive again.

**Drug or alcohol use:** None



AP PHOTOS

Eight-year-old Sage Thomas, left, and 7-year-old Kate Blickenstaff perform a makeshift puppet show for neighborhood kids at mom Wendy Blickenstaff's home in North Boise, Idaho. You can use stuffed animals or sock puppets for creative fun.

# Indoor diversions

## Occupy kids away from TV on cold days

By ANNE WALLACE ALLEN  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### BOISE, Idaho

It's a long winter afternoon, you want to stay inside, and the kids are raring to do something new.

But you don't have to put a movie in the DVD player to keep them busy. Oodles of easy projects will entertain for hours, from indoor puppet shows to tea parties to homemade play dough.

Look for things the kids can do themselves, not games that tell them what to do.

"When you get to turn the couch into a castle, that really develops the cognitive and social and even the physical skills in a way that doesn't happen sitting in front of a television," said Sherri Iverson, the executive director of the American Academy of Pediatrics chapter in Idaho.

### Puppet show

One easy project is a puppet show, which can be staged on something as simple as a table — with a tablecloth — or the back of a couch.

Wendy Blickenstaff, a Boise landscape painter with two daughters ages 7 and 9, turns an area of her home into a puppet theater.

For the script, Blickenstaff has her kids make up their own stories or use classic tales like "Three Billy Goats Gruff" or "Hansel and Gretel."

The puppets themselves are easy to come by. Stuffed animals and dolls fill many roles, and puppets can be produced from socks.

If the kids don't have a wolf but they love the story of Little Red Riding Hood, adapt it and put on a



Sage Thomas, back left, and Kate Blickenstaff of North Boise, Idaho, put on a puppet show for other children. A few children are in charge of spotlights.

play with a menacing lion or whatever stuffed animal you have on hand.

Staging the puppet show is fun too. Dim the lights and have one child with a flashlight serve as the lighting technician, spotlighting characters.

Recruit another for special effects; he or she can play make background sounds like footsteps or rain.

### Hands-on fun

Terri Bigelow, a teacher at the Washington Elementary School in Boise, doesn't mind a mess as long as it's contained.

For little kids, she likes to fill a washtub with rice — which is cheap in bulk — and let the children play there with measuring cups and spoons.

"You can find out how many teaspoons are in the cup," Bigelow said. "They'll play with it for hours."

Whipping up some homemade play dough is easy using supplies that are probably in your cupboard.

There are dozens of recipes on the Internet, and most use flour, water, cream of tartar, and salt.

Kids love to use the mixer, and this

is a perfect way to let them do it; after making the dough, divide it and let them mix in food coloring.

### Tea time

Tea parties are still a hit with kids. Dorothy Miller, a grandmother in Twin Falls, Idaho, always puts one on when her granddaughters or other children are visiting.

Miller has a silver tea service and a large assortment of china and teaspoons she's collected over the years. She lets each child pick out a cup and spoon, lights candles, and serves small cookies or tiny sandwiches cut in squares or triangles.

For some reason, she says, this setting encourages tea-party behavior.

"They like to pour, and their manners are just impeccable," Miller said. "It has a special spell to it."

### A work of art

For some large-scale art, parent Amy Adams lets kids use butcher block paper — the large brown sheets that come in a roll — and Cray-pas, the bright oil pastels that look like crayons, to create murals.

Recently she used the theme of a habitat, where the kids drew a desert, an ocean or a forest.

"Then I had them go into magazines and cut out the animals that would go into the habitat and glue them on," said Adams, an elementary school teacher.

"They get so absorbed because it's something they take ownership of," Adams said.

### Bring outdoors in

Adams has also had success both in school and with her own two kids with indoor camping trips.

Set up a tent that stands without stakes and put sleeping bags in it.

Adams has toasted marshmallows over a candle and decorated the room like a campground.

"Kids love to go in a tent," she said. "They don't even think they're learning."

## TAKE NOTES

### College scholarships available through area 4-H programs

Students in Grades 10 to 12 are eligible for several scholarships and awards through Indiana and Johnson County 4-H programs.

Information on various awards and scholarships available can be found at [www.ces.purdue.edu/Johnson](http://www.ces.purdue.edu/Johnson).

Applications are due by Jan. 16. Information: 736-3724

### Field trip lets Center Grove teens experience crime scene

Students in Center Grove High School's business law classes recently took a field trip to the Indiana State Museum in Indianapolis.

Teens participated in a workshop as crime-scene investigators. They used microscopes to examine clothing fibers, fingerprints and a bug.

Students Mark Vaughn, Evan Hock, Andrew Campbell, Brittane Gartner, Leah Butcher, Andrew Ebyer and Megan Dixon tried to solve a hypothetical crime.

### Parents, students can learn about financial aid

Parents of Greenwood Community High School juniors and seniors can get financial-aid information at 7 p.m. Jan. 17 in the school auditorium.

Christina Lucas, a financial-aid officer at Franklin College, will explain how to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and answer questions about the financial-aid process.

Parents and students are encouraged to attend together. Information: 889-4009

### Marketing students work with children on cereal project

Center Grove High School's Marketing II students visited Center Grove Elementary third-graders in Sharon Brenton's and Sharon Decker's classes.

The marketing students studied the importance of packaging and created cereal packages that would appeal to third-graders.

The high school students surveyed the younger children to find out their favorite flavors, cereal shapes, games and prizes. The third-graders drew pictures of their ideas for a new cereal.

The finished packages were then sent back so the elementary kids could vote on their favorite designs. One of the favorites was called Peyton Manning Os after the Indianapolis Colts star.

### Scholarship to be awarded to graduates of Franklin

Graduating seniors of Franklin Community High School are eligible

for the Gilmore Trust Scholarship.

Applications for the award are being accepted through March 31.

The scholarship is for students attending any Indiana college or university, with preference given those who are planning to attend Franklin College.

Scholarships may be awarded up to a maximum of \$2,000 per year during a four-year period.

Applications and information may be obtained in the guidance office at Franklin Community High School.

Information: Robert Heuchan, 736-7164



"Disney World."  
Wilken Baldwin, 7, son of Andrew and Michelle Baldwin of Franklin, second grade, St. Rose of Lima Catholic School



"Florida."  
Jackson Wheeler, 7, son of Kurt and Stephanie Wheeler of Franklin, second grade, St. Rose of Lima



"Disney World in Florida."  
Katie Purk, 7, daughter of Dave and Monica Purk of Franklin, second grade, St. Rose of Lima



"Kings Island."  
Allison Heinrich, 7, daughter of Erik and Laura Heinrich of Franklin, second grade, St. Rose of Lima



"Las Vegas."  
Zach Lee, 9, son of Chris and Katie Lee of Morgantown, third grade, St. Rose of Lima



"Bahamas."  
Andrew Hartkorn, 9, son of Ken and Jo Hartkorn of Franklin, third grade, St. Rose of Lima



"Hollywood."  
Kate Palmer, 8, daughter of Jamie and Lisa Palmer of Greenwood, third grade, St. Rose of Lima



"San Diego."  
Megan Hartkorn, 9, daughter of Ken and Jo Hartkorn of Franklin, third grade, St. Rose of Lima



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