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I'M BORED. I DID THAT YESTERDAY. There's nothing to do around the house. It's too hot outside. Have your kids ever muttered these phrases during the summer? Although many people look forward to the relaxing days of summer, parents have the somewhat difficult task of finding enriching activities for their kids during the long school break. If you want to cure your kids of the summertime blues this coming season, take a look at these activities located in the metroplex – many right here in Frisco!

ADVENTURES IN SPORTS

As always, the Frisco Parks and Recreation Department will offer a variety of summer classes with everything from gymnastics and swimming to martial arts and basketball. In addition, the outdoor municipal pool opens in May, which will host special events throughout the summer season. An updated list of summer classes and events will be available in early March at www.friscofun.org.

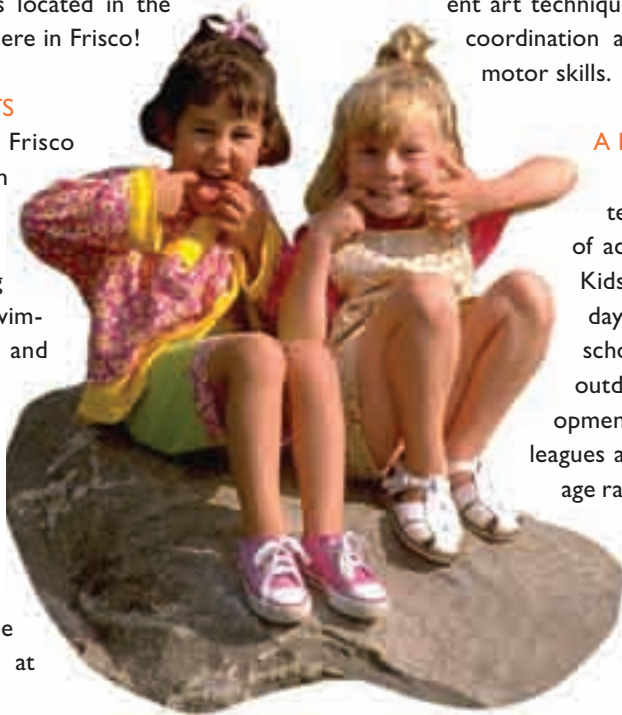
If the sizzling Texas heat becomes too much, try cooling off at the Dr. Pepper StarCenter. "Summer is a great time to be at StarCenter," says Liz Folger, Director of the Skate School. "Learning to skate during the summer can be fun and cool!" Summer activities at the StarCenter include ice-skating and hockey classes, public skating sessions, birthday party packages and educational field trips. The eight-week summer skate school semester runs from June 7th to August 7th. "We offer classes to fit everyone's summer schedule needs," Folger adds. "We also offer special mini semesters to accommodate summer vacationers." For more information, call 214-GO-SKATE or visit www.drpepperstarcenter.com.

ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG ARTISTS

Art-a-Rama, located on Avenue J in Plano, invites kids ages 2 through 12 to discover the artist within. A daylong camp (9 am – 3 pm) is offered beginning June 1st for kids ages 6 to 12. Each week children will have the opportunity to let their

imaginations run wild and explore their creative side with paint, clay, watercolors and more. Children may come to the camp for one week or multiple weeks and never create the same masterpiece twice!

If younger artists would like to join in the fun, Art-a-Rama also offers weekly classes beginning June 2nd from 11 am – 12:30 pm. Children will learn about color, shape and different art techniques. In addition, they will develop hand/eye coordination as well as dexterity and strength of fine motor skills.



A LITTLE BIT OF EVERYTHING

School age kids ranging from kindergarten to 9th grade can experience a plethora of activities this summer at the Frisco YMCA. Kids 5 to 12 can participate in the school-age day camps, structured like an extended after-school program. Activities include indoor and outdoor games, arts and crafts, character development, outdoor education, swimming, sports leagues and weekly field trips. Those in the 8 to 12 age range may wish to attend the Specialty Camp, giving them an opportunity to attend field trips relating to a weekly theme. Kids will experience fishing, horseback riding, sports, water activities and much more. Sixth through 9th graders might enjoy Camp X-Treme Teen Camp. Offering a summer of adventure, this camp focuses on team building and community service, giving these kids a chance to be part of a team making a difference in the community.

THROUGHOUT THE METROPLEX

Organizations and sites throughout Dallas and Collin County will offer a variety of summer activities for all age ranges. Be sure to check out some places of local interest, including the Science Place (www.scienceplace.org), the Children's Museum at Valley View Center (www.dallaschildrens.org), the Frontiers of Flight Museum at Love Field (www.flightmuseum.com) and the Dallas Zoo (www.dallaszoo.com). Kids can do everything from attend "flight school" for young pilots to take part in Animal Adventure Summer Camp. Who says they're bored now?

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cure those summertime blues!

by amanda van cura