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Caroline Thomas and her hat.

photo by Jennifer Thomas

## Have a Creative Summer

By Amanda VanCura

**WHEN THE SCHOOLS LET OUT** and the temperatures rise, many kids head for the outdoors. This summer, in addition to having your kids splash around at the pool, why not enrich their minds and discover hidden artistic talents? There are many opportunities right here in Frisco and surrounding cities that allow children to develop their cultural skills.

### ACTING THE PART

Do you have a drama king or queen at home? Kids as young as four can put their dramatic expertise to work during a camp at the Frisco Area Children's Theater. From acting workshops to comedy camps to the art of theater makeup, little thespians will feel right at home. For more information, visit [www.friscoareachildrenstheater.com](http://www.friscoareachildrenstheater.com) or call 972.377.2675.

For those who want to add a little music to the stage, McKinney Repertory Theatre's children's musical theatre camp might be a good choice. Held at the Heard-Craig Center for the Arts, this two-week camp ends with a production of *The Music Man*,

Jr. Visit [www.mckinneyrep.com](http://www.mckinneyrep.com) or call 214.551.1905. Also at Heard-Craig Center for the Arts is Ghostlight Productions Summer Theatre Camp. Sessions start June 20th. Call 214.477.4891 for details.

At the Plano Classics Theater and Art for Children, campers in grades 1 through 6 can prepare and perform in a production of *Tales of Hans Christian Anderson*. Art and theater camp sessions are also available for ages 3 through 6th grade. Call 972.596.8948 for programs and classes or visit [www.classicsplano.org](http://www.classicsplano.org)

### CRAFTY CAMPERS

For kids who enjoy a more hands-on art experience, Art-A-Rama gives them a chance to stretch their creativity while creating artistic masterpieces. The summer young artist camps for ages two to three and four to six help kids learn color, shape and technique while working with a range of materials. For older campers, ages six to 12, Art-A-Rama offers weeklong camps from 9am to 3pm. Kids can attend several camps and will never create the same project

twice. Visit [www.art-a-rama.com](http://www.art-a-rama.com) or call 972.377.9900 for prices and dates.

Love You More Ceramics also offers a crafty experience for young artists. Located on Main Street, this studio has hundreds of ceramic pieces to create. Summer camps are divided by age range and run for an hour-and-a-half each day for three days. Students will paint at least one item per day. The studio is also offering a three-day manners camp. Etiquette consultant Lynda White ([www.texasetiquette.com](http://www.texasetiquette.com)) will teach the first half of the camp. Kids will then paint a cup one day and a plate the next day. "On the third day, we will use the cup and plate they have made in a small meal to practice table manners," explains Effie Kenley, of Love You More Ceramics.

A story time is also offered every Wednesday morning at 10:30am. After kids hear the story, they get to paint a ceramic piece that matches the story. Call 972.712.3700 for details.

### MUSIC AND DANCE

Kids of all ages can get the wiggles out of their system, or explore their musical side when they attend one of many music and dance camps offered through the Frisco Parks and Recreation Department ([friscofun.org](http://friscofun.org)). Budding musicians will thrive in the piano, guitar or rock school 101 camps. Those wishing to move to the music should check out the hip-hop, ballet and other dance classes.

Sheena's Dance Academy off Stonebrook Parkway also offers a variety of camps, workshops and classes for ages 2 to adult. Dance, cheer, ballet, and hip-hop camps and workshops begin on June 14th. Visit [www.sheenasdanceacademy.com](http://www.sheenasdanceacademy.com) or call 972.712.1100.

Think you have the next American Idol or rock star living in your house? Have them attend the Dayjams Rock Star Reality Camp at Faith Lutheran School in Plano. Campers will learn guitar,



bass, drums, keyboard or vocals while they form their own band, write their own songs and design t-shirts and CD covers in art classes. One-week sessions run from 9am to 5pm and begin on July 11th. Call 1.800.295.5956 or visit [www.dayjams.com](http://www.dayjams.com).

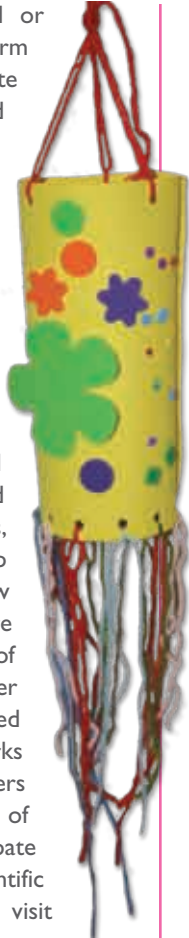
### SUPER SCIENTISTS

Build magical crystal gardens, build NASA-style rockets, manufacture soda pop and even learn how movie sound effects are created. It's all a part of the Mad Science summer camps being offered through Frisco Parks and Recreation. Campers can uncover the art of science as they participate in a variety of scientific camps. To register, visit [www.friscofun.org](http://www.friscofun.org).

Ever wonder about the science of fire? The Collin County Community College District Fire Academy is offering a hot camp for teenagers (14-18) who are interested in learning what it takes to handle the blazing flames. Fire-Rescue Camp 2005 will start June 6th and run for one week. Attendees will experience live-fire training, hose handling, response drills, rappelling, vehicle rescue and more. Activities will take place at the Central Park Campus Fire Station in McKinney. To register, visit [www.ccccd.edu/firescience](http://www.ccccd.edu/firescience) or call 972.548.6836.

These creative camps are a surefire way to keep your artistic kids from calling out those all-too familiar words, "I'm bored." Whether they're dancing, singing, inventing, acting or creating, they will have a summer to remember!

*Amanda VanCura is a freelance writer living in Plano.*



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