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Hopkins House - McNeil Preschool Academy, Alexandria, VA

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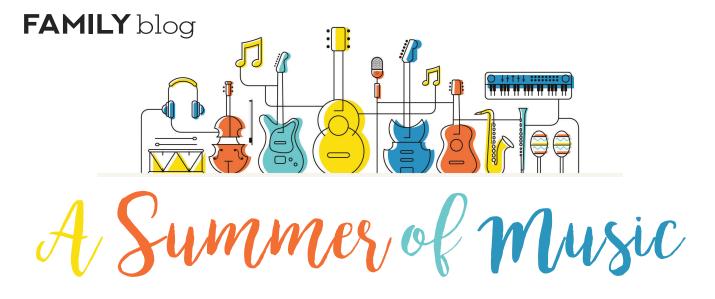


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winkle, twinkle, little star..." We're all familiar with that tune, right?

From our first lullabies such as this, to our first dabble with percussion (baby rattles), we have been exposed to the wonder of music from day one. Music is one of the earliest ways in which we learn to understand and make sense of the world around us. Think about it: One of our first inductions into our speaking society is when we learn to sing our ABC's. It's the rhythm and rhyme that ultimately helps us memorize and better comprehend language.

Keeping up with music exposure throughout early childhood is beneficial in a multitude of ways-from language development to increased IQ-the benefits are endless.

I've always been a strong advocate for music appreciation.

I started playing piano at the young age of six and ultimately became Beethoven's #1 fan girl. My personal favorite is "Moonlight Sonata" - I believe I played that piece on the piano every day for 10 years. (Sorry, family!) But, my love for music flourished early on. You could say, at times, I was a little scatterbrained as a child, but piano kept me grounded, focused and it was a great outlet for creative expression. I am truly thankful that I was always surrounded by music and my parents fully encouraged it. In fact, they encouraged all of my sisters and me to try out some type of instrument. Let's just say music lessons didn't really end up sticking with all of my siblings, but there's still, to this day, a unanimous agreement that it was beneficial to all of us.

So yes, I know, playing an instrument isn't for

everyone. But, music appreciation doesn't have to mean it's time to sign your child up for piano lessons, tomorrow. It can simply mean exposure.

In this issue, we talked to local director and music conductor, Piotr Gajewski about the importance of music appreciation and education for young children. It struck a chord with me when he advised for parents to start playing all kinds of music to children at a young age to help them "naturally cultivate an interest in music." This is something that's easy to accomplish.

And because summer is officially just a few weeks away, it's the perfect time to dive into that extra music exposure for you and your child.

Go to a few family concerts, enjoy free live music in the park, check out a local children's musical or even listen to the Moana music soundtrack together for the 100th time. (JK! Listen to "Let It Go" instead.)

Just know you really can't go wrong with surrounding your child with music. You never know, you might soon discover you have the next Beethoven on your hands! Or, at least, you'll find that your child becomes a bit more musically inclined. A win-win.



Editor

There's more to
George than
Washington

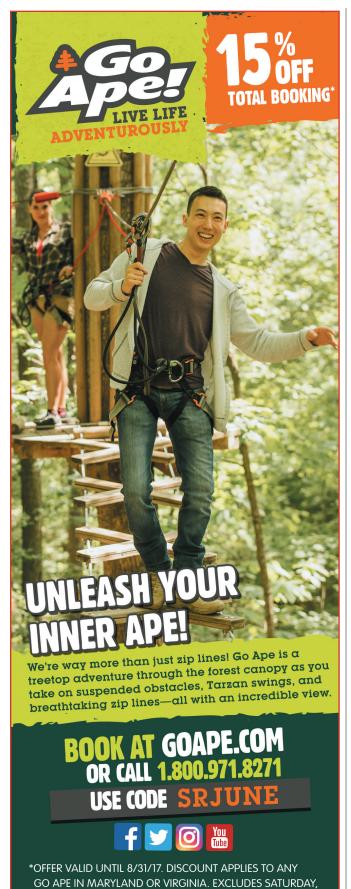
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## PIOTR GAJEWSKI:

# of Local Conductor and Pioneer of Early Music Education

t was a piano in his grandparent's house that initially attracted Piotr Gajewski to music. Although no one in his family were trained musicians, music was always apart

musicians, music was always apart of his life. He started playing piano when he was four, and that initial contact with the ivory keys resulted in a lifetime love affair with music.

"There was a piano in my grandfather's house," explained Gajewski, who grew up in Poland. "They were always playing it, so I wanted to do the same."

That deeply routed passion inspired Gajewski to continue his education in music and pursue a musical career.

Founder, music director and conductor of the National Philharmonic Orchestra at Strathmore in Bethesda, MD, Gajewski is a local leader in ensuring more area children get exposure to music early on.

Although he was lucky to have that childhood exposure, he understands that not all children may be that lucky.

Music exposure at an early age touts many benefits—it improves academic and physical skills, refines patience, introduces new cultures and boosts self-esteem. Even in the womb, prenatal music can help with brain development and prenatal learning.

"Music has been shown in lots and lots of studies to help in brain development in ways that literally nothing else does," he said.

Government funding and school budget cuts have hampered music expansion in early years, but parents still play a crucial role in the exposure equation.

"I'd say advocate to reverse those cuts!" laughed Gajewski. But if parents are unable to voice their concerns, they can still enroll in community music programs through local organizations or libraries.

Music is a universal language, said Gajewski, who immigrated to the United States when he was 10. Nearly every culture has their own style of music, or has put forth great composers and musicians. When a child or adult is able to experience what these cultures have to offer musically, they're experiencing new worlds.

But if a parent or guardian does not have a direct interest in music, or access to musical programs, it can be hard for the beneficial exposure to happen, but not impossible.

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## Music is a universal language.

— GAJEWSKI

## >> CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

"Start playing music for your kids," explained Gajewski. "All kinds of music. When they are very, very young. And that will help them naturally cultivate an interest in music."

To help more children experience live music, Gajewski along with the National Philharmonic, created the All Kids, All Free, All the Time initiative 20 years ago. It allows Montgomery County children, ages seven to 17, to attend concerts at the Music Center free of charge.

The initiative was the organization's way of addressing the growing costs and associated concerns of live concerts. Cost can be a big deterrent

for a family looking to experience the arts.

The organization also does annual concerts for all second-grade students in Montgomery County, reaching over 12,000 students every vear.

"The school system has noticed an increase in interest in instrumental music in the school children," Gajewski said. "That leads to kids taking music lessons. And kids taking music lessons do better in academics than kids that don't."

Whether it is a piano, trumpet, violin, flute or even the tuba, Gajewski urges more kids to



Director and Conductor. JAY MALLIN

experiment with picking up and playing instruments.

"How well or quickly a kid progresses really has little to do with natural talent and more to do with intensive time spent with the chosen instrument," he said. Allow a child to explore. "If it's a forced thing, it's not nearly as quick or as rewarding."







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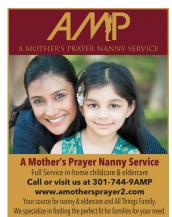
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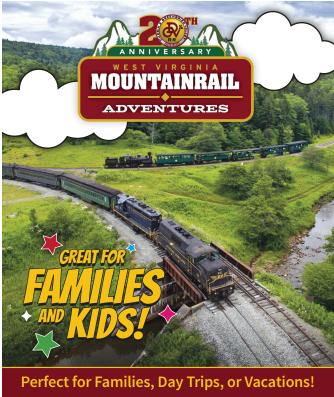
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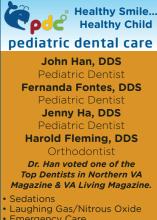
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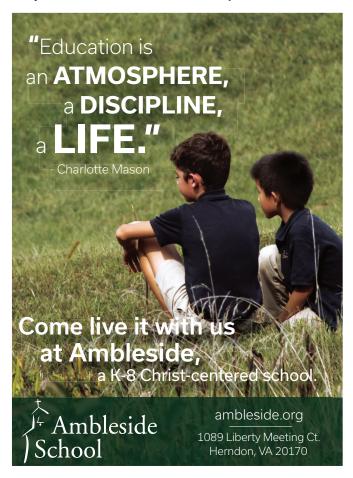
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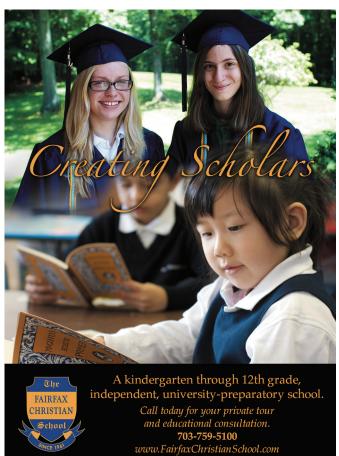
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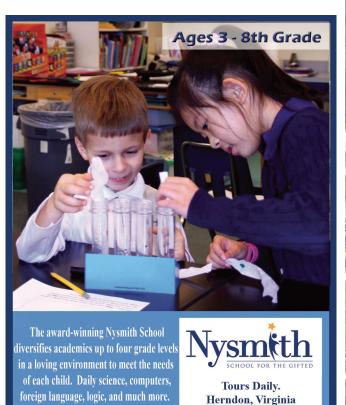
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## Keep an Eye on Your Child's Vision

reventative medicine comes in many different forms. It can be dietary changes to stave off diabetes, immunization shots, regular dental cleanings or yearly mammograms. For Dr. Victor Abdow, a pediatrician at Abdow Friendship Pediatrics, one way he practices preventative medicine is by giving his young patients both vision and hearing exams during routine physicals.

"We try to do something that's going to prevent further problems down the road," said Abdow, whose practice is located in Rockville, MD. "That's what we're here for, to prevent issues in the future."

Abdow has learned that the increase in technology use has come at a price for his young patients; poor vision caused by myopia. Myopia, or nearsightedness where distant objects appear blurry, can be exacerbated through excessive computer and phone use. The eye becomes elongated and ultimately results in a child not being able to see distant objects clearly.

Although glasses help a child see clearly they don't treat myopia, and it usually gets worse over time, putting a child at risk for other eye diseases. Dr. Abdow now works with local eye care center Treehouse Eyes, who specializes in treatments for childhood myopia. The nonsurgical treatments provided at Treehouse Eyes work to slow or stop myopia from getting worse. This appealed to Abdow and his pursuit of preventative medicine. He now screens all of his patients for myopia. With one quick photo, he is able to determine if myopia is forming in young children.

## What's a common misconception parents have in regards to eyesight?

I think that the common misconception is that when patients go to an eye doctor to treat myopia, they think they're getting treatment. But they're really not getting treatment. They're getting prescription glasses to correct the vision, which is only going to worsen over time. As the eye weakens over time, or becomes more myopic, the prescription is going to increase. The vision will get corrected, but it's not fixing the problem.

## Not many pediatric doctors seem to test eyesight. Why do you?

I do vision screens at every physical, every year. Starting at 12 months, I screen all my infants and children, until they're 18, to look for eye conditions, not just myopia. Vision is a big thing. Everybody needs to have healthy eyes. We have to drive, we have to read, and we have to perform. It's early intervention. If we can get them help sooner than later, you can prevent things progressing and getting worse.

## How do you screen for myopia?

Using a device from Treehouse Eyes, it tells me what your prescription lens would be. The device is attached to an iPhone, and I would have the child look into the camera and take a photograph. Then, this device tells me whether the child has issues with being nearsighted or farsighted. It gives you an actual number similar to what an ophthalmologist or optometrist uses to determine the correct prescription

eyeglasses. Any number that is negative signifies that the child has the start of myopia.

## Why is this kind of preventative medicine important?

If you find myopia sooner rather than later, you can get better success with the treatment. The amount of screen time is exceeding the recommendations. I think this is making myopia far worse. And, people don't realize that with myopia, you're putting yourself at risk for other conditions—retinal detachment, macular degeneration, glaucoma. We can lessen those kinds of problems with myopia treatment prevention; which is good for children.

## Do eye exams happen at routine physicals, or is it something that parents need to request?

Every time a patient comes into the office for a physical exam. The parent should request a vision test. We offer hearing and vision exams. Part of the vision screening now, includes the device that Treehouse Eyes gave me. Not only do we use the eye chart where they read the lines, but I also use their device to double check. Even if a child has 20/20 vision, it doesn't mean that they're not prone to myopia. If I'm giving them the test and get a negative number, I'm detecting myopia early.

## What kind of preventative measures do you recommend when it comes to myopia and eye health?

Work at keeping the screen time down.



You focus on her science fair project. We'll keep her vision from getting worse in the future.

Kids are growing up with much more screen time and less outdoor time. As a result, myopia - nearsightedness, where far away objects appear blurry - is rapidly increasing.

Stronger glasses every year aren't the answer. While necessary, glasses only treat the symptoms of myopia. And, myopia increases the risk of serious eye diseases as your child grows.

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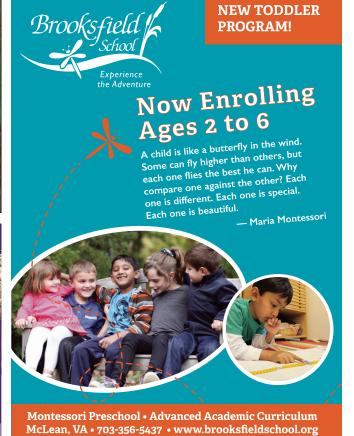
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## FOUR AMAZING WAYS

# TO BRIGHTEN YOUR CHILD'S FUTURE



s a parent, you are uniquely suited to set your child up for success and happiness in life, but you may not know how. To be sure, there is no road map to helping your child grow into responsible adults and if one existed, it would likely offer as many routes to the same goal as there are children.

And when it comes to early education, parents have many questions. What preschool or daycares should I enroll my child? What camp or playgroup will nourish his talents? What activities will support and enhance her social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development?

We talked with early care and education experts and experienced parents across our community to identify some of the top ways they recommend to enhance the early education of children and brighten their futures.

## 1. GIVE YOUR CHILD AN ACTIVE ROLE IN YOUR DAILY ACTIVITIES.

Grocery shopping, errands around the house and cooking dinner, all offer wonderful opportunities to engage your child and expand his or her learning. When you go to the grocery store, let your child help pick out fruits and vegetables. At home let them help prepare the meal (i.e. peel the fruits, wash the vegetables, or pour the spices). Sure, you may have to get creative in the kitchen or research recipes using a new food, but you may even end up with a new favorite dish. Tell your child how proud you are that he or she helped you make the most delicious meal in the entire world. By incorporating your young explorer into your daily tasks, you can build on the skills

and awareness he or she is learning in preschool or day care. An added bonus is discovering how much fun you're having spending time with your child.

## 2. ESTABLISH ROUTINES AND CLEAR EXPECTATIONS.

Like most children, your child likely thrives in environments in which he or she knows what to expect and what is expected of him or her. Adhering to a regular and reliable schedule of daily activities and routines helps to avoid childhood power struggles, tantrums and meltdowns. This isn't to suggest that you should never change your schedule or routine. But, if you have to change your plans, try to let your child know ahead of time, and explain the reasons and what he or she can expect. From time-to-time, expect your child to resist or struggle. This is to be expected; children don't like change. But, when your child rises to the occasion, celebrate the success.

## 3. SLOW DOWN AND TAKE THE TIME TO ENJOY YOUR CHILD.

Your child is naturally curious, energetic, and eager to explore the world. Let him or her take the lead and share with you the world he or she discovers. Start this as early as you can. Your child, no doubt, notices more than you think, including who comes to the swim classes, who helps in the classroom at school, and who he or she can be silly with. Yes, parenting can be stressful, but it can also be some of the best times of your life. Take time to enjoy these moments; they are fleeting. Set aside as much time as you can to spend with your child, especially when it comes to teaching him or her about the world. Enjoy the experience and let him or her see and feel that enjoyment in the words you speak, your smiles, your groans, your sneezes, and your moments of doubt or anxiety. We are important role models for our children, when we get involved in their early education; we spark their innate love of learning.

## 4. BUILD STRONG RELATIONSHIPS WITH YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL, CHILD CARE PROVIDER. OR PLAY GROUP.

It's a fact: It takes a village to raise a successful, happy child. If your child goes to school or participates in a playgroup (both of which we suggest!), there are other adults and children that can play an important role in his or her early life. Engage in activities offered through these venues and get to know the educators that care for your child and the parents of your child's friends. Join your child and his or her friends for lunch, drop by school to read a story, and volunteer to support field trips or other activities. The more time you spend engaging in these activities, the more opportunities you will have learning about what is developmentally appropriate for your child and how to support him or her on the way to becoming a smart, caring and responsible adolescent and adult.

Lindsey Groark is Assistant Vice
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## Review of Cricket Media's cobblestone, Discover American History:

## Preparing to Fight by Russ Chamberlayne

My teenage son, Sebastian, and I were in our pediatrician's lobby and I noticed COBBLESTONE Magazine in the bookrack. COBBLESTONE Magazine is all about history. Knowing Sebastian is a huge lover of history, I thought the colorful cover of a poster of a World War I soldier would be of interest to him. He also just finished reading, "All Quite on the Western Front," a book that describes a German soldier's experience during World War I.

So I asked him to put down his phone (grumble, grumble) and gave him the magazine to read. He thumbed through and noticed "Mapping It", "Cartoon Connection" and some of the other Departments and the articles on World War I. He looked at the table of contents and he had a lot of articles from which to choose: from "The Great War: An Overview" to "The Final Push" to "A Deadly Flu" to "Maker of Masks" plus more. He chose the article "Preparing to Fight." Afterwards, I asked him what he thought.

The story, he said, really put "All Quiet on the Western Front" in context. He was surprised to learn that the U.S. troops weren't really ready to fight. They weren't trained for combat so it took a year for U.S. troops to get to France and help the Allies. He compared the U.S. involvement in World War I to his favorite sport: basketball. The



individual players don't have to be great but you have to have a deep bench. Meaning if you play the same five players throughout the game, they'll be exhausted at the end and will probably lose. The U.S. troops were the bench. They relieved the exhausted French and British troops, increased morale, and eventually the Allies prevailed and won the war.

Sebastian said that moral of the story was not to give up and play your bench. Sebastian really enjoyed the article, and other aspects of the magazine. There were cartoons throughout the pages and a picture of a U.S. World War I solider in his gear. He also learned an interesting tidbit about president Harry S. Truman, before he became president. Truman, who was a Missouri National Guard artilleryman, had to learn

trigonometry and geometry as part of his training. Sebastian doesn't like any mention of math in his "free" time, and didn't like this aspect of military training.

When we finished our discussion, Sebastian said, "That wasn't so bad." In teenage speak, that means we'll be doing it again!

## ABOUT COBBLESTONE AND CRICKET MEDIA:

COBBLESTONE Magazine published by Cricket Media (Parents' Choice Gold Award Winner in 2017) transforms history from a dry classroom exercise into a living, breathing guide to how Americans live, work, play, and eat, from the 1600s to today. Filled with fascinating stories, dramatic photographs, and beautiful illustrations, COBBLESTONE excites imaginations and brings the past to life for children ages nine to 14.

Cricket Media, based in McLean, VA and founded in 1973, publishes magazines for children of all ages from six months (babybug) to 15+ (CICADA). "At Cricket Media, we believe that challenging children's minds and connecting kids to learn together does wonders for their confidence, creativity and curiosity. That's why we are dedicated to providing awardwinning media on a safe and secure learning network to engage, enlighten and educate children everywhere."

To subscribe to any of Cricket Media's 15 magazines go to shop.cricketmedia.com.

# MAKE CAMP A SAFE AND HEALTHY EXPERIENCE FOR YOUR CHILD



f you've already decided where your children will be attending camp this summer, it's time to think about how best to prepare them for a fun, healthy and safe experience away from home.

From determining what to pack to obtaining a camp physical, there's a lot to consider. And it's only natural for both parents and campers to have some anxiety; especially for first-timers and those who cope with chronic health issues. To have the best and healthiest summer, here are some key recommendations and tips.

## HEALTH POLICIES AND CAMP PHYSICALS

Start by taking some time to review and understand the camp's health care policies and practices well in advance. This information should be readily available on the camp's website or in your camper's registration materials. If you can't find it, make a list of questions and call the camp staff to obtain the answers you need.

Most camps will require a physical with medical records submitted several weeks prior to arrival. It doesn't take a lot of time to complete this physical, but don't wait until the last minute to schedule an appointment.

Camp physicals can be obtained from your child's pediatrician or at a walk-in retail clinic like MinuteClinic. Health care insurance providers will not cover camp and sports physicals, so be sure to inquire about the cost before you visit. Prices can vary quite a bit.

A proper camp physical should include: a review of health history and immunizations, height and weight check, thorough physical exam and a stamp or signature on exam forms. Parents should remember to bring a copy of their child's immunization records and a list of any current medications and allergies.

#### **CHRONIC HEALTH ISSUES**

Health conditions like asthma, diabetes, serious food allergies or other health concerns should also be factored into your preparations.

Ahead of time, contact the camp staff to see how medications or treatments are handled. It is important to determine what care can be expected from the camp nurse or athletic trainer (in the case of sports camps) and what medications your child can administer on their own. This could include inhalers for asthma treatment, insulin injections and other prescription or over-the-counter medications.

If your child has food allergies, then speak with the camp nutritionist or cook to ensure that menus are tailored to meet their dietary requirements. If your child has a peanut allergy or is allergic to insect stings, determine whether your camper can carry his or her own EpiPen, or how one will be made available. Make sure that camp counselors are equipped with an extra auto-injector on site and are trained to administer care.

#### **WHAT TO PACK**

Begin early by putting together a camp packing list. Some of the items to ensure get packed in their child's duffel bag are: hiking boots or sneakers, slip-resistant water shoes for showers and pool, lightweight, long-sleeved shirts and pants for hikes and activities (to protect against ticks, poison ivy and the sun's rays), antibiotic ointment and band-aids for cuts and blisters, hand sanitizer or antiseptic wipes for easy clean-up, lip balm, and necessary eye-care items including sun glasses, goggles for sports or swimming, extra contact lenses or glasses.

For sun block, you should choose a broad-spectrum product with a SPF of at least 30, which blocks 97 percent of UVA and UVB rays with spray and stick options for easier application. Insect repellent (without DEET) are available in spray or wipe options.

Careful planning and preparation should help to ensure a safe and fun camp experience full of great memories for your child.

(Michelle Hockstra is a mother of two living in Brookeville, MD and a Family Nurse Practitioner at MinuteClinic in Rockville, Maryland. MinuteClinic offers camp physicals at locations inside select CVS pharmacy and Target stores throughout the District, Maryland and Northern Virginia).



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Sports, Swimming.

#### Mad Science

Ages: 6-11; 301-593-4777, 703-536-9897 dc.madscience.org

Educational Activities.

#### NCRC Preschool - Rainbow Camp

Ages: 2 1/2-6; 202-363-8777

ncrcpreschool.org/summer-camp

3209 Highland Pl., NW, Washington, D.C.

Educational Activities.

#### **Northeast Stars Camp**

nestars.net 1325 Maryland Ave., NE, Washington, D.C. Educational Activities.

# The Theatre Lab Summer Acting Camp for Kids

Grades 1-12; 202-824-0449 theatrelab.org; contact@theatrelab.org 733 8th St., NW, Washington, D.C. Teens, Extended Day, Drama.

#### **DAY CAMPS MARYLAND**

#### **Abrakadoodle**

Ages: 3-12; 703-538-4278 Abrakadoodle.com; swalia@abrakadoodle.com Northern VA, Prince William County, Loudoun County, Montgomery, MD Arts, Educational Activities.

#### Acorn Hill Waldorf Kindergarten & Nursery

Ages: 3-6; 301-565-2282 acornhill.org; info@acornhill.org 9504 Brunett Ave., Silver Spring, MD Extended Day, Arts, Cooking, Music.

#### All Fired Up

Ages: 6-16; 202-363-9590 Allfiredupdc.com allfiredupquestions@yahoo.com 4923 Elm St., Bethesda, MD

#### **Audubon Naturalist Society**

Ages: 4-17; 301-652-9188 ext. 15 anshome.org nora.kelly@anshome.org 8940 Jones Mill Rd., Chevy Chase, MD

Teens, Extended Day, Arts, CIT Program, Cooking, Educational Activities, Field Trips, Hiking, Overnight Camping, Travel.

#### Camp Aristotle - The Auburn School

Rising K-Grade 8; 301-588-8048 theauburnschool.org 9545 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring, MD

Teens, Extended Day, Arts, Computers, Educational Activities, Special Needs, Sports.

#### **Creative Youth**

Ages: 7-13; 240-800-4916

creative-youth.com; info@creative-youth.com 4850 Saint Elmo Ave., Bethesda, MD Teens, Arts.

#### Mad Science

Ages: 6-11; 301-593-4777, 703-536-9897 dc.madscience.org

Educational Activities.

#### **Cub Scout Day Camp**

Ages: 6-11 • 301-530-9360 ncacbsa.org/daycamp daycamp@ncacbsa.org
See website for locations.

Boys Only, Arts, Educational Activities, Special Needs.

#### **International School of Music**

Ages: 3-12; 301-365-5888 ismw.org; info@ismw.org 10450 Auto Park Ave., Bethesda, MD *Music.* 

#### Jamon Montessori Adventure Camp

Ages: 2-10; 301-384-3131 jamonmontessori.com; jamon.montessori.com 52 Randolph Rd., Silver Spring, MD Extended Day, Arts, CIT Program, Cooking, Educational Activities, Field Trips, Music, Sports, Swimming, Yoga.

#### **Summer Camp at Imagination Stage**

Ages: 3 ½-18; 301-280-1660 imaginationstage.org 4908 Auburn Ave., Bethesda, MD *Teens, Dance, Drama, Music.* 

#### Spring Bilingual Montessori Academy -Spring Academy Summer Camp

Ages: 2 ½-6; 301-962-7262 spring-bilingual.org; info@spring-bilingual.org 3514 Plyers Mill Rd., Kensington, MD Sibling Discount, Extended Day, Arts, Educational Activities.

#### DAY CAMPS VIRGINIA

# A Child's Place at Hollin Hall - Hollin Hall Summer Day Camp

Ages: 6-14; 703-765-8811 hollinhall.com; acphollinh@aol.com 1500 Shenandoah Rd., Alexandria, VA

Extended Day, Arts, Educational Activities, Field Trips, Hiking, Sports, Swimming.

>> CONTINUED ON P. 40

#### Arris Montessori Academy

Ages: 2 ½-10; 703-858-2800 arrismontessori.com

44675 Cape Ct., Ste. 189, Ashburn, VA

Sibling Discount, Arts, Cooking, Dance, Drama,

Educational Activities, Music.

#### Beantree: Westfields Campus

Ages: 6-13

5003 Westone Plaza, Chantilly, VA

Educational, Swimming.

#### **Brooksfield Summer Camp**

Ages: 3-10; 703-356-5437 ext. 2

brooksfieldschool.org; camp@brooksfieldschool.org

1830 Kirby Rd., McLean, VA

Extended Day, Arts, CIT, Cooking, Dance, Educational Activities, Field Trips, Hiking, Horseback Riding, Music,

Sports, Swimming, Yoga.

# Camp Aristotle The Auburn School - Fairfax Campus

Grade K-9; 703-793-9353 theauburnschool.org 3800 Concorde Pkwy., Ste. 500, Chantilly, VA Extended Day, Special Needs.



#### Camp Griffin -Westminster School

Ages: 3-14; 703-340-7268 westminsterschool.com campgriffin@westminsterschool.com 3819 Gallows Rd., Annandale, VA

Teens, Sibling Discount, Extended Day, Arts, Cooking, Dance, Drama, Educational Activities, Field Trips, Hiking, Martial Arts, Music, Sports, Swimming, Yoga.

#### Camp Kay - Kay School

Ages: 2 ½-12; 703-264-9078 kayschool.org; info@kayschool.org 3005 Dower House Rd., Herndon, VA

Sibling Discount, Extended Day, Transportation, Arts, CIT Program, Cooking, Dance, Drama, Educational Activities, Field Trips, Hiking, Music, Sports, Extreme Sports, Swimming, Travel, Yoga.

#### The Center for Ballet Arts

Ages: 3-Adult; 703-273-5344 thecenterforballetarts.com; ctrbalarts@aol.com 3955 Pender Dr. #105, Fairfax, VA

Teens, Sibling Discount, Extended Day, Arts. Dance.

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#### Camp William B. Snyder

Ages: 7-18 • 301-530-9360

gotosnyder.org; snyder@ncacbsa.org 6100 Antioch Rd., Haymarket, VA

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# Chantilly Academy Gymnastics & Summer Blast Camp

Ages: 3 & up by June '17 & potty trained; 703-378-4966; chantillyacademy.com 14088K Sullyfield Circle,

Chantilly, VA

Gymnastics, Sports.

#### **Competetive Edge Athletic Performance Center**

Ages: 6+; 571-398-2813 competitiveEdgeVA.com info@competitiveEdgeVA.com 14849 Persistence Dr., Woodbridge, VA Teens, Extended Day, Field Trips, Sports.

#### Camp She-EO (for Girl Entrepreneurs)

Ages: 8-16; 866-697-4336 beasheeo.com; info@beasheeo.com Various locations across Northern Virginia Girls Only, Educational Activities.

#### Cub Scout Day Camp

Ages: 6-11 • 301-530-9360 ncacbsa.org daycamp daycamp@ncacbsa.org See website for locations.

Boys Only, Arts, Educational Activities, Special Needs.

#### **Encore Stage & Studio It's Elementary**

Ages: 4-9; 703-548-1154 encorestage.org; info@encorestage.org 5800 Washington Blvd., Arlington, VA Drama.

#### **Encore Stage & Studio Stage Door & Tech Camp**

Ages: 11-15; 703-548-1154 encorestage.org; info@encorestage.org 200 S. Carlin Springs Rd., Arlington, VA Extended Day, Arts, Dance, Drama.

# Encore Stage & Studio Summer Stories and Season Sampler

Ages: 8-12; 703-548-1154 encorestage.orginfo@encorestage.org 4000 Lorcom Ln., Arlington, VA Drama.

#### **Fairfax Christian School**

Ages: 5-12; 703-759-5100 fairfax-christian-school.com 1624 Hunter Mill Rd., Vienna, VA

**Educational Activities.** 

#### Fairfax Collegiate Summer Program

Ages: 8-14; 703-481-3080 fairfaxcollegiate.com 722 Grant St., Ste. J, Herndon, VA

Sibling Discount, Extended Day, Arts, Computers, Educational Activities, Photography.

#### Frying Pan Farm Park

Ages: 3-10; 703-689-3104 Katydidkids.com; info@katydidkids.com 2709 W. Ox Rd., Herndon, VA

#### Gymboree School Skills / Sports Camp

Ages: 3-5; gymboreeclasses.com
Alexandria Gymboree Play & Music
703-836-2277; 318 S. Pickett St., Alexandria, VA
Burke Gymboree Play & Music
703-836-2277
6045 Burke Center Parkway #204, Burke, VA
Chantilly Gymboree Play & Music
703-836-2277; 14155 Sullyfield Cir. Ste. I
Chantilly, VA
Sibling Discount, Arts, Educational Activities, Sports.

## Harmonia Musical Theater

# & Creative Arts Camp - Harmonia School of Music & Art

Ages: 4-18; 703-938-7301 harmoniaschool.org; harmonia@harmoniaschool.org 204-F Mill St. NE, Vienna, VA

Teens, Sibling Discount, Extended Day, Arts, Drama, Music.

# Heart Beats Music & Dance Camps

Ages: 3-16; 703-440-9000 hbeats.com; staff@hbeats.com 8060 Rolling Rd., Springfield, VA

Teens, Sibling Discount, Extended Day, Arts, CIT Program, Dance, Drama, Gymnastics, Martial Arts, Music.

#### InCourage Martial Arts Summer Camp

Ages: 4-12; 703-724-9306 Incouragemartialarts.com; support@ incouragemartialarts.com 42910 Winkle Dr., Ste. 135, Ashburn, VA

Transportation, Arts, Educational Activities, Field Trips, Martial Arts, Sports, Swimming.

>> CONTINUED
ON P. 44









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www.camparistotle.org

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Ages: 4-12; 703-503-0101

Incouragemartialarts.com; support@

incouragemartialarts.com

8932 Burke Lake Rd., Springfield, VA

Transportation, Arts, Educational Activities, Field Trips,

Martial Arts, Sports, Swimming.

#### Mad Science

Ages: 6-11; 301-593-4777; 703-536-9897

**dc.madscience.org** *Educational Activities.* 

#### Metropolitan School of the Arts

Ages: 3+

metropolitanarts.org

Alexandria, VA

Dance.

#### Montessori School of Cedar Lane

703-560-4379

3035 Cedar Lane, Fairfax, VA

Educational.

#### Montessori Country School

mcsherndon.com; info@mcsherndon.com

703-437-8285

621 Alabama Dr., Herndon, VA

#### The Montessori School of McLean

Ages: PreK-6; 703-790-1049 mcleanmontessori.org 1711 Kirby Rd., McLean, VA

Arts, Cooking, Educational Activities, Field Trips, Music.

# The Montessori School of Northern Virginia, Valleybrook Campus

Ages: 3-6; 703-992-0255 msnv.org; info@msnv.org

3433 Rose Ln., Falls Church, VA

Extended Day, Transportation, Arts, Cooking, Dance, Drama, Educational Activities, Field Trips,

Gymnastics, Music, Sports, Yoga.

# The Montessori School of Northern Virginia, Hillbrook Campus

Ages: 3-12; 703-256-9577 msnv.org; info@msnv.org

**6820 Pacific Ln., Annandale, VA** *Extended Day, Transportation, Arts, Cooking, Dance, Drama,* 

Educational Activities, Field Trips,

Gymnastics, Hiking, Music, Sports, Yoga.

#### Northeast Stars Camp

nestars.net

697 N. Washington St., Alexandria, VA

**Educational Activities.** 

**\*** 

#### **Perfect Pointe Dance Studio**

Ages: 3-11; 703-533-8830 perfectpointe.com staff@perfectpointe.com

2499 N. Harrison St., Ste. I-LL Arlington, VA

Dance, Drama, Gymnastics.

#### **Loudoun Country Day School**

Ages: 5-14

lcds.org; info@lcds.org

- Summer Programs

20600 Red Cedar Dr., Leesburg, VA

Extended Day, Sibling Discount, Arts, CIT, Computers, Cooking, Dance, Drama, Educational Activities, Field Trips, Hiking, Music, Photography, Sports, Swimming, Yoga.

#### Pinecrest Pavilion — Pinecrest School

Ages: 4-12; 703-354-3446

 $pinecrest school.org\ ; camp@pinecrest school.org$ 

7209 Quiet Cove, Annandale, VA

Sibling Discount, Extended Day, Arts, Cooking, Dance, Drama. Educational Activities.

#### The Pavillion at Beantree

Ages: 6-13

43635 Greenway Corporate Drive, Ashburn, VA

Educational, Swimming.

#### P-Nats Baseball Camp 2017

Ages: 7-14; 703-590-2311 ext. 254

milb.com; cboggy@potomacnationals.com

G. Richard Pfitzner Stadium

7 County Complex Ct., Woodbridge, VA

Teens, Sports.

#### Reston Montessori School

Ages: 3-9; 703-481-2922

office@restonmontessori.com

1928 Isaac Newton Sq. West, Reston, VA

Extended Day, Arts, Field Trips.

#### **Robotics Summer Camps**

Ages: 6-16; 703-364-5418

robotworksacademy.net; robotworks@cox.net

8992 Fern Park Dr., Ste. 2, Burke, VA

Sibling Discount, Computers, Educational.

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19 West Cork, Winchester VA

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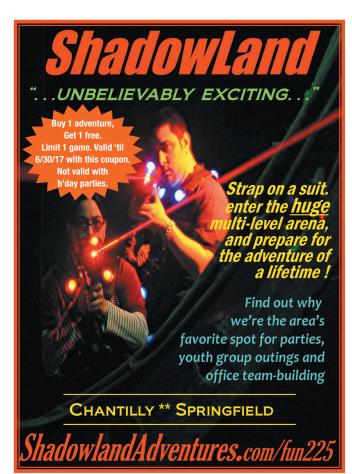
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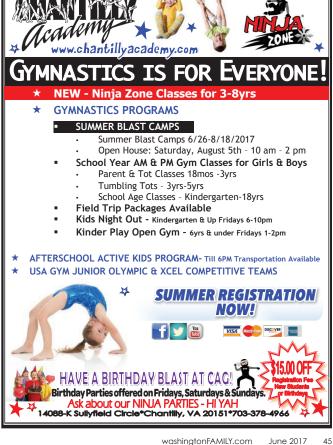


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# How to make your new house FEEL LIKE HOME

elcome to NOVA! Maybe you moved from far away or just crossed the river, either way this is your new home and you are trying to settle in. Whether it is a brand-new construction or new-to-you, you want to feel at home in your new dwelling. One in four homeowners said they regretted purchasing their current home, according to a Harris Poll for Redfin. But amongst the wineries and the monuments in Northern Virginia, you can create a space that is familiar, comfy and fits your lifestyle. Here are a few easy projects to make you feel right at home.

#### **PAINT**

Chances are the previous home owners left their mark with some crazy colors that do not fit your style. Or, the place was painted "realtor white," the basic beige. Paint is an easy way to revamp a space, and make it your own.

If you have a color scheme that worked in your old space, consider repeating them. Familiar elements may help reduce anxiety and help you feel more at home.

But new colors are also a "fresh

start." Bright colors work well in the kitchen, recalling fresh produce and stimulating the appetite.

#### **GET ORGANIZED**

Now is the perfect time to get a handle on your kitchen storage. Hopefully you decluttered before packing, but if not, this is the perfect time. Walk through your new kitchen and set "working stations" that fit your lifestyle, for example a main cooking area, coffee station, kids snack station or even a cocktail station. Now you can unpack according to those stations. Organize items in clear boxes so you can see clearly what's in them and ease access.

#### **PLANTS AND FLOWERS**

It is well known that the green colors are good for relaxation. An easy way to bring a pop of green into your home are with plants and flowers. They bring bright color for just a few dollars. Plants are also known to help clean the air, and the smell of fresh flowers will cheer you up! How about the front yard? If you have room for some personal touch; spruce it up. And don't forget an herb garden for the kitchen. There is nothing

like fresh herbs to flavor your culinary creations in your new kitchen.

#### **GET PERSONAL**

A chalkboard can add a great personal element. Just a small investment and an easy afternoon DIY and you can convert a boring wall in the kitchen to the family communication command center. You can leave fun notes, write to-do lists, plan weekly menus, and keep track of other reminders.

And if all else fails, bake some cookies! There is nothing that says home like the scent of fresh baked cookies! Invite the neighbors, they will be happy to know there is a new baker in town.

Anna Gibson is the owner and chief designer of AKG Design Studio, an award-winning, certified kitchen and bathroom designer. AKG Design Studio is a boutique design firm specializing in kitchen, bathroom designs and cabinetry sales. Contact her at 571-989-2541 or anna@akgdesignstudio. com, and view her work at www. akgdesignstudio.com.



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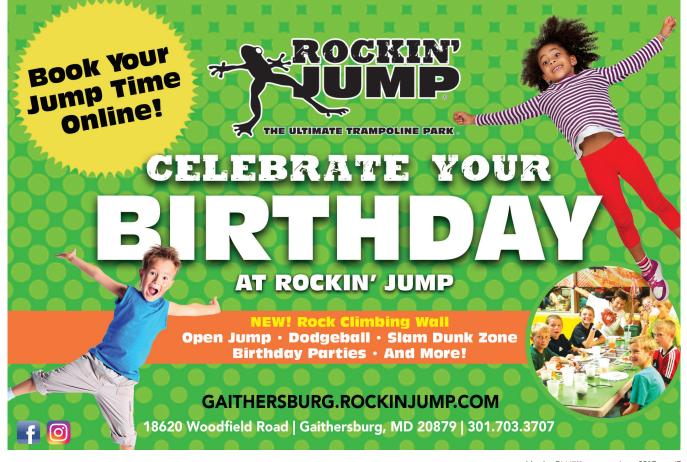
"Since the first second the show started to the last, kids as well as grown-upswere laughing. His tricks are ingenious, funny and interactive." M.M. Kensington, MD Plus

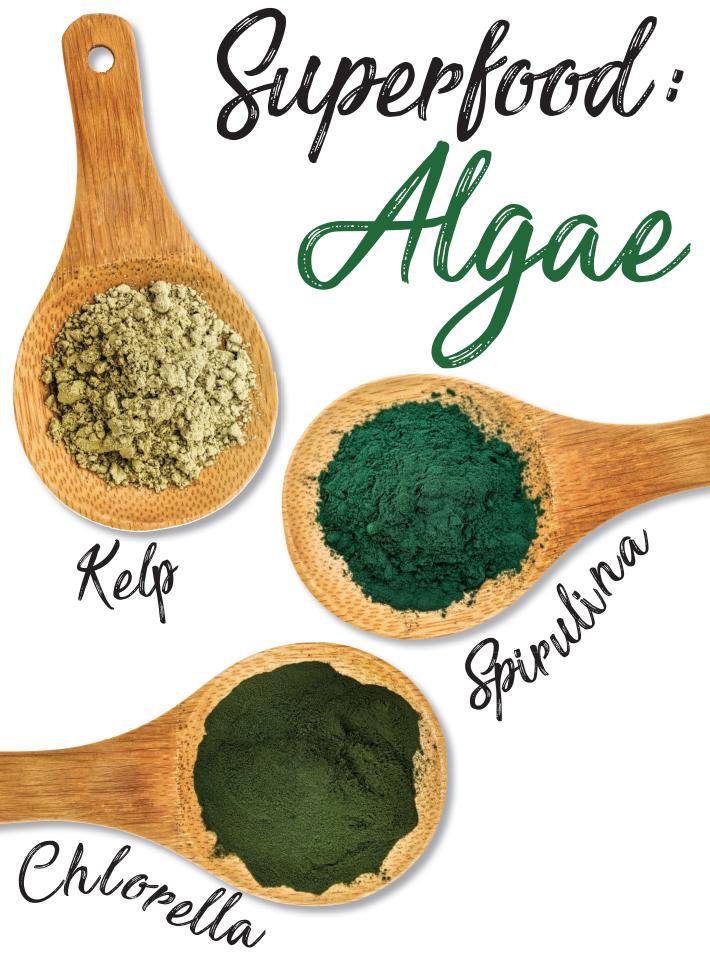
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ou'll never believe that something green and slimy is good for your health. (And we're not talking about green smoothies.)

Algae, yes algae, are rich in health-boosting nutrients, and may help you achieve optimal health.

We're not advocating for you to scrape the gunk off of your fish tank, or to skim the top of a stagnant pond to get your dose of this superfood. Not all algaes are created equal.

Edible algae is so full of nutrients that it may be considered one of the most nutritious foods known to man; beating out eggs, another nutrition powerhouse. Because they're lesser known and conjure an "ick" factor, they are relatively overlooked.

Touted benefits include boosted energy levels, weight loss, and it can even naturally aid in easing anxiety, fatigue, stress and diabetes.

Algae can come in many different edible forms.

The most common is seaweed. Seaweed is popular in Asian countries, most notably wrapped around our favorite sushi rolls, and known as nori. But these sea plants do come in different varieties, all with different benefits.



Kelp, a kind of seaweed, is very unique among its fellow algae. This marine strain is full of iodine, which is critical for thyroid function. It also boasts essential fatty acids, fiber, potassium and sodium. It may aid in cancer prevention, and is also a natural laxative. Sheets of kelp can be added to cooking rice or beans to give tenderness and flavor. It also helps soften

grains and legumes to ease digestion. (Discard the kelp after cooking.) Powdered kelp can be added to smoothies, or it can be simply sprinkled onto savory dishes for a nice salty taste.

A blue-green variety that lends a unique hue to foods is spirulina. A good source of plantbased protein, spirulina has powerful antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties that can help heal and protect against inflammation and other cell damage. A single tablespoon of dried spirulina powder contains four grams of protein, and it may help lower bad cholesterol levels! Spirunlina powder can be added to smoothies or blended into juices-it'll lend a beautiful blue or green color. It can also be taken as a tablet.

Chlorella has a darkgreen color and is full of chlorophyll. Not just for plants, chlorophyll may help the body cleanse and heal its organs. It's also a good source of beta carotene, vitamins B-12, C and E, zinc and selenium. Similar to spirunlina, chlorella can be added to juices or smoothies, and can also be found in tablet form. No matter what type of algae you choose, you can't go wrong with this nutrient-rich food.





The readers have voted for Best for Families and the results will be in the July issue of Washington FAMILY.



















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(571) 392-5959 leport.com/go/enroll-el Our aim is not merely to make the child understand, and still less to force him to memorize, but so to touch his imagination as to enthuse him to his inmost core.

—Dr. Maria Montessori

