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## Alternative spring break umich

If you're like most people, you're probably trying to save money these days, eating less, cutting coupons and launching big ticket purchases. This also means you could stay home for the spring holidays this year because you simply can't spend the money. The good news is that you and your children can still enjoy a fun spring break at home. You've heard of staycation, and we have some ideas for yours. Ad content Install tents in the backyard and have a camping trip in the backyard! Pack your sleeping bags, shoot the grill and grab a couple of flashlights and lawn chairs. Don't let anyone come back to the house, except to use the bathroom, of course. And leave your laptops, mobile phones and hand games behind. Remember, you're camping. For dinner, have a grilled kitchen, and don't forget the blackberries for dessert. Once the night is set, organize some games with the children. Try the flashlight tag, tell ghost stories and even play candlelight board games. Be creative! If you can, invite some of the neighbors and their children to camp as well. The more, the happier. Announcement If the weather makes it impossible to go out and has a video game system, host an Olympic Video Games. Choose video games that are short - not long adventure games; otherwise, people who are not playing will get bored. Choose games such as bowling, ski jumps and tennis. If you plan your Olympic games in advance, you can set up tournaments and hand out prizes or trophies to the top three finishers in each category. If you have a lot of people participating, you can even break them all into teams and use the colors of the team. Make it even more fun by creating fuel stations with sports drinks, protein bars and fruit, so everyone feels like a real athlete! Ad Another great inner activity is a marathon of movies. Plan the movie marathon in advance. Will it have a theme, like alien movies or slapstick comedies? Or will every family member get to choose a favorite movie? Since you're on staycation, you could even choose movies that feature family holidays. Then go to Hollywood for the day. Install a red carpet in the TV room (you can use red vinyl tablecloths). Hang on to classic films and actors. Dress up as your favorite movie star or character and take red carpet photos of each other. To kick off the film, toast one another with sparkling juice or cider. It's a great place to stay. Advert Have you ever noticed that many inhabitants of the big city have never gone sightseeing in their own backyards? Have your New York friends ever walked down the stairs of the Statue of Liberty or stood at the top of the Empire State Building? Sometimes, the day-to-day gets in the way and we forget what the gems are around the corner. Whether you live in a big city or in a small each village has a tourism department. Send a brochure about tourist attractions in your area. Head with your family and choose the places you all want to visit. Then spend a day or two getting to know the area where you live. Historic sites, museums, landmarks - you may be surprised to see what kind of history surrounds you. Advertise Convert your home and backyard into a safari in Africa. Treat the children to a viewing of The Lion King in advance to put them in a mood. Then decorate the house. Make strains of old brown paper paper bags by cutting the bags into strips of three, then twist together to look like the vines. Hang them all over the house with green paper sheets attached. To eat, make Moroccan-style chicken kebabs and other silly snacks for children, such as dried blueberries or raisets (call them dried ants). Seedless grapes are converted into snake eggs. Chips become beetle wings, and any colorful fruit juice can be converted into jungle juice. Assemble an arts and crafts table and make beaded jewellery, paper elephants, giraffes and lions - anything inspired by safari. They play traditional African music in the background. Ad Maybe you can't afford to fly across the country and stay in a good hotel, but who has to say you can't have a good hotel weekend in your hometown? It may sound silly, but it's actually quite relaxing. Pack the family and check in at a local hotel for the weekend. Many hotels now offer stay deals, so be sure to ask. Get a hotel with a swimming pool or spa. Children will love it. And take some time for yourself to get a well-deserved massage or beauty treatment. Think of a local day trip and enjoy returning to a clean and tidy room that night. Put everyone to bed with a movie, and wake up the next morning feeling refreshed and refreshed. Scavenger hunting ad is a lot of fun and take out everyone's competitive sides. Depending on how adventurous you feel - and how many adults you have for supervision - your scavenger hunting can be limited to your backyard, your block or even your entire city. Use your computer to print tracks, maps, and products and hide sites. The tracks can be direct or written as puzzles or poems. A scavenger hunt is actually a great teaching tool for children because clues can contain simple mathematical problems or questions from local history. Leave small prizes along the way (sweets, small toys) with a grand prize for the final winner(s). Announcement Keep your own culinary war, right at home. Here's how you do it: Sit down with your family and vote on a special ingredient. Then you must plan a dish that presents this ingredient. For younger children, give them a parent or older brother to work with, or offer ideas that don't require cooking or knives. For example, if the secret ingredient is cheese, your child could a ball of cheese with biscuits on the side, while a more mature member of the family might choose to make grilled cheese or even fondue. For added difficulties, give each person a budget to work and then go shopping for groceries as a family. During the afternoon, everyone can take turns creating their culinary masterpiece. Enjoy the dishes together, and then fill out secret ballots on which dish was the most successful. Reward the winner with a fun apron or chef's hat. Announcement If you have your whole family all together in one place, put them to work. This time of year is a great time to do some spring cleaning. Create a Spring Cleanout Challenge family. Give each person a goal - maybe you need your tween to get rid of the old toys that he or she doesn't play with anymore. Maybe your children have overcome their clothes and need to prune their wardrobes. Or you can have a lot of old paperwork that needs to be presented or crushed. Once everyone has the goal of getting, let them go with garbage bags, boxes, cleaning supplies and anything else they need to get the job done. Set a time limit so that it doesn't drag all day and all night. In the end, reward everyone with some pizza and plan a family garage sale. Children will be much more willing to play on knowing they might get some cash in the end. Spring advertising is also a wonderful time to start with your garden. If you're lucky enough to have a backyard where you can plant a large garden, get the soil ready in advance. If you live in an apartment or don't have a large patio, plan a container garden where you can plant smaller things like herbs, cherry tomatoes or peppers. During the winter, go shopping then with the children. Let the kids choose one or two things they would like to grow up with - help them make sure they choose something appropriate for the place where you live so you don't discourage them. Start your seedlings in egg cartons or special seedling pots. Children will delight in seeing the seeds sprout and start growing. Then, on Gardening Day, everyone plants their seedlings on their own plot in the garden. And throughout spring and summer, each child is responsible for their own plants. Enjoy the rewards of your work, through fresh salads or beautiful flowers in vases of buds all over the house. For more ideas about family fun, check out the links to the next page. The spring holidays is a great time for a family holiday. Follow these spring getaway tips for families while you're on vacation. Around the world: Stay-Cations. DisneyFamily.com, 2011. (21 of 2011) Stephanie. How to: Plan the perfect stay. Nest again. August 13, 2008. (February 21, 2011) Staycation' Ideas for Families. Family Education. 2011. (February 21, 2011) 2011 Finally, you can go out and get the mail without wearing a winter coat. If you're lucky, there may even be a cute robin on a still-naked tree branch practising its high notes. Spring hasn't quite emerged, but you can smell a change in the air. After a long, rough winter (and this was a beast for many of us) it's good to treat the family to a change of scenery - one where you can spend time outdoors and get your vitamin D from sunlight instead of a daily supplement. Spring holidays aren't just about wild college students and sun lovers. It's about introducing your family to a new season of fun and exploration. You can head south to grandma's house in Boca Raton or take in the latest attractions at your theme park of choice. Whatever your destination, these tips will help make spring holidays easier for you and safer for your offspring. Ad content Of course, you'll definitely remember to pack light clothing and sunscreen for everyone, but there are still some changes from winter to summer that you should keep in mind: It's easy to lose sunscreen when your kids are in and out of the water or aspiring. Apply a wide spectrum, waterproof sunscreen half an hour before going outdoors and reapply every couple of hours. If someone in the family wears sunglasses, make sure they offer full UV protection, too. Have shoes ready. This walk along the beach may be fair to heat your tootsies and give them a refreshing sand bath, but walking back across the asphalt to the car could get hot and dangerous. The same goes for this nature walk or swimming by the pool. Foot protection could save someone from a painful accident. Avoid hot and injured feet to be prepared. Your warm weather destination may not cooperate throughout the trip. Early days of spring can start temperate and turn cold fast. Be sure to wear along your family's clothes you can layer to stay comfortable. Announcement You can have a scheduled vacation asking for a plane trip or are planning a stay that involves short hops to local fun places like the zoo. Children want to get where they go fast, and trips involving long walks that never seem to end can be torture - for everyone involved. For a child, even a relatively short car or plane ride can be an eternity of inactive frustration, and even fear or confusion. Whatever your plan, making transportation safety and travel sanism a priority. To make sure you don't find yourself wishing you'd never left home (and that all feel the same way), observe these travel doses: If you are travelling by car, give your vehicle a check-up before leaving. Make sure your insurance is current and has emergency equipment such as a first aid kit, flares and a mobile phone with you. Package of water and necessary items such as appetizers, formula and diapers for the Too. If you are taking a small child on a plane trip, discuss the options of the child restraining system (CRS) with the airline. Your lap is not the safest option for your child. Some airlines provide CRS seats and help you organize the flight connection. A CRS must be installed in a window seat, so advanced scheduling is required. You may be able to avoid paying more if you travel at peak times when additional seats are normally available. These days, most airlines run most of their flights at or near capacity, so it's important to understand your options. Bring entertaining diversions and snacks. Be creative. A long journey can require many distractions. Explain the travel process to your child. If she has never gone on a long journey or travelled on a plane, bus or train, take the time to walk through the process with her. The more prepared you are for the trip, the more gently you are likely to go. It may even be worth a trip to the airport, train or bus station for her to see what it all looks like and sounds ahead of time. Advertising holiday fun can be more than visiting one expensive place after another. If you make your trip an educational trip, as well as an exciting adventure, you can have almost as much fun planning your holiday trip as you will have experienced it. What types of animals are native to the town you will visit? What is interesting about the history of the area? Once you arrive, museums, parks, walking tours and libraries offer many opportunities for more information. Giving your holiday an educational tilt can be a fun and economical way to enjoy a well-rounded trip. Announcement Be sure to keep your home safe while you're away: Stop mail and newspaper deliveries. Ask trusted neighbours to keep an eye on your property while you're gone. Don't discuss your trip around strangers, and warn your kids to avoid exposing your plans on your favorite social networking site. Be sure to close the doors and windows before leaving. To make your home look like it's still busy, consider installing a timer to turn on and off the interior lights on a regular schedule. If you plan to park your vehicle at the airport, remove your GPS device and leave it at home. If your vehicle is broken, gps could give thieves directions back to your unoccupied and vulnerable home. Holiday travel ad will give your kids a better appreciation of the world around them and get everyone out of the house to enjoy some fresh air. To make sure you're as safe on the road as at home, take these precautions: to someone where you're going and when you're coming back. Stay tuned to the crowds and keep your children close and in your line of sight. Never leave your valuables, such as your handbag, wallet, luggage, keys or unattended identification. Avoid travelling with expensive items such as electronics or valuable jewelry. Do not give your personal information or disclose your plans to strangers. In the thrill of holiday fun, it's easy for kids to forget about safety. Discuss specific security measures of the activity with them before going out to an event. Whether it's about safe practices around strangers or making sure there's a lifeguard on duty in the pool, remind your children about the rules. You want them to stay on a fabulous and safe holiday. Announcement Consider a spring break stay if the money is tight this year. Learn how your family can have fun with these 10 spring stays. Sources from the American Academy of Pediatrics. Spring holiday safety tips. 2/2010. (2/13/11). Travel. A good place to save outside the train station. 2/3/10. (2/13/11). Linda. Spring break tips for parents. 3/17/09. (2/13/11). . Health and safety tips for spring holidays. 9/1/10. (2/13/11). . Spring Break Countdown - Safety Tips for Spring Vacation Travel. No date. (2/13/11). Tips. College spring break tips. No date. (2/13/11). Travel Network. Very good value for money No date. (2/13/11). Top 8 Family Spring Break Vacation Tips - Santa Barbara. No date. (2/13/11). Elizabeth Weiss. Avoid the disasters of the spring holidays. 3/1/10. (2/13/11). Michelle. 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