

Places to go & things to do with babies and toddlers...

Fun Family activities in the South Bay

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| <p>Library Story Times</p> | <p>Check your local library for times! Many ask you to be there early and require a ticket to enter story time!</p> |
| <p>Splash Pads (Bring swimsuits, sunscreen, towels, and water toys)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PV Mall Fountain, El Segundo Plaza Fountain, Alondra Park, Hollyglen Park (Only open in the summer.) |
| <p>Indoor Adventures</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adventure Plex & Toddler Town (MB) - Sillygoose Playground (Lomita) - Art Zone (Hermosa) - Color Me Mine (many locations) - The Coop (Redondo) - Scooters Jungle (El Segundo) - Bruder Truck Warehouse (Hawthorne): Kids can play with Bruder trucks in their special testing room and you can buy trucks at a discount. - Le Funland in Del Amo mall, Dinosaurs in Galleria mall - Sender City - older kiddos |
| <p>Outdoor Adventures</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - South Coast Botanic Gardens: Lots of walking! You may want to bring a stroller! - Local Aquariums: Redondo, Cabrillo, Roundhouse (Manhattan Pier) - Wilson Park Train Ride Check their website for dates & times – they generally run twice a month. Get there early so you don't need to wait in line! We love getting there about 15 minutes before it opens and having a picnic in the park afterward! - Lomita Railroad Museum: Tiny but fun for little train lovers! This is a great place for a birthday party because the park across the street is yours and there's lots of shade. - Torrance Airport: Kids can actually climb into airplanes and play with the controls. - George F Canyon: (Palos Verdes) A great, small hiking area. My boys love to bring nets here and try to catch lizards... which we peacefully release! ☺ - Madrona Marsh: (Torrance) A great place to walk around for some nature time. They have Fun Fridays with interactive lessons for kids. (I wouldn't go to Fun Friday until around 3 years old.) - Farmer's Markets - Glass bottom boat in Redondo harbor or SUPing - Wilderness Park |

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Fun Family activities out of “the Bubble”!

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| <p>Parks</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Irvine Regional Park (This “park” has everything – a train ride which has a special Christmas ride, a zoo, pony rides, paddle boats, hiking, and more!) - Griffith Park: Another example of more than just a park! Check out Shane’s Inspiration – a fully accessible playground, the merry-go-round, pony rides, train rides with LA Steamers, Travel Town train museum, and the LA Zoo. - Irvine Adventure Playground - Huntington Beach Adventure Playground |
| <p>Indoor Adventures / Museums</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - California Science Center (Exposition Park): Admission is free! They have baby/toddler rooms in each section of the museum that are specifically designed for little ones. Look for them on a map or ask a docent to help you find them. ☺ There is a beautiful rose garden out the back of the science center – we love to bring a picnic lunch here and get ice cream from the “ice cream man” who usually pushes a cart around the garden. (The garden is closed January through March for pruning.) - Pretend City (Irvine): Pretend grocery store, doctor’s office, marina, farm, and more! I love this place for pretend play with toddlers. Pack snacks/lunch because dining options aren’t within walking distance. - Skirball Center (Noah’s Ark exhibit): Buy tickets online ahead of time. There are specific admission times. - Museum of Natural History: Dino bones. ☺ They have a yearly Butterfly Pavilion which is great for babies and toddlers – usually opens in late summer. - LACMA (Los Angeles County Museum of Art): Be sure to sign your little one up for their NextGen program! Free admission for them and 1 adult until 17 yrs old. Make sure to check out the Boone’s Children’s Gallery (not open on Wednesdays), where your little one can create art! Accessible to artists as young as “high-chair age”. - The Getty & Getty Villa - Kidspace Museum (Pasadena): My favorite part of this museum for babies and toddlers is the outdoor river/water feature and gardens. Bring sunscreen, a swimsuit, and a change of clothes, and check the weather before you go if you’re planning on taking advantage of playing in the water. They also have a “field trip meter” on their website that is great to check before you go. It can get hectic there with field trips! - Zimmer Children’s Museum (Wilshire - moving to Santa Monica in late 2018) Check out their baby art crawl! - Discovery Cube (OC): Be on the lookout for special exhibits. Their annual “bubblefest” is generally a hit with young ones. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bob Barker's Marionettes - STAR Ecostation in Culver City - Animal rescue - Long Beach Aquarium |
| Outdoor adventures | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tanaka Farms: (OC) We love to get a pumpkin here every fall. There is a corn maze, huge patch, tractor ride, and more. - Underwood Farms: (Moorpark) We love to go strawberry picking here every year. We go on the train ride, in the petting zoo, watch the animal show, and more! It's a great tradition to start with a group of friends. ☺ They also have a great pumpkin patch in the fall. - Los Angeles Zoo - Santa Ana Zoo - Huntington Library and Gardens: (San Marino) Check out the Children's Garden! - Adventure City: An amusement park that has rides specifically catered toward the younger crowd. We took Ash when he was 2 and he could ride almost everything and nothing was scary! They also have a petting zoo. - Knott's Berry Farm: (OC) They have a "Camp Snoopy" area with lots of rides accessible to little ones! Of all the theme parks we've been to, this (and Adventure City) was the most fun and least scary for my kids. - Descanso Gardens - forest of light |
| Other stuff... | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hollywood Bowl Rehearsals: (Hollywood) Did you know that many of the rehearsals at the Hollywood Bowl are open to the public for free? Tuesdays, Thursdays, and some Fridays at 9:30. Depending on the show, some rehearsals are closed, so be sure to call before you go. We love to pack a picnic lunch to eat in the top picnic area as a little break from the music. - Live music concerts at local parks, Terranea and the Grove - Fillmore North Pole Express: (Fillmore – a couple of hours away) This activity is a trek! And be warned it's super cheesy! Dress your kids in their Christmas jammies, board the train, sing carols and eat cookies & milk with the elves, and take photos with Santa. Again... it's super cheesy and a time investment, but something about seeing all the kids running around in their jammies eagerly awaiting a visit with Santa is super magical. One of my very favorite memories with our kids. ☺ - Rose Bowl Floats: (Pasadena) You can see the floats as they are being built, and the day after the parade before they're taken apart! |

*** Check out Hula Frog or Red Tricycle for weekly emails with local activities!