

Raising a family is expensive. Check out our newest guide for ways to earn money as a stay at home parent and a clever (and low cost) way to both save money and keep your child's mind engaged and learning this summer.

## Skip the Summer Learning Slide

Washtenaw County museums offer a low cost way to keep children learning this summer

By Laura Eliason

**PENNY PINCHING**



**GUIDE**

Whether you're a stay-at-home parent or a working parent, it's likely that summertime gets tough. When kids are home all day, or at least out of the routine of school, they seem to get bored easily, and entertaining children can be expensive.

Summer can also lead to the learning slide observed by teachers and researchers. Research shows that it takes teachers approximately five weeks to get students back into the swing of learning after their summer break. Museum visits, which are often free, offer a great way to keep kids engaged in learning this summer, keeping their minds active and thereby avoiding the summer slide.

### Streaming access

Leslie Mueller is the producer and host of the new 10-part series Museum Access airing on public television station WTVS in Detroit and on Amazon Prime. Each 30-minute episode takes viewers behind-the-scenes at some of the country's top museums such as Chicago's Shedd Aquarium and the Museum of Science and Industry offering exciting stories, in-depth conversations with experts and fascinating footage.

Museums motivate learning, offering a wealth of knowledge on topics that we may not consider as interesting until we dive in i.e. marine biology, astronomy, history, music

Parents can enhance learning by tasking simple projects related to the museum visits.

For younger children, create fun games i.e. "How many colors did you see in that painting?" or "How many planets did we learn about today?"

Take advantage of the museum activity sheets: visit the front desk before your visit and use the sheets as a teaching moment and discussion tools after your visit.

Follow these tips and check out the list of area museums that offer free or low cost entry to keep your children's minds engaged in learning all summer long.

### Find It Online

15 Ways to Earn Extra Money as a Mom  
Flexible jobs that make a reasonable income

## Area Museums Offering Free (Or Nearly Free) Admission This Summer



**University of Michigan Museum of Natural History**  
Biological Sciences Building,  
1105 N. University Ave.  
734-764-0478  
lsa.umich.edu/umnh  
Sun-Wed & Fri-Sat, 9am-5pm.  
Thurs, 9am-8pm.  
Free admission.  
Donations appreciated.

**University of Michigan Museum of Art**  
525 S. State St.  
734-764-0395  
umma.umich.edu  
Tues-Sat, 11am-5pm.  
Sun, 12-5pm  
Free admission.  
Donations appreciated.



**Ypsilanti Historical Society**  
220 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti  
734-482-4990  
ypsilantihistoricalsociety.org  
Tues-Sun, 2-5pm  
Free. Donations appreciated.

**Stearns Collection of Musical Instruments**  
Earl V. Moore Building of the School of Music,  
Theatre & Dance, Vesta Mills Gallery, 1100 Baits Dr.  
734-936-2891  
smt.d.umich.edu/research/stearns-collection/  
Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm  
Free admission.



**Michigan Firehouse Museum**  
110 W. Cross St., Ypsilanti  
734-547-0663  
michiganfirehousemuseum.org  
Thurs-Sun, 12-4pm  
\$5/adult. \$3/children ages 5-12.  
Free admission for children 4 and under.



**Kelsey Museum of Archaeology**  
434 S. State St.  
734-764-9304  
lsa.umich.edu/kelsey  
Tues-Fri, 9am-4pm.  
Sat-Sun, 1-4pm  
Free admission. Donations appreciated.

**The Museum on Main Street**  
500 N. Main St.  
734-662-9092  
washtenawhistory.org  
Sat and Sun, 12-4pm  
Free admission.  
Donations appreciated.



**Rentschler Farm Museum**  
1265 E. Michigan Ave., Saline  
734-944-0442  
salinehistory.org/rentschler-farm-museum  
Sat, 11am-3pm  
Free admission.



**Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum**  
220 E. Ann St.  
734-995-5439  
aahom.org  
Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat, 10am-5pm. Tues,  
9am-5pm.  
Thurs, 10am-8pm. Sun, Noon-5pm  
\$5 admission after 5pm on Thursdays only  
with extended hours to 8pm  
\$12.50/adults and children  
Free admission for babies 0-23 months

**Sindcuse Museum of Dentistry**  
1011 N. University - G565  
734-763-0767  
dent.umich.edu/about-school/sindcuse-museum  
/sindcuse-museum-dentistry  
Mon-Fri, 8am-6pm  
Free admission.

**Saline History & Depot Museum**  
402 N. Ann Arbor St., Saline  
734-944-0442  
salinehistory.org/depot-museum  
Sat, 11am-3pm  
Free admission.



**Ypsilanti Automotive Heritage Museum**  
100 E. Cross St., Ypsilanti  
734-482-5200  
ypsiautoheritage.org  
Tues-Sun, 1-4pm  
\$5/person. Under 12 free.



**Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library**  
1000 Beal Ave.  
734.205.0555  
fordlibrarymuseum.gov  
Mon-Fri, 8:45am-4:45pm  
Free admission.



**Imagination Station**  
1 Discovery Way, Toledo  
419-244-2674  
Imaginationstationtoledo.org  
Tues-Sat, 10am-5pm. Sun, Noon-5pm  
\$5 admission after 5pm every third Thursday of  
the month, with extended hours to 8pm  
\$13/age 13-64, \$11/age 3-12,  
Free for children 2 and under