

Little Day Out

PRICELESS magazine for families

Let's
Play!

What is Play?

Lakeside Escape

Off to the Races

Wild Encounters

Bejewelled Bites

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Outdoor
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in Singapore

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ISSUE 1, 2019

big adventures for little ones



Mid-year 2019

● Features

- What is Play? 3
- Lakeside Escape 6
- A Play-inspired Life 8
- Play in the City 9

● Play

- Get Out and Play 10
- Indoor Fun for All Ages 12

● Outdoors

- Slow and Steady Wins the Race 14
- Off to the Races 15

● Travel

- Adventures in Taipei 16
- Encounters in the Wild 18

● Food

- Bejewelled Bites 20

● Look

- In Full Play 21

● Classifieds 22

● Activity

- Homemade Playdough 23
- Let's Play! 24



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Nature Playgarden at HortPark
Model: Tiffany Fang
Photography: Geraldine Leong



Won't You Come and Play with Me?

by Kim Quek

Play - by definition - is purposeless, all-consuming and fun, but arguably anything but trivial. Amidst the scripted lessons and plethora of metrics within today's classrooms, and the packed and structured schedules without, the unfettered play of yesteryear would seem to be at a premium for our young ones these days.

But is it still relevant?

We asked several individuals who are no strangers to play to weigh in on the topic. "What is play?" we asked them.



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Dr Elaine Kim

Co-founder and CEO of Trehaus

Where are your favourite places in Singapore?

We have a membership at Universal Studios and my boys love going there. Kids are welcome at our private club 1880 during the weekends so we often catch up with friends for playdates and a meal there. When Trehaus Family Club opens in August this year I know we will spend a lot of time there. There's something for our whole family under one roof - the indoor playground with sandpit and beach house for Nate, soccer, coding and music enrichment classes for Kyan and Luke, yoga and Pilates for me and hotdesking space for my husband to get a bit of work done if needed.

What activities do you engage in as a family?

We go out for family meals regularly. We also are involved in church activities as a family, the kids attend Sunday school and have a close-knit community of friends there. Also, we do play dates at our place and friends' houses.

Where are your favourite familial dining haunts?

Genki Sushi - we all love Japanese food and the boys don't seem to stop being delighted by the conveyer belt trains - and 1880 Club which I think has the best burger in town. And soon, I expect our favourite dining haunt will be Little House of Dreams at Trehaus Club. We created it because there isn't a place we could find with both delicious healthy food as well as a playspace for kids.

What are your biggest challenges as a parent?

For me the biggest challenge is finding balance: between pursuing a successful career and spending time with family, between encouraging independence while providing safe boundaries and between giving kids freedom and fun while developing grit and a good work ethic. In many ways, Trehaus was created to find solutions to the challenges I found in my own life as a working mother and a parent.

Why do you value family time?

Family is the most important thing to me. Kids grow up so fast and I value the time I have with them so much. It's a great joy spending time with them but there's also a precious opportunity to shape their characters and help them grow up with good values and make a positive difference in the world.

Elaine is Co-founder and CEO of Trehaus. She continues to practise medicine as a palliative care doctor at St Luke's Hospital, and remains involved in various charitable causes. She is married to venture capitalist John Kim and they have three young children.

What is Play?

“ Play is the combination of creativity, physical activity and fun with no requirement for measurable outcomes. ”



Dr Natalie Epton, Paediatrician and Neonatologist, SBCC Baby & Child Clinic

“ Play is second nature to humans. When we engage through our senses—touch, smell, sight, sound or taste, it leaves a lasting imprint in our brain, an impression that is pleasurable, stimulating and experiential. Play is a lifetime requirement - it continues to develop us as we grow, to stimulate our senses, teach self-discovered lessons, to create memories and opportunities to bond with family. ”



Debbie Leung, Marketing Manager, Playhao

“ Play is a response to the world. Often play is explained as children's work, but it is not. Instead, play comes to children naturally and lays the foundation for attitudes towards the world in adulthood. Play initiates the development of executive functions, provides brain synchronisations and creates opportunities to imagine, innovate and create. People play their whole life, with life, with opportunities, with words and with feelings. In the new millennium with its technological advances and globalisation, play, the arts and creative engagement will be what classroom learning was to the 20th century. ”



Esther Joosa, Director of Pedagogy, Playeum

“ Play is a very serious activity for children. Through it, they make sense of the world and learn about big ideas. Playing with a cash register toy can teach them about money and the economy, while dressing up as a fireman may fan ambitions of making a positive impact in society. Play allows children to discover, invent and innovate – things that can't be learnt from a textbook. A culture of fun and play builds emotionally resilient, sociable and creative adults! ”

Sophia Huang, children's author and mother of two



“ Over the years, NParks has developed many outdoor playgrounds set in nature and have nature-inspired elements islandwide. NParks will be integrating play with nature within the next few years in the form of nature playgardens, which use natural materials and comprise curated play features for children to engage in child-directed spontaneous play. This encourages creative play and decision making, and thus enhancing the children's overall well-being and increasing their self-confidence and creative expression. The design and programming of such nature playgardens allow children to reconnect with nature. ”

Tan Jun Chao, Director Parks Planning, National Parks Board



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Lakeside Escape

by Lester Ng

Jurong Lake Gardens is the third national gardens after Singapore Botanic Gardens and Gardens by the Bay, and the first in the heartlands. Developed with an emphasis on nature, community and play, Lakeside Garden offers a lush recreational setting by the lake with various attractions for all to enjoy.



Forest Ramble

Inspired by the animals found in a freshwater swamp, Forest Ramble is a 2.3-hectare playgarden that will get kids climbing, swinging and jumping. Explore different activity areas like Heron Play, Otter Play and Frog Play at Forest Ramble, the largest outdoor playgarden in the heartlands.



Rasau Walk

Stroll along a 300-metre boardwalk situated above the waters of Jurong Lake. View more than 50 species of plants at a restored freshwater swamp. From Rasau Walk, proceed to the adjacent Grasslands or explore the natural beauty of Neram Streams and Heron Island.

PAssion WaVe

Enjoy fun waterfront sports and lifestyle programmes at PAssion WaVe. Go paddle-boating and kayaking, or enjoy arts, food & beverage and health & wellness programmes, with views of the iconic Twin Pagodas nearby.



Clusia Cove

Wade into the water at Clusia Cove, a water play area comprising a Tidal Play Pool and Sand Play Pool. Experience the rise and fall of the tides at the shallow Tidal Play Pool. Over at the sand play area, children can observe how water movements create wave-sculpted ripples in the sand.



ActiveSG Park



This Sport Singapore facility is the first to be located within NPark's Gardens and features an integrated lap and training pool, a wading pool, outdoor fitness area and a fully air-conditioned indoor gym. The publicly accessible roof deck also provides sweeping views of Lakeside Garden.

A Play-inspired Life

By Trina Fang

Intrigued by the Montessori pedagogy after reading a book on it, Stay-At-Home-Mum Cheryl Ow, 38, has been actively bringing up her daughter, Emma - now two and a half - the Montessori way, and sharing snippets of their home-life with the world on Instagram.

Play is the Work of Children

It's hard not to be wowed and inspired as you scroll through the squares depicting Cheryl and Emma's daily life.

Think age-appropriate prepared environments where an Ikea play kitchen has been hacked to allow Em to wash vegetables, or an open pantry where the little one can prepare a snack for herself.

If anything, Cheryl makes it look easy, almost effortless, to live the Montessori life.

"Don't be fooled by the pictures on Instagram! It has taken a lot of trial, error, and determination to get to where we are today. Each new day is different and I am still constantly learning," quipped Cheryl.

On a typical morning, you'll probably find Cheryl and Em outdoors getting in a dose of Vitamin D.

The afternoons are reserved for exploring museums, going to the library, or just staying home for practical work, like preparing dinner or washing the car.



Let Children be Children

It's Cheryl's hope that Em remembers her early childhood being spent in nature and always being free to explore her surroundings.

Driven by the philosophy that play is the work of children, Cheryl makes sure to invest in good quality open-ended toys for Em, which is how she chanced upon the Wobbel Board, a curved balance board that stimulates balance and strength.

A certified yoga practitioner, Cheryl now conducts outdoor WobbelYoga classes for children through her school, Tiny Movements Co., which she founded in 2017.

Let children be children, Cheryl often reminds herself, because it is through play that a child - and often times, the parent too - learns self-regulation to one day becoming a productive member of society.



PHOTOS: OW MONTESSORI FAMILY

Play in the City

By Trina Fang

One of the largest playgrounds along Orchard Road not only has slides that children can enjoy but also a play-pretend road, complete with white lane markings, that little ones can imagine they are driving about, on.

Tucked away from the bustle of urban traffic, MindChamps PreSchool @ Concorde Hotel's playground is a colourful outdoor space, designed to fire up the imaginations of children.

Occupying the centre of the playground are two whimsical "shoe-houses" that would make Mother Hubbard proud. The blue-and-red play structures allow MindChamps PreSchool @ Concorde Hotel's preschoolers, also known as Champs, to build their confidence and motor skills through play.

At one end of the colourful play space are little hexagonal-shaped cubbies where the Champs can play and interact with one another. The Champs can also enjoy the thrill of the bright red tube slide or a game of Tic-Tac-Toe at this cosy spot in the playground.

Holistic Development

The outdoor playground is just one of the facilities that preschoolers at MindChamps PreSchool @ Concorde Hotel can enjoy. There is also an impressive three-metre-long aquarium of marine fish that greets them each day at the Centre's reception area.

Not just an enchanting sight to behold, this specially-designed aquarium is used as a learning tool and incorporated into the curriculum by way of thematic learning sessions. Such facilities at the Centre are used to support the Champs' learning and development.

Nurturing a Champion Mindset

At MindChamps PreSchool @ Concorde Hotel, children get to benefit from the '3-Mind' Educational Model. Based on research in the fields of Education, Psychology, Neuroscience and Theatre, the 3-Mind Model is made up of the Learning Mind, the Champion Mind and the Creative Mind. It is designed to instil the right mindset in children from an early age.

Classroom activities are conducted by teachers who have up to 200 hours of training based on the S.M.I.L.E.S. (Sensory, Motor, Intellectual, Linguistic, Emotional and Social) principle, a holistic approach that nurtures young minds.

Not only are MindChamps PreSchool @ Concorde Hotel's spacious and brightly-lit classrooms conducive for learning but the Champs also get to enjoy and interact with one another at the Centre's large gourmet room where they have their Gourmet Moments enrichment classes and their meals.

Moreover, there is the outdoor playground too, of course!

Book a Centre Visit

To learn more about MindChamps PreSchool @ Concorde Hotel (Orchard), arrange a visit by contacting the Centre at **6235 2358** or make an appointment at join.mindchampsprechool.org.



PHOTOS: MINDCHAMPS PRESCHOOL @ CONCORDE HOTEL (ORCHARD)

PHOTOS: GERALDINE LEONG, LESTER NG

Get Out and Play



By Trina Fang

Outdoor play is so important for, and beneficial to, growing children. From making Vitamin D through sun exposure to honing problem-solving skills, and learning to take calculated risks, being outside is the best teacher and medicine a child can have.

FUN

Fortunately, aside from taking a ball or the bike to the park, there are a ton of great outdoor play options in Singapore - some just right at our doorstep!

For the toddlers



Nature Playgarden. HortPark

HortPark's Nature Playgarden, one of the newest playgrounds on the block, was designed to bring our children closer to nature.

Instead of rubber mulch flooring, you'll find sand, soil, and grass in the Nature Playgarden while teepee-like structures made out of recycled timber decking take the place of steel climbing frames and plastic slides.

Targeted at children aged two to six, imagination is a child's best friend at HortPark's Nature Playgarden.



Swamp Playground. Toa Payoh Crest

Located at Block 131 Toa Payoh Lorong 1, the Toa Payoh Crest Playground pays homage to the history of its location, with Toa Payoh meaning "big swamp" in Hokkien.

The Toa Payoh Crest Playground makes use of sloping terrain to create a play space that recreates the experience of crossing a swamp through the use of rope bridges and stepping stones.

Given the various obstacles and tunnel slides, this is not your typical neighbourhood playground, and will surely challenge active children!



For the active

For the adventurous

Forest Adventure. Bedok Reservoir



If you have little adrenaline-junkies at home, Forest Adventure at Bedok Reservoir Park will definitely give them a run for their money.

Comprising three different outdoor adventure courses, Forest Adventure offers children aged five and above the chance to experience zip-lining and rope obstacle crossing in a safe and supervised environment.

The Kids Course is made up of 22 obstacle crossings, while the Junior Course - which goes over the water - has 26. The Grand Course provides the ultimate challenge with 3 zip-lines that go over water and a whopping 44 obstacles.

Working up a sweat at Forest Adventure is an understatement!



ADVENTURE

Indoor Fun for All Ages

By Carolyn Chiam



Looking for super-fun, indoor play spaces popular with families and kids across ages? There are plenty of fantastic options in Singapore where kids can explore, work off excess energy, make new friends or simply engage in imaginative play!

Check out these really nifty places to beat the heat while bonding and playing with your kids, regardless of age.

Sensory Sandy Dandy

This cool playscape features an indoor sandpit coupled with a wooden boat and slide structure – perfect for sensory exploration. It has plenty of clean soft sand and beach toys for babies and toddlers to scoop, dig and play with to their heart's content – sans the heat outdoors.



For the toddlers



Drive into Tayo Station

Explore an expansive themed indoor space based on the colourful “Tayo the Little Bus” cartoon series. There are multiple zones including a mini ball-pit and play equipment like slides where kids can be kids. A three-storey climbing frame and maze of obstacles are sure to delight children. Fans of Tayo the Little Bus will absolutely love the awesome road circuit with pit stops such as the Garage, Wash n’ Go and Pump Kiosk. Take a drive into Tayo Station for exciting fun times!



For young kids



For tweens & teens



Scaling New Heights at Clip 'n Climb

Ideal for older children and their parents, this indoor rock climbing facility offers innovative scaling opportunities across all skill levels. Attractive features include 19 exciting colourful climbing challenges with different levels of difficulty. Themed climbing walls provide thrilling experiences en route to each peak! Expect tons of excitement and mental stimulation at this indoor climbing theme park.



Slow and Steady Wins the Race

By Trina Fang



The Live Turtle and Tortoise Museum is the only venue in Singapore where you can get up-close and personal with over 700 turtles and tortoises from more than 40 different species.

Managed by Connie Tan and a couple of dedicated workers, The Live Turtle and Tortoise museum - located at ORTO - is as much about one family's legacy, as it is about a real love for these gentle giants.

"There is no where else in Singapore you can go to learn about so many different types of turtles and tortoises. I'll do what it takes to keep the museum going for as long as possible," said Connie who regards the turtles, tortoises, and terrapins as her pets.

In fact, the idea of a venue to allow Singaporeans to experience live turtles came about because of Connie's love for these creatures from a young age.



The Live Turtle and Tortoise Museum is located at 81 Lor Chencharu, Singapore 769198 and opens daily from 10 am to 6 pm.

Free-ranging Tortoises

Unlike in a zoo, the tortoises can roam freely during the day, while the terrapins bask languidly by the pond.

Visitors have the opportunity to stroke the tortoises and feed them snake beans that you buy from the museum.

Aside from being face-to-face with hundreds of turtles and tortoises, you will also get to admire over 3,600 turtle-themed artefacts. We're talking turtle-everything, from jade sculptures to soft toys!

"My father travelled a lot, and he would buy as many different turtle artefacts as he could find from the countries he visited. Some of the artefacts you'll see are made out of very rare materials and gemstones - they truly are priceless."

A Turtle-Y Eye-opening Experience

At just \$10 per adult and \$5 for children aged 3 and above, you definitely need to pencil in a family visit to the Live Turtle and Tortoise Museum.

PHOTOS: TRINA FANG, CARISSA SOH

Off to the Races

By Lester Ng

Go-karting is a thrilling activity that is sure to get the adrenaline going. Whether powering down the straight or drifting around the corners, it is an experience that will not soon be forgotten. Rev up the engines and get ready to shift into gear at these go-karting circuits around Singapore.



Maximum Drift

Maximum Drift is designed for thrill-seekers and speed-hunters to experience drifting sideways. Kids as young as five years old can get a taste of go-karting along Maximum Drift's approximately 200-metre-long track.

ORTO, 81 Lorong Chencharu, #01-15, Singapore 769198

"Drifting may not be the quickest way to get around a corner, but it is definitely the most exciting."

- Don Tay, Founder & Managing Partner, Maximum Drift Karting Arena



The Karting Arena

The Karting Arena is an electric fun karting circuit that has been designed as a leisure track for day or night karting. It is easily manoeuvrable for first-time drivers, without sacrificing the excitement for seasoned drivers. The 500-metre-long track has nine turns that include sweeping corners, a hairpin and chicane. Drivers need to be at least nine years old and 1.4 metres tall to get behind the wheel at The Karting Arena.

The Grandstand, 200 Turf Club Road, #01-01B, South Car Park, Singapore 287994

"You can experience karting no matter what level you are."

- Claire Jedrek, Owner, The Karting Arena

KF1 Karting Circuit Kranji

KF1 Karting Circuit Kranji is Singapore's largest and first permanent CIK-FIA certified track. The whopping 960-metre-long track designed by renowned F1 track designer, Hermann Tilke, has a 120-metre straight and 18 corners. KF1 Kranji caters to drivers of all skill levels, from recreational drivers to the semi-pros and pros who own personal race karts.

1 Turf Club Avenue, Singapore 738078



KF1 Karting Circuit Arena

Located within Arena Country Club, KF1 Arena has a track length of 780 metres with 14 turns. The track is engineered for faster straights and shorter bends, and is equipped with F1-style night lights for after-dark karting activities.

511 Upper Jurong Road, Singapore 638366

IMAGES COURTESY OF THE KARTING ARENA, KF1 KARTING CIRCUIT, MAXIMUM DRIFT

Adventures in Taipei

Ten years ago, my husband and I visited Taipei, Taiwan and fell in love with the people and the experience. So we were really happy to be able to introduce this city to our almost eight-year-old on a recent trip. If you're thinking about where to go for your next family holiday, Taipei is definitely a good idea!

Bamboo Skyscraper

Visiting the iconic Taipei 101 is a must. At 508 metres tall and shaped like a gigantic stalk of bamboo, the skyscraper is a symbol of Taipei and almost impossible to miss from every angle.

Make sure you see the 660-tonne wind damper, the only one in the world to be opened for public viewing. It's the reason why you don't feel the building swaying when you're at the top floors!



Weird Rocks & Taiwanese Pineapple Pastry Making

One of our trip highlights was a day tour to Shifen, Jiufen and Yehliu Geopark. This included a hands-on Taiwanese pineapple pastry-making session.

Our Shifen experience centred around the releasing of sky lanterns, which are symbols of hope. Before we could release our lantern, we had to "design" it. Our little one, in a moment of genius, said, "Why don't we write 步步高升?", a Chinese greeting that wishes its recipients success in rising up the ranks at work. Perfect!

Next destination: Jiufen. According to our guide, legend has it that nine families used to live in this village within the hills. Every time a family made the long trip downhill, it would always divide its purchases into nine portions – pronounced "jiu fen" in Mandarin – one for each household. Hence the name.

Today, Jiufen is a pretty tourist attraction with delicious local street food, teahouses and souvenir shops lining its famous old street.

There are many food choices at Jiufen. Some of those that we tried included the award-winning A-Gan Yi Taro Balls,



TAIWAN



By Wong Wai Ling

the Ah Lan Hakka Glutinous Rice Cake and the famous A-Zhu Peanut Ice Cream Roll. But our favourite street eat was grilled sea snails with five spice powder. Even our little one liked this snack!

Our next stop, Yehliu Geopark, was a beauty. Located along the Yehliu cape on the north coast of Taiwan, its claim to fame is its large number of rock formations shaped by wind and water erosion.

The most renowned rock at the geopark is 'Queen's Head', so called because it resembles the head of Queen Elizabeth that we see on British coins – but only when viewed from the right angle.

Besides the Queen's Head, there are many other interesting rock formations at Yehliu Geopark, such as 'Candle Rock', 'Fairy's Shoe', and even 'Ice Cream Rock' and 'BBQ Drumstick'! Children will be utterly intrigued!

We ended off the day tour with Taiwanese pineapple pastry making at the Shu Shin Bou Wagashi Museum. Our task was to stuff the filling into the dough and shape the final product into a square. Not easy for baking novices like us! It was fun nonetheless, leaving us with fond memories and pineapple tarts we could be proud to call our own.

To read more about Wai Ling's Taiwan adventure, go to Ido.sg/taipeiwithkids.



BEST
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in Singapore

Ido.sg/youtube

Ido.sg/insta



PHOTOS: PIRABAY, WONG WAI LING

Encounters in the Wild

By Lester Ng

“They look just like puppies!”

exclaimed my daughter as we got closer to the thousands of seals basking in the warm sun.

It was turning out to be an awesome eco-adventure on Phillip Island and the ecoboat tour out to sea to meet the Australian Fur Seals in their natural habitat was definitely a highlight.

Seals at Sea

Just a short time ago, we were at Cowes, the main town on Phillip Island, boarding the *Sea Sprinter* at the jetty. As we strapped ourselves into our seats on the boat, excitement filled the air as we thought about the prospect of seeing Australia’s largest colony of fur seals.

We didn’t have to wait for long as the boat zipped through the water towards Seal Rocks, approximately one-and-a-half kilometres off the rugged south-western coast of Phillip Island.

Visiting Seal Rocks is a truly multi-sensory experience. It is home to an estimated 30,000 seals and we could smell their collective scent before we even got to see them. The rocky outcrop is a protected area but the ecoboat had a special permit that allowed it to get in close. This gave us the chance to have an eye-opening encounter with these magnificent marine animals in their natural environment.

We watched as the seals lazed about, sunning themselves in happy bliss. We listened as they cried out loudly to one another, as if to say, “The strange-looking visitors in the floaty thing have arrived.” The more curious seals jumped into the surf and swam out towards the boat. They seemed as intrigued to see us as we were to see them.

Our guide explained that a census of the seal colony is carried out every few years and the latest numbers show that the colony is shrinking.

As we bobbed up and down on the water, this made us reflect on the need to make responsible choices to help protect wildlife. It brought home the message of



conservation better than any talk about plastic bags or epic nature documentary could ever hope to do.

The seals, with their big puppy-like eyes, had won over our hearts, and those of everyone in the boat.



Walk up to a Koala

Earlier in the day, we had visited the island’s Koala Reserve.

Dedicated to preserving Phillip Island’s koala population, the Koala Reserve has an interpretation centre with plenty of fascinating information about the adorable-looking marsupials.

However, the highlight of the Koala Reserve visit was the encounter with koalas in their natural habitat. Specially-built boardwalks brought us face-to-face with the sleepy koalas in an eucalyptus woodland. We even spotted the odd wallaby that had decided to hop by to say, “Hi.”



Join the Parade

As the evening arrived, we joined the rest of the crowds waiting patiently at Phillip Island’s most popular attraction, the Penguin Parade.

Standing at an average height of just 33 cm, Little Penguins are the smallest species of penguins in the world. However, what they lacked in stature, they more than made up in charm and personality.

At the Penguin Parade, the Little Penguins were greeted with excitement as they slowly emerged from the sea and marched their way up the beach.

A boardwalk which connects the visitor centre to the beach runs along the pathways used by the penguins to return to their burrows. This afforded us a close-up look at these petite wonders.

It is hard not to be charmed by the Little Penguins and it is not surprising that so many people flock to see them every evening.

It had been a fulfilling day out at Phillip Island, one filled with the wonders of nature and the joys of shared family experiences. Moreover, there was plenty to talk about as we made the two-hour drive back to Melbourne.

For more Melbourne stories, visit ldo.sg/melbourne.



little day out *Travel with Little Day Out*

Get inspirational travel ideas and tips for your next great family adventure!

Visit ldo.sg/travel

Bejewelled Bites

By Carissa Soh

Jewel Changi Airport has over 100 restaurants and eateries. Choosing between them can be quite a chore. To help you sort through the myriad of choices, here are some suggestions of eateries that will satisfy the family when tummies get rumbling or the sweet tooth kicks in.



Emack & Bolio

Hailing all the way from the USA, Emack & Bolio is well known for its wide variety of loaded cones, shakes, chocolates, dessert pizzas and more! Sample wild ice cream flavours beyond just chocolate, strawberry or vanilla – try space cake, moose tracks and grasshopper pie! Indulge with the peace of mind knowing that these aesthetic ice creams don't contain any added dyes or milk from genetically hormone-induced cows. Remember to take that instagrammable picture before you take the first bite!

JW360°

Enjoy a delicious Japanese meal at the restaurant before adjourning to the café for some irresistible pastries and then engaging in retail therapy at the shop. Whether you are biting into the succulent mixed katsu set or sampling gelato with unusual flavours like Soba-Cha and Japanese Whisky, you will be glad to indulge in a taste of Japan at JW360°.



Pink Fish

Food that is healthy, ethically sourced and delicious is hard to come by, but you can find foods that fit the description at Pink Fish! Break the status quo of fast food being unhealthy and taste high-quality Norwegian salmon in a variety of wraps and salads! Environmentalists will also rejoice to know that all Pink Fish packaging are compostable.

Andersen's of Denmark

Did you know that the ice cream at Andersen's is based on an original Danish Recipe? The ice creams here are for those who like their dessert pure and simple. No need for bells and whistles when the focus is to keep to the authenticity of the traditions that has brought this well-known brand to where it is today. Sit back and relax at the table over freshly baked waffle cones, chocolate fondue and ice cream, or let the kids imagine and play at the fun train seats as they indulge in this sweet treat!

Beauty in the Pot

Beauty in the Pot gets special mention because of its children's play area within the restaurant. The hotpot chain knows how to cater to members of the family across generations. Choose from a selection of delicious broths and a variety of fresh and delicious ingredients for a heartwarming family meal.



PHOTOS: CARISSA SOH

In Full Play

By Goh Yee-Huay

Growing up doesn't mean putting aside fun and games. Keep young minds stretching with smart toys that will engage, entertain and challenge.

Younger Age Set



CAMDEN ROSE
Cherry Rattle,
\$29.90
from Playhao



WOBBEL, from **\$219.00**
from Playhao



PETIT COLLAGE Doodle & Draw Elephant Wood Magic Drawing Board,
\$69.90 from Playhao

Primary



ZOMETOOL
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Easy 5-minute Homemade Playdough

By Sophia Wong

Playdough is one of the many activities my kids enjoy the most. I used to buy boxes of commercial playdough and found them drying out rather quickly. Not only does it have a short life span, but it is also expensive. Moreover, I was worried that my kids would eat it. But NOT anymore!

I found a very simple and easy way to make some homemade playdough that is flexible and cost effective. Best of all, it only takes five to ten minutes to make. I bet you already have all the ingredients needed in your pantry. This homemade playdough is also all-natural - good to know in case your kids decide to do a "taste test".

Here is what we need for the recipe:

- 1 cup of water
- 1/3 cup of salt
- 1 cup of all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon of vegetable oil
- 2 teaspoons of cream of tartar
- Food colourings of your choice



Follow these simple steps:

- 1** Put all the ingredients (except the colourings) in a sauce pan.
- 2** Mix well and keep stirring on a medium/low heat.
- 3** Continue stirring until most of the dough starts to stick to the wooden spoon.
- 4** Turn off the flame and turn the dough out onto a piece of wax paper or cling wrap.
- 5** Divide the dough into the portions you desire and colour them with your colouring of choice.
- 6** Voila! There you have it. Let your child's imagination run wild!



Useful Tips

- If you would rather have a big batch of playdough of the same colour, you can choose to add the colouring at Step 1.
- It is easier to colour the dough while it is still warm. Just take care that the dough is not so hot that you hurt yourself while adding in the colouring.
- Wear a glove when you colour the dough. If you don't, you may end up with "unicorn" hands.
- Store the playdough ONLY after it has completely cooled down.



**LET'S
PLAY!**

