

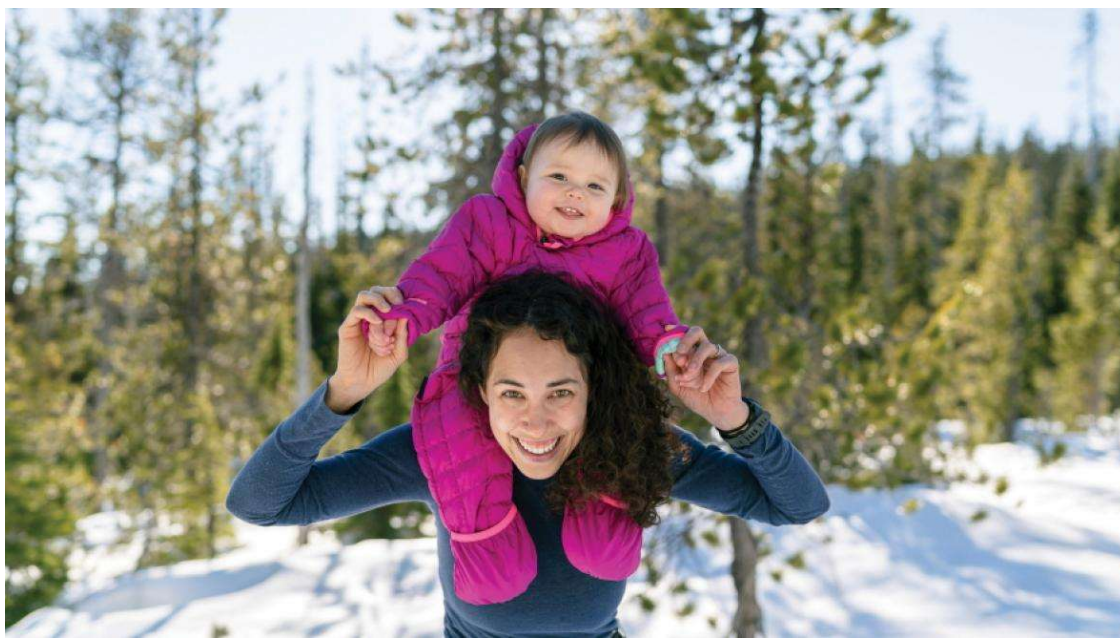
OUT + ABOUT/SEASONAL FUN

Amazing A–Z PNW Winter Adventures

There's something for everyone this Northwest winter

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Some people dread the gray days of winter, but along with the rain, our longest season offers endless playtime opportunities. Our winter-fun bucket list is filled with ideas from A to Z, indoors and out, wet or dry. Here are the activities, places and resources for a season's worth of family adventures.

A is for art

Seattle has lots of opportunities for kids to see some of the best art the world has to offer and to let their own creativity shine. Visit the exhibits and get hands on, too, with [Seattle Art Museum's family fun workshops](https://www.seattleartmuseum.org/programs-and-learning/families) (<https://www.seattleartmuseum.org/programs-and-learning/families>) and Tacoma Art Museum's [TAM Studio](https://www.tacomaartmuseum.org/visit/tam-studio/) (<https://www.tacomaartmuseum.org/visit/tam-studio/>). Sign up for arts classes at [Schack Art Center](https://www.schack.org/classes-workshops) (<https://www.schack.org/classes-workshops>) in Everett, [Coyote](https://coyotecentral.org/) (<https://coyotecentral.org/>) in Seattle's Central and Lake City neighborhoods or [Open Arts](http://www.openartsstudio.com/) (<http://www.openartsstudio.com/>) in Tacoma. Does your little artist just want to be free? No problem! Stock up on art supplies and turn their bedroom into an art studio.



B is for build

Kids can use Lego bricks to learn about engineering with [e2 Young Engineers](https://www.seattleyoungengineers.com/programs) (<https://www.seattleyoungengineers.com/programs>). Kids ages 8 and older can join [Seattle Makers](https://seattlemakers.org/) (<https://seattlemakers.org/>), and take workshops on 3D printing, laser cutting, woodworking and more. The University of Washington's [Youth and Teen program](https://www.youth-teen.uw.edu/programs) (<https://www.youth-teen.uw.edu/programs>) offers architecture and CAD classes for older kids. [Seattle ReCreative](https://www.seattlerecreative.org/) (<https://www.seattlerecreative.org/>) lets youths build stuff with hot glue and recycled materials at its Belltown Pop-Up Makerspace. Younger kids can get creative in the new tinker space at [Imagine Children's Museum](https://www.imaginecm.org/) (<https://www.imaginecm.org/>) in Everett; the [Recycle Rebuild Makers Gallery](https://www.kidsquestmuseum.org/exhibits/recycle-rebuild/) (<https://www.kidsquestmuseum.org/exhibits/recycle-rebuild/>) at

KidsQuest Children’s Museum in Bellevue; and [Seattle Children’s Museum’s](https://seattlechildrensmuseum.org/exhibits/) (<https://seattlechildrensmuseum.org/exhibits/>). Dunn Lumber Construction Zone or Corner Workshop.



C is for climbing

Try indoor rock climbing this winter before getting your belay on next summer. Kids can climb at most gyms when supervised by a parent. If you’re looking for specialized kids’ programs, [Vertical World](https://verticalworld.com/) (<https://verticalworld.com/>) offers classes in its Seattle, Redmond and Lynnwood locations; so does [Edgeworks Climbing + Fitness](https://www.edgeworkscimbing.com/) (<https://www.edgeworkscimbing.com/>) in Bellevue, Tacoma and Seattle. After-school climbing clubs at [Seattle Bouldering Project](https://seattleboulderingproject.com/) (<https://seattleboulderingproject.com/>) in Wallingford and Judkins Park are so popular that there’s a lottery for registration. There is also a competitive team for climbers ages 8–18.

If your kids can’t decide between climbing and gymnastics, consider parkour. [Parkour Visions](https://parkourvisions.org/kids-classes) (<https://parkourvisions.org/kids-classes>) offers outdoor classes for kids in four different locations.

D is for day trips

[Day trips](https://www.parentmap.com/article/small-town-day-trips-seattle-summer) (<https://www.parentmap.com/article/small-town-day-trips-seattle-summer>) offer all the excitement of a family vacation at a fraction of the cost, effort and planning. Check out charming little towns with fun names like Steilacoom, visit an island ([Whidbey](https://www.parentmap.com/article/best-things-do-kids-whidbey-) (<https://www.parentmap.com/article/best-things-do-kids-whidbey->

island) is a great bet), or head north to Lynden (<https://www.parentmap.com/article/8-fun-things-to-do-charming-lynden-washington>) in Whatcom County and you'll feel like you're a world away from the metro Puget Sound area. Wherever you go, the best part is that you can still be home in time to sleep in your own bed with the adventures you've done.



Photo courtesy of Seattle Cultural Food Tours

E is for eating

Seattle has a lot of [family-friendly food tours](https://www.parentmap.com/article/delicious-pacific-northwest-food-tours) (<https://www.parentmap.com/article/delicious-pacific-northwest-food-tours>) that offer the budding foodie treats with a side of education. Chocolate factories are a favorite – Theo, Fran’s (virtual only) and Seattle Chocolate each have tours; the [Downtown Seattle Donut Tour](https://www.undergrounddonuttour.com/seattle-downtown-donut-tour) (<https://www.undergrounddonuttour.com/seattle-downtown-donut-tour>) is a sweet treat as well. All-ages [Seattle Cultural Food Tours](https://seattleculturalfoodtours.com/) (<https://seattleculturalfoodtours.com/>) in Columbia City draw on the neighborhood’s diverse food cultures, while fans of Asian foods will enjoy Wing Luke Museum’s [seasonal food tours](https://www.wingluke.org/food-tours) (<https://www.wingluke.org/food-tours>) of the Chinatown–International District. [Savor Seattle](https://www.savorseattletours.com/our-tours/food-tours) (<https://www.savorseattletours.com/our-tours/food-tours>) hits the foodie highlights at Pike Place Market. Even old-time Seattleites discover something new on the South Lake Union tour hosted by [Eat Seattle](https://eatseattletours.com/food-tours/) (<https://eatseattletours.com/food-tours/>).

F is for Festál

After a couple of years of virtual activities, [Festál](https://seattlecenter.com/events/featured-events/festal) (<https://seattlecenter.com/events/featured-events/festal>) is back in person at Seattle Center for its 25th year of celebrating global cultures. The free family-friendly events

this winter include musical performances, workshops and treats from Croatia and Turkey. Celebrate holidays such as India's Diwali and Mexico's Día de los Muertos. Ring in the Hmong new year in November and then start the year over with Vietnamese Tết in February.

G is for gingerbread

The Sheraton's [Gingerbread Village](https://gingerbreadvillage.org/) (<https://gingerbreadvillage.org/>) will be back this year to inspire your own gingerbread house (and the people to live in it) at home. If baking your construction materials isn't your thing, buy a kit or keep an eye out for gingerbread workshops. Purchase tickets for [KidsQuest Children's Museum's popular gingerbread workshops](https://www.kidsquestmuseum.org/programs/gingerbread-events/) (<https://www.kidsquestmuseum.org/programs/gingerbread-events/>), taking place this year on Nov. 25 and 26. The [Gingerbread Factory](https://www.gingerbreadfactory.com/) (<https://www.gingerbreadfactory.com/>) in Leavenworth is worth the trip, but it also offers cookies, houses and kits by mail. For a softer snack, amaze your kids with the flavor of [real gingerbread](https://www.epicurious.com/recipes/food/views/real-gingerbread-237680) (<https://www.epicurious.com/recipes/food/views/real-gingerbread-237680>).

H is for hiking

Winter hiking takes a little more preparation; dress warmly, check trail conditions before you go and leave enough time to get back before dark. But the payoff is well worth it. Trails are less crowded, wildlife can be easier to spot and stomping through puddles adds to the fun. Western Washington has lots of [amazing winter hikes](https://www.parentmap.com/article/best-no-snow-winter-hikes-families-seattle-area/1#pager-content) (<https://www.parentmap.com/article/best-no-snow-winter-hikes-families-seattle-area/1#pager-content>) for families making a day of it. And there are plenty of easy ones close to home, too, including Seattle's [Discovery Park](https://www.seattle.gov/parks/find/parks/discovery-park) (<https://www.seattle.gov/parks/find/parks/discovery-park>), [Narbeck Wetland Sanctuary](https://www.wta.org/go-hiking/hikes/narbeck-wetland-sanctuary) (<https://www.wta.org/go-hiking/hikes/narbeck-wetland-sanctuary>) in Everett and [Weowna Park](https://bellevuewa.gov/city-government/departments/parks/parks-and-trails/nature-trails/weowna-park-trail) (<https://bellevuewa.gov/city-government/departments/parks/parks-and-trails/nature-trails/weowna-park-trail>) in Bellevue.



Photo courtesy of Arena Sports

I is for indoor playgrounds

The monkey bars may be slippery with rain, but indoor bounce houses, play spaces and trampoline gyms get the wiggles out in any weather. [Elevated Sportz](http://elevatedsportz.com/) (<http://elevatedsportz.com/>) in Bothell has trampolines, a foam pit, a laser maze and more. [Arena Sports'](http://www.arenasports.net/) (<http://www.arenasports.net/>) multiple locations have different activities, but bounce houses, bowling, laser tag and even zip lines are in the mix. While the littlest kids can be overwhelmed at some trampoline parks, [Funtastic Playtorium's](https://www.funtasticplaytorium.com/) (<https://www.funtasticplaytorium.com/>) indoor playgrounds are for kids ages 10 and younger, and [a host of Seattle-area community centers](http://www.seattle.gov/parks/find/toddler-indoor-play-areas) (<http://www.seattle.gov/parks/find/toddler-indoor-play-areas>) offer toddler gyms. Find dozens more [indoor play destinations here](https://www.parentmap.com/article/rainy-day-recess-places-to-play-inside-seattle-area) (<https://www.parentmap.com/article/rainy-day-recess-places-to-play-inside-seattle-area>).



Photo courtesy of Emerald City Trapeze Arts

J is for juggling

Juggling is entertaining, takes up almost no space and requires no more equipment than a few balls. You don't even need to pay for lessons; YouTube has lots of tutorials. If your kid masters juggling and wants to do more, consider circus arts. Like gymnastics but with a focus on creativity instead of competition, circus arts boost confidence while building coordination, strength and flexibility. [Synapse Circus Center](https://www.synapsecircus.com/) (<https://www.synapsecircus.com/>), located in Auburn and at community centers throughout South King County, teaches classes for toddlers through adults. Teens can study at nonprofit [SANCA](https://sancaseattle.org/) (<https://sancaseattle.org/>)(School of Acrobatics and New Circus Arts) or at [Emerald City Trapeze Arts](https://emeraldcitytrapeze.com/) (<https://emeraldcitytrapeze.com/>), which is known for its professional performances.

K is for Kraken

You've probably noticed that Seattle has a hockey team now. Head down to Climate Pledge Arena to catch the [Seattle Kraken](https://www.nhl.com/kraken) (<https://www.nhl.com/kraken>) in action. Thanks to the Kraken, Seattle also has a brand-new, [state-of-the-art ice rink](https://www.krakencommunityiceplex.com/) (<https://www.krakencommunityiceplex.com/>), and after watching the game, your kids might be inspired to join a [youth hockey](https://www.krakencommunityiceplex.com/hockey/youth-hockey/) (<https://www.krakencommunityiceplex.com/hockey/youth-hockey/>) league or [learn to skate](https://www.krakencommunityiceplex.com/skating/learn-to-skate/) (<https://www.krakencommunityiceplex.com/skating/learn-to-skate/>). For family fun, head to a [public skate](https://www.krakencommunityiceplex.com/public-skating/) (<https://www.krakencommunityiceplex.com/public-skating/>) session on the weekend. If Northgate isn't convenient, check out the ice at nonprofit

[Lynnwood Ice Center](http://lynnwoodicecenter.com/) (<http://lynnwoodicecenter.com/>), or head to [Sno-King Ice Arenas](http://snokingirkland.com/) (<http://snokingirkland.com/>) in Kirkland, Renton or Snoqualmie. [Kent Valley Ice Centre](https://kentvalleyicecentre.net/) (<https://kentvalleyicecentre.net/>) has indoor mini golf and batting cages for family members who don't want to, um, hit the ice.

L is for literature

Did you know that Seattle is a [UNESCO City of Literature](https://www.seattlecityoflit.org/) (<https://www.seattlecityoflit.org/>)? Browsing a bookstore on a rainy day is one of life's great pleasures. But if your kids aren't jumping into the literary lifestyle, it's time for story time. Your nearest public library branch — we have both a [city library](https://www.spl.org/) (<https://www.spl.org/>) system and a [county system](https://kcls.org/) (<https://kcls.org/>) in the Seattle area — is a sure bet. For stories celebrating gardens and nature, visit the [Miller Library](https://botanicgardens.uw.edu/education/youth-family/story-time/?trumbaEmbed=view%3Devent%26eventid%3D159444227) (<https://botanicgardens.uw.edu/education/youth-family/story-time/?trumbaEmbed=view%3Devent%26eventid%3D159444227>) at the UW Botanic Gardens. To make story time extra special, add chocolate at [Theo Chocolate](https://www.theochocolate.com/factory-tours/) (<https://www.theochocolate.com/factory-tours/>) in Fremont. Keep an eye out for one of [Lil' Miss Story Hour's](https://www.lilmissstoryhour.com/home) (<https://www.lilmissstoryhour.com/home>) BIPOC-centered public story times.

M is for markets

With the summer crowds behind them, locals have a little more room to breathe at [Pike Place Market](https://www.pikeplacemarket.org/) (<https://www.pikeplacemarket.org/>). If you've been avoiding the crowds during the pandemic, now's the time to [rediscover](https://www.parentmap.com/article/best-activities-pike-place-market) (<https://www.parentmap.com/article/best-activities-pike-place-market>) this iconic 115-year-old landmark. Pike Place Market isn't the only option. [Burien](https://www.discoverburien.org/) (<https://www.discoverburien.org/>) and [Tacoma](http://www.proctorfarmersmarket.com/) (<http://www.proctorfarmersmarket.com/>) have year-round markets, while Seattleites can support [neighborhood farmers markets](http://seattlefarmersmarkets.org) (<http://seattlefarmersmarkets.org>) in [Ballard](https://www.sfmamarkets.com/visit-ballard-farmers-market/) (<https://www.sfmamarkets.com/visit-ballard-farmers-market/>), [Capitol Hill](https://seattlefarmersmarkets.org/chfm) (<https://seattlefarmersmarkets.org/chfm>), the [University District](https://seattlefarmersmarkets.org/udfm) (<https://seattlefarmersmarkets.org/udfm>) and [West Seattle](https://seattlefarmersmarkets.org/wsfm) (<https://seattlefarmersmarkets.org/wsfm>) during the winter. The [Fremont Sunday Market](https://www.fremontmarket.com/) (<https://www.fremontmarket.com/>) doesn't sell much produce, but it's great for artisanal foods, vintage finds and handmade gifts.



Photo courtesy of Made Sewing Studio

N is for needlework

Children can learn fine motor skills, math and creative expression with textile arts. Take private lessons from [Sew Maris](https://www.sewmaris.com/) (<https://www.sewmaris.com/>), or find machine-sewing classes at [Seattle Makers](https://seattlemakers.org/) (<https://seattlemakers.org/>) and [Made Sewing Studio](https://madesewstudio.com/) (<https://madesewstudio.com/>). The [Seattle Fashion Academy](https://www.seattlefashionacademy.com/) (<https://www.seattlefashionacademy.com/>) teaches all of the fundamental skills required to develop as a serious fashion designer. Kids can develop sewing and quilting skills at [Sew Katie Did](https://www.sewkatiedid.com/) (<https://www.sewkatiedid.com/>). For knitting and embroidery, check out [Stitches](https://stitchesseattle.com/) (<https://stitchesseattle.com/>) or [Seattle ReCreative](https://www.seattlerecreative.org/) (<https://www.seattlerecreative.org/>) (it recently started offering a fiber-spinning class).

O is for ocean

Puget Sound may not be the open ocean, but the new harbor tour by [Salish Sea Tours](https://www.salishseatours.com/) (<https://www.salishseatours.com/>) still promises to provide adventure and education. The native-owned and -designed tour, which launches from Miner's Landing at Pier 57 on two custom catamarans, is filled with art by local Indigenous artists. A member of the Duwamish Tribe narrates the hourlong journey, sharing the history of the city and its Indigenous people. Of course, if you prefer to keep your feet on solid ground, watching the winter waves from the beach is delightful when you're properly bundled up and provisioned with a thermos of hot cocoa or cider. (Alki Beach and Golden Gardens have legal [fire pits](https://parkways.seattle.gov/2021/05/24/beach-fire-rules-and-regulations/) (<https://parkways.seattle.gov/2021/05/24/beach-fire-rules-and-regulations/>.)

P is for pools

Dive into winter by visiting an indoor swimming pool. If you just want to splash around, [People's Pool](https://www.metroparkstacoma.org/peoples-pool) (<https://www.metroparkstacoma.org/peoples-pool>) in Tacoma and the [Snohomish Aquatic Center](https://www.sno.wednet.edu/Domain/24) (<https://www.sno.wednet.edu/Domain/24>) have fun toddler-friendly amenities. For more options, visit our [guide to the best indoor pools](https://www.parentmap.com/article/best-indoor-pools-in-seattle-eastside-kitsap-south-sound) (<https://www.parentmap.com/article/best-indoor-pools-in-seattle-eastside-kitsap-south-sound>) for kids and families around Puget Sound. If your kids missed out on swimming during the pandemic, [signing up for swimming lessons](https://www.parentmap.com/article/best-swimming-classes-littlest-splashes) (<https://www.parentmap.com/article/best-swimming-classes-littlest-splashes>) now is a great way to improve their safety while giving them lots of fun and exercise.

Q is for quills

Calligraphy is a fun way to play with letters. The [Society for Calligraphy & Handwriting](https://calligraphysociety.org/) (<https://calligraphysociety.org/>) is geared to adults, but some of its members, including [Kathy Barker](mailto:kathybarker.artist@gmail.com) (<mailto:kathybarker.artist@gmail.com>), teach children. Calligraphy is also part of the fun at [Seattle Historical Arts for Kids](https://historicalarts.org/exploratory-arts-camps) (<https://historicalarts.org/exploratory-arts-camps>)' December Medieval Arts Week camp. [Outschool](https://outschool.com/online-classes/calligraphy) (<https://outschool.com/online-classes/calligraphy>) offers online classes in calligraphy and hand lettering. [Handwriting Success](https://handwritingsuccess.com/) (<https://handwritingsuccess.com/>) sells books, materials and an app for developing beautiful handwriting. Michaels Stores' [online workshops](https://youtu.be/3F1mns-hSJE) (<https://youtu.be/3F1mns-hSJE>) include several calligraphy classes, too. Or you could just buy a simple [calligraphy kit](https://www.amazon.com/Calligraphy-Kit-complete-kit-beginners/dp/1600584063/ref=sr_1_6?ie=UTF8&tag=parentmap-20) (https://www.amazon.com/Calligraphy-Kit-complete-kit-beginners/dp/1600584063/ref=sr_1_6?ie=UTF8&tag=parentmap-20) with a nib pen (actual quills are too old-school) and a [library book](https://spl.overdrive.com/media/287813) (<https://spl.overdrive.com/media/287813>) to inspire handmade birthday party invitations.



Photo courtesy of Pocock Rowing Center

R is for rowing

Rowing (<https://www.parentmap.com/article/guide-to-rowing>) offers great exercise and demands cooperation. On Portage Bay, [Pocock Rowing Center](https://www.pocockrowingcenter.org/) (<https://www.pocockrowingcenter.org/>) offers three trial lessons before middle and high school students are asked to commit. [Green Lake Crew's](https://www.greenlakecrew.org/) (<https://www.greenlakecrew.org/>) junior program is open to rowers ages 13–19 in grades 8–12. Other junior crew programs are run by the [Mount Baker Rowing & Sailing Center](https://mbrsc.com/) (<https://mbrsc.com/>), [Sammamish Rowing Association](https://www.sammamishrowing.org/) (<https://www.sammamishrowing.org/>) and [Everett Rowing Association](https://www.everettrowing.com/) (<https://www.everettrowing.com/>).

If your kid would rather face forward, consider dragon boat racing; [Seattle Flying Dragon Boat Club](https://www.seattleflyingdragons.org/) (<https://www.seattleflyingdragons.org/>) accepts members as young as 12. Got a kid who cares more about nature than competition? Try [stand-up paddleboarding](https://www.parentmap.com/article/fun-afloat-paddle-boat-kayak-canoe-sail-and-raft) (<https://www.parentmap.com/article/fun-afloat-paddle-boat-kayak-canoe-sail-and-raft>) or kayaking. [Seattle Canoe and Kayak Club](https://seattlecanoekayak.club/index.php?id=youth-programs) (<https://seattlecanoekayak.club/index.php?id=youth-programs>) has youth programs for kids ages 10 and older.

S is for snow

There are snow many (<https://www.parentmap.com/article/25-indoor-and-outdoor-activities-do-snow-day>) things to do when it snows. Kids are always happy to just play in the snow (<https://www.parentmap.com/article/new-lake-easton-snow-park-seattle-families>), while sledding and tubing (<https://www.parentmap.com/article/top-places-to-go-sledding-for-seattle-area-kids-and-families>) provide bigger thrills for those without skills. But whether traveling for a ski vacation (<https://www.parentmap.com/article/best-family-ski-resorts-british-columbia-canada>) or swooshing down a mountain (<https://www.parentmap.com/article/family-snow-days-guide-skiing-and-snowboarding>), closer to home, every Northwest family should try skiing or snowboarding at least once. Cross-country (<https://www.parentmap.com/article/cross-country-skiing-for-seattle-kids-and-families>) (aka Nordic) skiing and snowshoeing (<https://www.parentmap.com/article/snowshoeing-101-for-seattle-area-families-and-kids>) extend family hikes into midwinter. And if your family likes mountain biking in summer, give fat biking (<https://www.parentmap.com/article/winter-fat-biking-tips-seattle-families-kids>) a spin.

T is for theater

Everyone loves a good story, and Seattle has an embarrassment of riches when it comes to theater. Seattle Children's Theatre (<https://www.sct.org/>) is nationally respected for its all-ages productions. This winter, SCT is staging "Paddington Saves Christmas" and "Carmela Full of Wishes." Blue Man Group (<https://seattle.broadway.com/shows/blue-man-group-2/>) at The Paramount will captivate audiences, and kids will find lots to love in Broadway musicals such as "The Wiz" (<https://www.5thavenue.org/shows/2022-23/the-wiz/>) at The 5th Avenue Theatre and Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella" (<https://villagetheatre.org/mainstage/cinderella/>) at Village Theatre.

U is for underground

When you're tired of being indoors, but don't really want to hang out in the rain, go underground. Bill Speidel's Underground Tour (<http://www.undergroundtour.com/index.html>) is a classic tourist attraction, but it reveals a part of Seattle even locals can't find on their own. Kids may or may not pay attention to the (sometimes racy) history shared by the guide on this 75-minute walk through the city's (literally) buried past. But who can resist the allure of secret underground passageways? No one, that's who.

V is for volunteering

If you're struggling to keep your kids occupied with diversions, maybe try to find something more meaningful. Help your child find an issue they care about, such as feeding the hungry or caring for animals. Even the very young can help give back to the community with at-home activities, such as putting together care kits. There are some in-person [family-friendly volunteer activities](#) (<https://www.parentmap.com/article/volunteering-young-kids-seattle-events>), too, which are great for helping kids see the impact of their efforts. There are even more [volunteering options](#) (<https://www.parentmap.com/article/volunteer-opportunities-for-kids>) for families with tweens and teens, and some programs in which young people can participate on their own.

W is for whale watching

Unfortunately, many whale species are in danger of extinction; your kids may not get to take their kids [whale watching](#) (<https://www.parentmap.com/article/best-whale-watching-orca-tours-kids-families>). But taking a [responsible](#) (<https://www.pacificwhalewatchassociation.com/guidelines>) whale-watching tour (such as those conducted by [Pacific Whale Watch Association](#) (<https://www.pacificwhalewatchassociation.com/>) operators) now could help spark their desire to be [part of the solution](#) (<https://www.parentmap.com/article/what-puget-sound-families-can-do-help-our-local-orcas/3>). The [FRS Clipper](#) (<https://www.clippervacations.com/whale-watching/>) and [Puget Sound Express](#) (<http://pugetsoundexpress.com/>) cruises leave from Seattle. There are more operators based in the San Juan Islands. If you go to the San Juans, be sure to visit [The Whale Museum](#) (<http://thewhalemuseum.org/>) while you're there. If just the thought of a whale watching tour has you reaching for the Dramamine, there are [several spots](#) (https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1xIsepZY5h_8oA2nd6lwJN-Y7lhk&ll=47.70774017405145%2C-121.74003845603028&z=10) (consult the [Orca Network](#) (<https://www.orcanetwork.org/>)'s Whale Sighting map) where you might spot whales from land in winter, including [one in West Seattle](#) (<https://www.parentmap.com/article/small-town-day-trips-seattle-summer/5>).

X marks the spot

Convincing kids to head outside for a hike when it's wet can be a challenge. So, redirect their attention to a different challenge with orienteering, which gives young hikers a map and a compass to focus on. Build map- and compass-reading skills on one of [Cascade Orienteering Club](#) (<https://cascadeoc.org/>)'s [permanent courses](#) (<https://cascadeoc.org/permanent-courses/>) or join one of its family-friendly events. For kids who might need the added incentive of hidden treasure, try [geocaching](#) (<https://www.parentmap.com/article/geocaching-101-where-and-how-around-puget-sound>), which uses GPS coordinates to locate cached items instead.



Y is for yoga

The idea of [teaching yoga to kids](https://www.parentmap.com/article/the-littlest-yogis-how-kids-are-mastering-meditation-and-downward-dog) (<https://www.parentmap.com/article/the-littlest-yogis-how-kids-are-mastering-meditation-and-downward-dog>) is no longer novel. Whether your kids need a way to destress from school pressure or just a form of rainy-day exercise that won't trash the house, the benefits of yoga stretch beyond the mat. [Seattle Kids Yoga](https://seattlekidsyoga.com/family-yoga) (<https://seattlekidsyoga.com/family-yoga>) teaches workshops and private whole-family lessons. [Seattle Yoga News](https://seattleyoganews.com/) (<https://seattleyoganews.com/>) maintains a list of [local studios](https://seattleyoganews.com/seattle-kids-family-yoga/) (<https://seattleyoganews.com/seattle-kids-family-yoga/>) that offer classes for kids and families.

Z is for zoos

Sure, some animals may take shelter out of view on a chilly day. But just as many will be comfortably wandering out in the open now that summer's noisy hordes have withdrawn. [Northwest Trek Wildlife Park](https://www.nwtrek.org/) (<https://www.nwtrek.org/>) is pretty much the ultimate Northwest animal experience, especially if you spring for a [Keeper Adventure Tour](https://www.parentmap.com/article/northwest-trek-private-keeper-tours-families-seattle-puget-sound) (<https://www.parentmap.com/article/northwest-trek-private-keeper-tours-families-seattle-puget-sound>). If you're not a fan of walking around in the drizzle yourself, dedicate your trip to [Woodland Park Zoo](https://www.zoo.org/) (<https://www.zoo.org/>)'s indoor tropical exhibits, or enjoy [Seattle Aquarium](https://www.seattleaquarium.org/) (<https://www.seattleaquarium.org/>), most of which is under cover. And of course, [Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium](https://www.pdza.org/) (<https://www.pdza.org/>) has everything.
