



from

Providence Children's Museum

Come play, come learn!

# Magical Moment

By Karen Lambe, Early Childhood Educator

On a recent crisp Sunday morning, our daughter and her dear friend Katie, now both 25, came downstairs in their pajamas. "You know what I remember about Sunday mornings at your house when I was 5 and 6 and would sleep over?" asked Katie. "You would ask Ariel and me if we wanted a cup of hot Ovaltine with vanilla ice cream. I loved that! It seemed a little naughty to have ice cream in the morning. And it tasted and smelled SO good."

What is it about the simple things that linger in our children's memories? Perhaps it's repetition that makes these moments special. Traditions that occur each year or, for Katie, each visit, that evoke a sense of great pleasure are magical moments that must be repeated or they are sorely missed.

We sometimes get caught up in the idea that we have to do elaborate things for and with our children to make it special. But a "dark walk" in the winter when night falls early can be as exciting as a trip to Disney World. To hold the hand of an adult who is all yours in the dark, to be in the woods listening for the sounds of owls or the rustle of small animals waking up for their night of foraging or to walk through the neighborhood and delight in the holiday lights on the

houses, to marvel together at how the first snow changes everything, to lie on your backs in the snow and look at the stars - these moments are memorable.

This month, make some memories with your child - have some out-of-the-ordinary fun, share in your child's sense of wonder, create magic moments. Build a snow woman together. Cut greens and make winter arrangements. Sing together every holiday song you know over and over. Look at snowflakes falling on black construction paper. Come to the Children's Museum's vacation performances, laugh out loud and sing along with the performers. Bake cookies together and let your kids decorate them (any way they want). Your attention and enthusiastic participation make the experience special and something they - and you - will treasure and want to repeat, year after year, so it becomes your family tradition.



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