

TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2015

THE EDMOND SUN

EDUCATION | A9

# Mom Around Town takes on summer childcare

**B**ecause I generally work from home, even if my kids are there with me (think "snow day"), I can accomplish most of my assignments with my three-year-old sitting on my lap and watching Bubble Guppies while my five-year-old talks on her plastic phone and "babysits" her many Disney princesses. However, get me on a business call, and all bets are off.

So, thank goodness for school days.

In fact, once any working parent's kids reach school age, the family gets a big break in childcare costs. However, with summer rapidly approaching, many of those same parents are quickly getting summer childcare in place before the last day of school sneaks up on them.

For Edmond parents like Kristi Fischer, a mother of two young children, the challenge becomes "finding someone or some place that matches my parenting style and provides my kids with a happy, safe, and comfortable environment." For those of us who have used mother's day out programs in summers past, finding the right daycare or babysitter for school-aged children becomes a new hurdle.

Whether an Edmond parent is considering hiring someone to come to the house, or whether the family is looking for the perfect childcare location, there are a few options for seeking the perfect fit. Several local businesses specialize in finding the right situation for a child, and they are serious about making sure everyone is satisfied.

"As a parent myself, I think the biggest challenges in setting up summer childcare are finding caregivers I can trust and finding a solution that still enables the children to

attend soccer practice, violin lessons, etc. I also like to look for caregivers who are going to be engaged with my kids and do things with them other than watching television or playing video games," said Trisha Chapman, family placement manager at the Edmond branch of College Nannies and Tutors.

Chapman's business



**M.M. Cox**

Mom  
Around Town

focuses on finding the right caregiver and handling the recruitment and interview process, reference checks, screening, payroll, and taxes. "Finding the right childcare allows

parents to create a summer their kids will enjoy."

For those seeking on-site care, there are also services that can help. If the list of local daycare centers seems a little overwhelming to you, Edmond's Rainbow Fleet is a free service for parents that is contracted by the state and helps parents connect with the daycare center that best fits their needs.

"It's difficult for a parent to focus on work if he or she is worried about their kid being in the right environment," said Executive Director Carrie Williams.

"At Rainbow Fleet we provide parents with a list of licensed childcare providers that fit their specifications as well as a list of questions parents can ask to help them recognize whether a provider will be right for them."

In addition, Rainbow Fleet also offers childcare provider training and resources.

Williams suggested getting childcare set up as early as possible, as many quality daycares will be full long before summer gets here. Rainbow Fleet can also help parents find the appropriate summer camps, as well as make sure a childcare provider hasn't had any licensing issues.

And once a parent settles on the right childcare, it's good to remember most providers are as invested in your child's summer fun as you are.

"We go on 4 field trips each week and have one in-center day where we bring snow cones in for the children," said Michelle Wells, the director of Camelot Child Development Center on North May Avenue in Edmond. "Some of our field trips include Pelican Bay Aquatic Center, Oklahoma City Zoo, Science Museum, bowling, and movies."

Well, that sounds pretty good to me! I guess, my only other questions is then, "Can I come?"

**M.M. COX** is an Edmond resident.



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## SPRING FLING

**Date:** Thursday, 4/16/2015

**Time:** 4:30 to 6:00 pm

**Entertainment:** DJ spinning  
oldies but goodies


Dinner to be served: Sirloin steak, twice  
baked potato, green bean almandine,  
green salad, assorted cheesecake,  
and champagne fountain.

**RSVP by Monday, 4/13/2015**

  
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