

5 tips for planning an unforgettable summer for your kids



Yes, you got it right: we are in the middle of winter and I will be talking about summer in this blog post. In fact, these last few days I am thinking and planning a lot for the summer. And it is not because it is the most beloved and awaited season of the year, but because Thomas (my oldest son) will be on vacation at school. Thomas's vacation runs from June 25 to September 8, meaning 10 weeks of vacation. So far so good, if it weren't for the fact that we don't have family support around us and my husband and I work full-time. Yes, we have vacation days at work, but not enough to cover all those vacation weeks.

This is Thomas's first year at school and I used to hear Canadian moms talk about summer holidays during the winter and I thought it was an overstatement to talk that far. Today I know that this is not an exaggeration and that it is necessary, especially if you want your kids to have a memorable summer. The word of the day (or should I say season) is planning. Only with a good planning will you be able to register your kid to great activities (the summer camps vacancies fill up quickly) and will be able to organize themselves so that they can enjoy the warm months in Canada.

Thinking about that I decided to make a short list with 5 tips for you to plan an unforgettable summer for your children. I sincerely hope that the tips are useful and will help you.

Set goals for the summer

My son will have 10 weeks of vacation and that gives him 2 and a half months without school, which is a relatively long time, but at the same time, it can go fast. And that is why I have set some goals for what I want him to experience this summer: what we want to see, the activities he will do, the experiences he will have and what he will learn. Setting goals helped me a lot to decide what I was going to plan for him this summer. Of course, I also asked him what he would like to do and even though the answer was an expected one - riding a bike on a bike park - I already know what he really wants is to enjoy the hot season and be outdoors as much as possible.

Plan yourself weekly

The second tip is to think about vacations in a weekly basis. What we did was print out a blank calendar with all 10 weeks of vacation and think about the activities in each of those weeks. We put vacations, trips, visits and we got a general idea of what we could do in each week, especially those weeks without any schedule or special event. It made it SO much easier to think like that.

Look for simple activities

We often get lost trying to find elaborate activities and events for every day of our children's vacation. Last summer I was with my 3 loves at home (Thomas, Ian and Jojo) and I remember that the most special and happy days were the ones that I did simple activities, like playing with water on the balcony of the house or going to a park for a walk. Children don't need much to be happy: they need attention and company.

Seek help

If you work full-time and can't stay at home during the entire time your kid will be out of school, the tip is to get help. Talk to family members from Brazil to come and visit, chat with friends, plan playdates with friends from school. Don't be afraid to ask for help to care for your child in those weeks. From my own experience, I arranged with my parents to come and visit us

in a few weeks that I know I will have a lot of deadlines at work and I will not be able to take care of Thomas and let him enjoy that week.

Choose the best summer camp for your child

Summer Camps - super traditional here in Canada - are weeks of activities in certain places (schools, community centers, parks, museums) that work half a day or all day and will entertain your child during the summer holidays. There are several Summer Camps around the city and the best ones are very popular. I already wrote about it [here](#) on the blog and it is important to reinforce the importance of these activities. I feel that these weekly activities provide fun and a lot of learning for our children. It really makes summer memorable and unforgettable. Thomas did 3 weeks of Summer Campo last year and he evolved a lot and enjoyed it too.

It's not always easy to decide which Summer Camp to enroll your child in (I wrote a post [here](#) with some tips). One of the tips I mentioned was to ask other mothers what program they took their children and what they liked or disliked. If you ask me which program Thomas liked last year (and will repeat this year!) I will say [True North](#). In this post [here](#) I wrote about our experience with this summer camp and couldn't stop telling everyone: it's just fantastic!

[True North](#) is a company that provides sports oriented summer camps and offers a variety of sports programs (Baseball, Flag Football, Basketball, Soccer and Multi-Sports) throughout the year. I really appreciate sports and we had a super positive experience in 2019, with Thomas acquiring important skills such as patience, a sense of belonging to a group and knowing how to lose, in addition to exercising and being able to have contact with various sports. It is worth mentioning that he will be coming back to the [Multi-sports](#) camp this year too, which is a camp where Thomas has contact with a wide variety of sports and activities, in order to develop movement and sport skills, with an emphasis on fun, fair play and teamwork.

Finally, planning is also important in the financial aspect, as the price of a week of summer camp is around \$400. All prices are described on the [True North](#) website. It is also worth mentioning that there are discounts if you make more than a week or if brothers attend the camp. And for the followers of the blog I have a discount code: **GABY75** which gives you \$75 off in one week of camp. Just notice one thing: register as fast as you can because the vacancies end up fast!

This post is sponsored but everything I wrote reflects my real opinion on the subject. I really enjoyed the experience we had last summer with [True North](#) and that is why Thomas is going to this summer camp again in 2020. And of course, I will tell you everything here.

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