

parent recommended

It's a Blast!

We recently participated in a **model rocket launch party at Moffett Field** and it was a blast. The local rocket club (lunar.org) is going to have monthly launches there, weather permitting. If you're just going to watch, you can saunter through the main gate sometime between 9 a.m. and noon, head towards the runway by the airport control tower just past the famous blimp hangar, and go hang out on the runway. You can bring a lawn chair or run around as long as you stay within the general area and don't go past the little roped-off launch area.

Folks bring their model rockets, sit on the sidelines while setting them up, and bring sandwiches. Rockets get launched in batches pretty much continuously. It's a very casual operation. When we went, there were a lot of families with kids between ages 3 and 10.

If you want to set off your own rocket, it's a bit more complicated. You have to be ushered through the side gate between 8:30 and 9 a.m., and it costs \$5 plus 25 cents per launch.

It's not very loud - probably no louder than a big truck rumbling by, and it's a neat thing to see. Most of the rockets go up so high you lose track of them and have to wait to spot their parachutes as they drift down to earth. While you're there, you can see the little space museum that they've set up just outside the main gate in the permanent white circus tent. That's free, too."

For a launch schedule, see www.lunar.org/calendar.shtml#nextlaunch. Directions: www.lunar.org/events.shtml#ames-launch-directions



– Rena Takahashi, Cupertino

What Do You Recommend?

Your recommendation can be anything from a great children's book to a gem of a park to a great place to buy used kids' clothing – anything that helps you parent better or makes your life easier and more enjoyable! All we need are the basics and a brief reason why other parents should know about it. Include your name, number of kids and the town you live in. Send to:

sara.solovitch@parenthood.com

Subject line:

Parent Recommended

or write: Parent Recommended

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ABCs to Reading

I've found a Web site for toddlers called starfalls.com that's interactive, full of phonic sounds and letters, and is just a great way to introduce your toddler or preschooler to the big, complex world of the English language."

– Vijaya Shanthi, San Jose



Family Fitness

I found a family fitness program in Fremont called **Jung SuWon** (www.jungsuwon.com), where my daughter and I can work out together or in our own separate classes. It's a very friendly place. My daughter has met new friends and gained greater self-confidence. Even her grades have improved. We are now more physically fit and have learned some self-defense in the bargain. I recommend it to all families."

– Elizabeth Oaktree, Fremont