

Librarian's Shelf by Brad Hruska

“Get Outside & Play!”

With the weather being so unseasonably warm lately, dozens of families, including mine, have been taking advantage of these mild temperatures and heading outdoors! Because of the large amount of sunshine, I have also been seeing many families venturing to the library in search of books that would provide them with great activities the whole family will enjoy!

Luckily for them, the Columbus Public Library has a wonderful collection of outdoor activity books like “The Activity Family” by Amanda Soule, “365 Ways to Live Green for Kids” by Sheri Amsel, “Awesome Yo-Yo Tricks” by Shar Levine, “Kids Gone Camping” by Cherie Winner, “101 Movement Games for Children” by Huberta Wiertsema, and “The Footbag Book;” however, “Run. Jump. Hide. Slide. Splash.” by Joe Rhatigan really caught my attention.

In his book, Rhatigan provides households with activities that both older and younger children can enjoy, which is important to families like mine because my wife and I have an eight year old son and a two year old daughter (and also a five year old daughter), so we need events in which ALL of our children can participate.

The one of the first games that caught my attention in Rhatigan's text is “Caps and Balls.” For this activity, families line up four ball caps along the side of their home. Each person then takes a rubber ball and bounces it off the house, trying to land it inside the cap. The person to make it all the way down the row wins!

“Crab-Walk Soccer” is another game that I thought would appeal to my gang. In this game individuals sit on their bottoms, using their arms and legs to move in various directions (like a crab) kicking/hitting a soccer ball into a goal. The team to score the most points in ten minutes is victorious!

A third activity that I thought family would enjoy is “Sponge Tag.” For this game, families simply fill a big container with water and place a large sponge in the bucket. Family members decide who will be “it.” That person then grabs the soaked sponge and tosses at the person they think should be “it” next.

“Water Slide Bowling” is one of the last activities families may enjoy doing. For this activity, Rhatigan takes the slip-and-slid concept and adds a twist by lining up empty plastic water bottles up at the end of the lane. Family members take turns sliding down the lane, trying to knock down as many plastic containers as they

can. The person to knock down the most drink holders is the champion!

So if you are looking for great activities the whole family can enjoy during these warm weather days, put on your walking sneakers and stroll down to the Columbus Public Library. We have a great selection of books that are guaranteed to provide you and your loved ones with quality activity plans everyone in your family will love. If you have any questions about the books highlighted in this article, please give me a call at (402) 564-7116 opt. 4.