

# Summer Fun at Kids R Kids - Fall Creek

By SUSAN MCFARLAND

*Tribune Correspondent*

Summer is coming, and with it children moaning: "I'm bored!" Kids R Kids Fall Creek may have the answer for local parents to that cry. Joshua Henderson, assistant director of education support, said this summer will be a fun-filled and action-packed one at Kids R Kids of Fall Creek.

"Our theme for this summer is 'Connected.' We are going to teach kids how to properly use social media, how to connect with friends and how, most importantly, to stay safe when online. The connected theme runs through our weekly activities. For example, we will have '#cooking,' where kids learn how to cook their own food and make their own healthy snacks (not using a stove). We will have '#engineering,' where kids learn how to build robots using Lego Mindstorm kits, and we partner with Kid Robotics, who teach the kids how to work in teams. We will also have '#produceit,' where kids write a play, make costumes and perform it in front of the other kids," said Henderson.

Location owner Todd Olges said the program is split into age-based groups. "We have ages 5-7 downstairs with the pre-school kids, and ages 8-12 (our seniors) upstairs. Each group has their own age-appropriate playgrounds as well, so we never have preschool kids on the playground with seniors."

Parents can commit their kids to attending summer camp for the whole summer or just a week. Henderson said, "I can guarantee if kids come one week, they will want to come all summer. Kids can also come part-time, for any three days a week, but signing up for the whole summer reserves a child's place at camp. Some weeks of camp fill up and we have a limited number of spaces."

There are weekly field trips planned for this summer to places like NASA, Main Street Theater (to see "The Wizard of Oz" during '#produceit week), It's Family Food and Fun, and the Houston Dynamo Field Day, where kids will get to play soccer with Dynamo players and score tickets for a future Dynamo game.

Summer camp starts the week of June 5. The cost of full-time summer camp is \$180 a week. Part-time camp is \$140 a week. "The tuition is all inclusive. We take care of all their meals - breakfast, lunch, snacks - field trips, supplies and a summer camp shirt. There are no additional fees for summer camp and no enrollment fee," said Henderson.

Olges said the kids spend the first two weeks of summer camp sharing in bonding activities. "We use a positive value system here. We want every child to be a STAR; that is, we want them to show kindness, take responsibility, act safely and respect everyone. We spend a lot of time the first two weeks team building and reinforcing

these beliefs," said Olges.

The staff at Kids R Kids is carefully screened by Olges and Henderson. "The lead teachers in our classrooms either have their Child Development Associate certification or are in the process of earning it. The first question we ask our applicants applying for a teaching job, before they even come in for an interview, is whether they truly have a passion for working with children. We look for people who have patience, understanding and compassion. We have children from many different walks of life, and we treat every single one the same way," said Henderson.

Security and safety is of utmost importance for Olges and the Kids R Kids staff. "The classrooms are separated by glass walls which provides a vital safety element. Should a teacher need immediate assistance, they can be seen by the classroom teachers on either side of them. Our classrooms are equipped with two camera views and we give our parents secure access through the web to be able to look in on their child at anytime during the day that their child is in our care. Only parents who have a child enrolled at Kids R Kids have access to the camera views online," said Olges.

Meals provided on-site are prepared by a full-time cook, Miss Darelyn, who has been known to make soups from homemade chicken stock. "Nutrition is really important to us. Miss Darelyn really tries to make most of our meals from scratch. We don't use a lot of heat-and-serve food. We don't buy canned vegetables; we use flash-frozen vegetables. Our staff even loves eating our food," said Olges.

Olges took over the Fall Creek Kids R Kids location in December 2013. Prior to the purchase, Olges spent many years managing Kids R Kids locations in Kingwood and Atascocita owned by Kevin Kilgore, Sr. Olges said the 20,000-square-foot Fall Creek location cost more than \$4 million to build in 2005.

Olges lives with his wife and two children - one a freshman at Texas Tech and the other a freshman at AHS - in Eagle Springs. He finds a lot of value in being a local owner who is on-site daily, driving an after-school bus, and being a jack of all trades. "I like to think we offer a more personal touch than you may find elsewhere. From thoughtful staff interviews to the way we take care of the facility, we believe our families deserve the very best we can provide. We have an open door policy with our parents and staff and even provide ways to contact us directly after hours should any question or concern arise. We are here to serve our community to the best of our ability," said Olges.

Kids R Kids Fall Creek is accredited by AdvancED as well as being certified by Texas Rising Star. Kids R Kids Fall Creek is located at 8221 N. Sam Houston Pkwy. For more information, call 281-446-0063 or check out their website at [krkfallcreek.com](http://krkfallcreek.com).



**OWNER: Todd Olges (left)**  
**Curriculum Director:**  
**Joshua Henderson (right)**



OPENED DOORS:  
**December 2013**

MOTTO:  
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