

# Real Magic in Childhood, Episode 62



**Power of Moms**  
A Gathering Place for Deliberate Mothers

After reading an article in the Huffington Post entitled, [“I’m Done Making My Kid’s Childhood Magical,”](#) April and Saren discuss whether it’s the mom’s job to make childhood magical or if we should simply get out of the way so kids can make their own magic.

Today we are bombarded with choices to involve our kids in different activities: beautiful birthday parties, designer bedrooms, sports, crafts, music, etc. We are pressured to do so much and get our kids in so much that we become overly involved in everything our children do.

April and Saren recommend to take a middle-of-the-road approach and find the balance between structured and unstructured time by finding the balance between activities and free time without a ton of responsibility.

In one day, April read a blog post about how moms who make St. Patrick’s Day special are overdoing it and another post by a mom who felt so bad because she was one of those moms who do activities for each holiday. Each of us is different and has different family traditions and special holidays.

From this article, the author notes that, “we [moms] do not need to make childhood magical, it is inherently magical even if it’s not perfect.” Our goal should be to enhance the natural magic of childhood by doing what works for you and your family and to follow your kids’ interests.

In another Power of Moms post, one author says to teach kids to “make their own fun.” This is a life skill that will benefit them for years. Learning how to make fun

is a process that takes time and shouldn't be jumped right into and helps to redefine "magical" by identifying as a family what you do that's special.

For example, Saren held a birthday party for one of her boys who really enjoyed taking things apart. They called it an inventing party and went to the thrift store and found cheap, \$1 electronics for each boy invited (10 total) and they spent the afternoon disassembling these contraptions in between playing in the yard and just having a good time. Another birthday for another son, who really likes hiking, resulted in hiking a nearby trail to have cake in a cave. These were simple ways to involve each child and help make those birthday memories magical.

Another idea found on Power of Moms is the "[Mom Adventures.](#)" Once a week this mom goes on an adventure with her kids. There will be no errands or cleaning, just focused time on her kids. With younger kids she painted with shaving cream in the back yard, ate ice cream on plates without spoons, crazy hat day, and science experiments. Other adventures have been more extravagant like hopping in the car and exploring Amish country. Now that some kids are older, they get to help plan the adventure like having a scavenger hunt at the zoo, building sand castles, or climbing a tree.

These ideas are great, but kids don't need mom with them all the time. Kids need unstructured time to develop and fuel their imaginations. Moms also need to know that there is magic in both every day and special occasions. We need to be the example. It's really easy to compete and compare to other moms who have more (or less) and plan big vacations with their families or have a boat, etc. It's easy to say, "If I could do that [insert whatever the other mom you've read/seen does] then my children would be happier." This "if...then..." statement is simply not true. We have to change our mindset - not our budget. We can help create magic in our own homes and teach our kids to create their own magic with what they have. Not only will this teach them a life skill, but it will teach them life values: gratitude and optimism.

These magical moments won't happen if we're constantly on the go with structured activities. We need to relax, slow down and enjoy the moment. April recalls a time when she went to the store to get ingredients to make pumpkin

bread (which takes a while to bake). As they were leaving, her youngest boy saw a special cart that looked like a police car that they hadn't noticed on the way in. He was disappointed so April allowed him one quick trip around the store in the special cart and made his day magical. If she had been in such a rush, then he might not have experienced that magic.

Teaching our kids about the magic of childhood can happen when we:

- Get out of the way and let them create the tools and build their own imaginations
- Relax and slow down. Magic doesn't happen in a rush.
- Let the serendipity moments happen.

*Transcribed by Rosie Liljenquist*