

Kids

PLACE TO TAKE YOUR KIDS WHEN YOU'RE HUNGOVER

It's cold out, possibly raining. You've watched "Thomas the Tank Engine" 15 times, and it's only 9 a.m. Gone are the days of summer, when you could push the kids outdoors to play for hours. Well, wrangle them, grab the diaper bag, and head to **The Big Backyard** (2857 S. 160th St., New Berlin), a year-round indoor playground and veritable godsend to parents. (AB)

RUN IN THE PARK

For most kids, there are two ways to circle the bases at a major league ballpark: have a vivid imagination or a major league father. But in Milwaukee, all that's required is attending a Brewers Sunday home game, when kids 16 and under can **run the Miller Park bases** after the game for free. (HM)

MUSIC CLASSES

Whether you're looking to attend concerts, learn an instrument or introduce your 4-month-old to music, the **Wisconsin Conservatory**

of Music (wcmusic.org) has an expansive catalog. The nonprofit school has three locations, but the bonus for students at the Prospect Avenue location is studying in a registered historic landmark. (DS)

PLACE TO GIVE BIRTH

Even the nicest hospital is still just a hospital. But at the **Well-Rounded Maternity Center** (N88 W16733 Main St., Menomonee Falls), the cozy decor and large hot tub (water birth optional) is like having a baby at a bed and breakfast, except you don't have to clean up afterward. (DS)

KIDDIE PLAYLAND

Designed by kids, funded by donations and built by (experienced) volunteers, **Possibility Playground** in Port Washington sets a new standard. The cool castle-shaped play structure has extra-wide ramps, so kids with special needs can play alongside all of their friends. Parents be warned: The views from Upper Lake Park are distracting. (DS)

CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN

Heather Holton is the rock star of the Cudahy Family Library (3500 Library Dr.). Her fans clamor, crawl and wiggle to be near "Miss Heather," who leads them in rousing renditions of "Acka Backa Soda Cracker" and "Itsy Bitsy Spider." With songs, stories and even signing, Miss Heather speaks their language so well that some mornings, it's standing- ... er ... crawling-room only. (JH)



HOTEL FOSTER
Past perfected.

RETRO

In Milwaukee, what's old really is new again.

THE GET DOWN

If you haven't already, put on your dancing shoes and get ready to boogie, as DJs Andy Noble, Brent Goodsell and Opiated Black spin soul and funk 45s fresh out of the 1960s and '70s every second and fourth Saturday of the month at **Mad Planet** (533 E. Center St.). (SE)

THE HOTEL FOSTER

For those of us who loved The Globe, Live on North (and Lava before it) was always a cruel joke. But thankfully, a business has finally moved into the North Avenue space that does justice to its ancestry. **Hotel Foster**, a 1920s-themed bar, brings class and refinement to a corner much in need. (ES)

STAG BARBERSHOP

What Hotel Foster is doing for drinks, **Stag** (3064 S. Delaware Ave.) is doing for grooming. That is to say, bringing us back to the good ol' days, when men took pride in their appearance and a barber was as much a confidant as a stylist. (ES)

CAFE AT THE PLAZA

Dating back to 1925, the art deco details and old-school horseshoe counter are balanced by chef Karen Bell's modern interpretations, such as a chorizo omelet with goat cheese

and romesco sauce, or biscuits with duck sausage and cranberry gravy (1007 N. Cass St.). (KAS)

BRASS ROOSTER

Fedoras, top hats, pork pies, bowlers, boaters and even a safari-style pith helmet were all picked out by husband-and-wife hat aficionados Kate and John McLaughlin for their happening haberdashery (2479 S. Kinnickinnic Ave.). The hep shop also stocks handsome accessories like cuff links and pocket watches. (TK)

REHORST AMERIQUE 1912 ABSINTHE VERTE & ROUGE

In 1792, a French doctor concocted absinthe, and by the 1870s, Europe and America were consumed by the 'green fairy' craze. But in 1915, the spirit was banned. After absinthe became legal again in 2007, Great Lakes Distillery took inspiration from pre-ban recipes to conjure up two delicious versions of the legendary drink. (CHR)



Bottom left and top right photos by AM Tapia