The Family Expo is Here!

Summer’s over and your kids may be back in school, but everything they need to have the happiest, healthiest, most productive year possible doesn’t begin and end in the classroom.

There are after-school programs to keep children safe, engaged and learning after the last bell rings; enrichment programs that immerse them in the arts, robotics, filmmaking and coding; and sports programs that encourage them to stay focused and fit. There are wellness resources to help keep them healthy and provide care when they’re not. And there are supports to increase their vocabulary, foster a love of learning and ensure their academic success. The options are seemingly endless – and they’re all at The Children’s Trust Family Expo!

Happening on Saturday, September 8, at the site of the Miami-Dade County Fair, the Expo is the largest gathering of family-centric resources in the area. More than 15,000 moms, dads, caregivers and kids will walk through this year – as they have in years past – to take in the sights, sounds and experiences available: all-day activities indoors and out; live music and dance performances; giveaways and big-ticket raffle prizes; and opportunities to learn about hundreds of academic, enrichment and wellness resources available in the community. Parking, entry and participation are all free.

“It’s difficult to be a parent, but you’re not alone out there,” says Trust CEO and President James Haj. “There are services and providers throughout this community to help with all aspects of raising children and building stronger families, and this is the place where you’ll find them.”

New for 2018 is UM’s Pediatric Mobile Clinic, which will administer medical screenings to kids; a mobile arcade/gaming room; a teddy bear clinic sponsored by Jackson Health System where kids can use bandages and bear hugs to make their plush charges all better; a living, breathing “statue” of Alice in Wonderland’s Queen of Hearts; a three-piece, interactive, paint-by-number mural project – think giant coloring book – sponsored by The Motivational Edge; and elaborately costumed and Carnaval-like stilt walkers sure to dazzle from up on high.

“I thought this would be all about my kids, but I found out about a couple of programs for me, too,” said a mom from Miami at last year’s Expo. “That was a nice surprise.”

Eventgoers can also expect to see many returning favorites. Back-to-School Boulevard will promote academic and enrichment programs offered by Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS); Miami Children’s Museum will host hands-on activities inspired by the works of several abstract expressionist artists; Baptist Health will sponsor family Zumba classes throughout the day; HistoryMiami will provide three interactive stations involving sound, touch and arts activities related to its permanent exhibit, Tropical Dreams: A People’s History of South Florida; Wacky Wild Science/STEAM City Kids will bring creepy crawly critters and a giant, inflatable planetarium; and Homestead Speedway will roll in with one of its race cars.

“It’s all free, which is wonderful, and you don’t get bored,” said one mom. “The kids just want to keep going and going and going!”

Other highlights include a daylong chess tournament courtesy of Stormont Kings Chess; a STEM center and robotics demonstration from M-DCPS; amazing fencing performances presented by Florepsa Fencing Club; Colgate’s “Bright Smiles, Bright Futures” mobile dental screening and education clinic; and exhilarating stage performances from Fantasy Theatre Factory, Music with Meaghan and Miami Children’s Museum, the latter presenting Dr. Seuss’s What Was I Scared Of and Green Eggs and Ham.

“It’s our first time here,” said a Miami Gardens father as his two young sons, faces painted to look like superheroes, discussed what they wanted to see next. “I can’t believe how many things there are for kids to do.”

And that list grows longer every year!

Crowd-pleasers like the low-cost Read to Learn book fair, face painters and balloon artists, bounce houses and a rock climbing wall, and one-on-one selfie moments with much-loved storybook characters like Little Critter, Cookie Mouse, Ladybug Girl, Nate the Great and Splat the Cat, as well as Cartoon Network’s Bugs Bunny and Scooby-Doo, will also be returning.

“We made some new friends while we were here, and we got to do some face painting and lots of other fun things,” said another mom. “It’s just a really nice thing for the community.”
**EXHIBITORS A-Z**

- Academy of CLASS
- ACE Academy
- Actors' Playhouse
- Act4Me
- Adults Mankind Organization
- Affirming YOUth Foundation
- Agency for Persons with Disabilities
- American Children's Orchestras for Peace
- Americas for Immigrant Justice
- Amigos for Kids
- Arts for Learning/Miami
- Asociación Profesional de Cuidado Infantil Domiciliario (APCID)
- Banyan Health Systems
- Baptist Health South Florida
- Barry University School of Social Work
- Be Strong International
- Behavioral Aid Solutions
- Big Brothers Big Sisters Miami
- Borinquen Health Care Centers
- Boy Scouts of America - Tequesta District
- Boy Scouts Troop 23
- Bridge Disability Network
- Care Resource
- Catalyst Miami
- Catholic Charities – Strengthening Families Program
- Chambers High School
- Children of Inmates
- Children's Home Society
- Children's Rehab Network
- Citrus Health Network
- CMB Visions Unlimited
- Code Explorers
- Common Threads
- Communities in Schools of Miami
- Community Coalition
- Community Health of South Florida
- Community Medical Group ACCESS Centers
- Crime Stoppers of Miami-Dade & the Florida Keys
- DentaQuest
- Early Learning Coalition (ELC)
- ELC The Neighborhood Place for Early Head Start
- Epilepsy Florida
- Family Care Council Area 11
- Family Expo Raffle Booth
- Family Safety Net/ New Horizons CMHC
- Fantasy Theatre Factory
- Fatherhood Task Force of South Florida
- Federation of Families Miami-Dade Chapter
- First Serve Miami
- Fit Kids of America
- Fitness Sports Karate
- Florespa Fencing Club
- Florida Blue
- Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County – Preventative Services
- Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County – WIC
- Florida Department of Transportation Safety Campaigns
- Florida Division of Blind Services
- Florida International University Center for Children and Families (FIU CCF)
- FIU Child Anxiety Program at CCF
- FIU Embrace
- Florida Odyssey of the Mind – Tropical Region
- Florida Poison Information Center – Miami
- Funcionarte
- Gang Alternative
- Give and Save 365
- Greater Miami Youth Symphony
- Homestead Speedway
- OneBlood
- Rock Climbing Wall
- UM Pediatric Mobile Clinic
- Arcade Truck
- Bounce Houses (5)
- Colgate “Bright Smiles, Bright Futures”
- Rock Climbing Wall
- UM Pediatric Mobile Clinic

**FREE Hourly Raffles BIG-TICKET Giveaways!**

Register at designated kiosks located throughout the event – prizes awarded starting at 11:30 a.m.!
### SCHEDULES

#### Building 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</table>
| 11 a.m. | Young Talent Big Dreams All-Stars  
Actors’ Playhouse at The Miracle Theatre |
| 11:30 a.m. | Raffle Announcement  
Alumni Band Guitars Over Guns |
| Noon | GMYS Brass Choir  
Greater Miami Youth Symphony |
| 12:30 p.m. | Raffle Announcement  
Come on Along! Miami Children’s Chorus  
Musicall Chamber Group Musicall |
| 1 p.m. | Magic Show Amazing Mr. A  
Comedy Juggling Tim Erwin |
| 1:30 p.m. | Raffle Announcement  
Young Talent Big Dreams All-Stars  
Actors’ Playhouse at The Miracle Theatre |
| 2 p.m. | Hip-Hop Dance Mix  
Overtown Youth Center  
JujuTsu Kla Kidz |
| 2:30 p.m. | Raffle Announcement  
Composing Better Lives with MMP  
Miami Music Project |
| 3 p.m. | United We Stand Fit Kids of America |
| 3:30 p.m. | Raffle Announcement  
Lyrical Expression & Spoken Word  
The Motivational Edge |
| 4 p.m. | Can’t Stop the Feeling  
Hope for Miami Success Club  
Musical Dance  
American Children’s Orchestras for Peace |

#### SPECIAL AREAS
- Back-to-School Boulevard  
Miami-Dade County Public Schools
- #BaptistHealthy Baptist Health
- Chess Tournament  
Stormont Kings Chess
- I ♥ History HistoryMiami Museum
- Interactive Mural  
The Motivational Edge
- Magnet STEM Center  
Miami-Dade County Public Schools

**Visit us on**  
thechildrenstrust.org  
#TCTFamilyExpo

### Building 2

<table>
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| 10 a.m. | Little Critter  
Cookie Mouse |
| 10:30 a.m. | Ladybug Girl  
Nate the Great  
Splat the Cat |
| 11 a.m. | Bugs Bunny  
Scooby-Doo |
| 11:30 a.m. | Nate the Great  
Scooby-Doo  
Cookie Mouse  
Splat the Cat |
| Noon | Bugs Bunny  
Scooby-Doo  
Little Critter |
| 12:30 p.m. | Raffle Announcement  
Young Talent Big Dreams All-Stars  
Actors’ Playhouse at The Miracle Theatre |
| 1 p.m. | Magic Show Amazing Mr. A  
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| 4 p.m. | Can’t Stop the Feeling  
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### FENCING DEMONSTRATIONS

Presented by
Florespa Fencing Club

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<tbody>
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</tbody>
</table>
2 p.m. |
| Noon |  
3 p.m. |
| 1 p.m. |  
4 p.m. |

#### SPECIAL AREAS
- Arts & Crafts  
Miami Children’s Museum
- Read to Learn Book Fair  
Presented by Miami-Dade Family Learning Partnership
- Tennis First Serve Miami
- Wacky Wild Science  
STEAM City Kids

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### READ TO LEARN STAGE

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| 10:30 a.m. | Magical Bookstore  
Fantasy Theatre Factory |
| 11:30 a.m. | Seuss Stories  
Miami Children’s Museum  
Music with Meaghan  
Meaghan Gasch |
| Noon | Back to School  
Trivia Challenge  
Fantasy Theatre Factory  
Not a Box  
Miami Children’s Museum |
| 12:30 p.m. |  
1 p.m. |
| 1:30 p.m. |  
2 p.m. |
| 2 p.m. |  
3 p.m. |
| 3 p.m. |  
4 p.m. |
| 4 p.m. |  
4:30 p.m. |

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### CHARACTER MEET-&-GREET

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Cookie Mouse |
| 10:30 a.m. | Ladybug Girl  
Nate the Great  
Splat the Cat |
| 11 a.m. | Bugs Bunny  
Scooby-Doo |
| 11:30 a.m. | Nate the Great  
Scooby-Doo  
Cookie Mouse  
Splat the Cat |
| Noon | Bugs Bunny  
Scooby-Doo  
Little Critter |
| 12:30 p.m. |  
1 p.m. |
| 1:30 p.m. |  
2 p.m. |
| 2 p.m. |  
3 p.m. |
| 3 p.m. |  
4 p.m. |
| 4 p.m. |  
4:30 p.m. |

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