

# From Dirt Camp to Dr. Seuss

## Camp choices abound at Discovery Place and Charlotte Nature Museum

Our little explorer might still be donning mittens and daydreaming about snow days, but summer is right around the corner. As the weather heats up and school bells stop ringing, finding the right summer camp for your child can be challenging and wading through options can be time consuming.

Some questions you should consider are “What types of activities are offered?” “Are there ample opportunities to interact with other children?” “Who should I trust to provide the best summer camp experience?” Above all else, most moms and dads would agree choosing a camp that is memorable, educational and most importantly fun, is at the top of the list.

What sets summer camps at **Discovery Place, Charlotte Nature Museum** and **Discovery Place KIDS** apart? Extraordinary educators whose knowledge and passion is the driving force behind delivering unique experiences that are exciting, contribute to long-term development and create memories that last a lifetime. Your child will have a blast (literally!) making new friends, developing skills and trying hands-on activities in a fun-filled and safe environment. With convenient locations throughout town, from Pineville to Charlotte and Huntersville, Discovery Place Camps treat your child to a summer experience to last all four seasons.

### Charlotte Nature Museum

Charlotte Nature Museum Summer Camps offer your children the opportunity to enhance their perspective of the natural world and their place within it. Whether trekking on the museum’s outdoor trails, or tracking local wildlife, Museum Naturalists connect with every camper, sparking young imaginations, while at the same time fostering a sense of stewardship for the environment. From *Wonder Bugs* to *Backyard Explorers*, preschool through first grade activities include storytelling, singing songs, mimicking animal movement and celebrating the seasons. Does your little adventurer have a knack for unearthing creepy crawlers? Then *Scales, Tales & Slime Camp* is right up his alley as they delve into the often little-known benefits of bugs and slugs. Using science, future sleuths can track animal clues as a CSI (Critic Scene Investigator) or join a team of Green Crusaders, inventing new uses for recyclable materials. Rising second through sixth grade camps encourage kids to understand their role with the outdoors and explore the natural world. *Get Wild in the City* and take a closer look at animals that dwell in urban areas. Did you know millions of organisms exist in one cubic foot of water or soil? Examine the lives beneath your feet in the *Ponds, Puddles & Dirt Camp*. Technology and the great outdoors intersect on the *Paw Paw Nature Trail* during Leadership Development Camp. Using iPad mobile apps as guides, campers will photograph nature discoveries and film public service announcements to address water pollution.

From searching for treasure, making forts, caring for animals to shaping the earth, Charlotte Nature Museum Summer Camps have it all.

### Discovery Place

Inspiring tomorrow’s scientists and educators is a rewarding task counselors at Discovery Place look forward to every year. With camps available in Uptown Charlotte, Huntersville and Pineville, an awe-inspiring Discovery Place experience is in your neighborhood.

Camps deliver hands-on activities that nurture specific interests and provide unforgettable experiences designed to keep your child engaged and learning after school ends. Featuring a host of amazing experiences, camps offer everything from up-close live animal encounters, eye-popping experiments, behind-the-scenes tours of Discovery Place and more. No matter if your child seeks to be a Young Einstein, build a robot or channel their inner pirate, there’s a special summer activity offered by Discovery Place guaranteed to ignite your child’s creative side.

### Discovery Place KIDS

An Adventure in Play — what else is there to say? Discovery Place KIDS offers an array of phenomenal summer camps for children ages 2 through 8. Featuring play experiences designed to spark curiosity and creativity, campers have the opportunity to sing, dance, get messy, be active and ask

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questions in a safe and nurturing environment. Led by the museum's Creative Play Professionals, the camp curriculum is structured around math, science, literacy and the arts with little ones learning through play. Each week there is a new theme ranging from paleontology and ocean life to famous authors including Eric Carle and Dr. Seuss. Does your child have taste for the culinary? Aspiring chefs can try their hand at preparing meals while learning about the importance of healthy eating. Other camps include space exploration as your budding astronaut learns about the solar system and travels to the stars. ●

For more information on the summer camp offerings at Charlotte Nature Museum, Discovery Place and Discovery Place KIDS, visit [www.charlottenaturemuseum.org](http://www.charlottenaturemuseum.org) or [www.discoveryplace.org](http://www.discoveryplace.org).

## Get Ready to Dance, Tumble and Cheer!

Lake Norman Dance Gallery and Little Flippers Tumbling & Gymnastics offers a unique quality of fresh, new innovative dance techniques and tumbling skills with some of the area's finest, experienced and dedicated instructors, who are continually educating themselves in all areas of dance, tumbling and cheer. Both LNDG and Little Flippers are located in a spacious, 10,000 square-foot facility in Mooresville.

The three dance rooms have injury-prevention floors, viewing windows and restrooms. Your dancer can choose from a variety of dance styles, including "Mommy and Me," ballet, tap, jazz, lyrical, pointe, creative movement, modern and hip hop (and competition teams). Dance classes in the studio begin for children 18 months and older. LNDG offers competition dance and tumble teams for ages 5 - 18 years of age.

The Little Flippers Tumbling & Gymnastics portion of the facility covers 3,400 square feet and has 18-20-foot high ceilings, and is equipped with a tumble track, Flexi-Rolls, mats, inclines, low balance beam, parallel bars, uneven bars, single bar, a trapeze and more. Children ages 12 months and older can choose from Parent/Tot Flippers, Little Flippers Sibling, Kinder Flippers, Advanced Tumbling, an All-Boy Flippers class, Super Cheer and more.

The facility, which is home to the 2011 Showstopper National Champions, also hosts birthday parties, Parent's Night Outs and Open Play sessions and private group rates for local mom's/parents groups.

Summer classes and camp registration begin in April. Summer camp themes will include: Tangled, Beauty and the Beast, Disney Princess, Superheroes, Smurfs, Chipwrecked, Olympic Week, Short Sports, Just Dance, Flipping Fun, CheerTime and more. Camps are open to boys and girls ages 3 - 5 years and 6 - 8 years and will run from 9 a.m. to noon. Older students can choose from Hip Hop and Power Tumbling camps.

Call 704.662.0699 or e-mail [lakenormandancegallery@gmail.com](mailto:lakenormandancegallery@gmail.com) or call 704.677.5217 or e-mail [littleflippersgymnastics@gmail.com](mailto:littleflippersgymnastics@gmail.com) for more information on classes and registration.

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