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▲ All of the above images are from "The Kid Cities," starting on page 50.

## Features

### 50 The Kid Cities

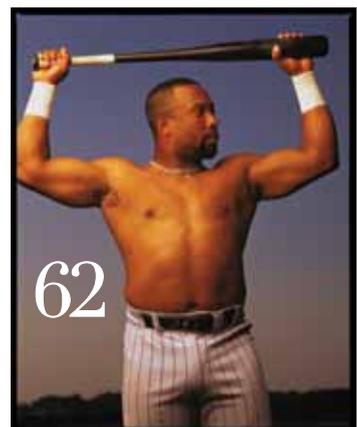
The Twin Cities is constantly ranked tops in the nation for families. Find out why with our guide to more than 75 sweet spots the kids in your life will adore.

*Edited by Jennifer Blaise Kramer*

### 62 Blood, Sweat, and Jeers

In *The Sports Show*, a groundbreaking new exhibit at the MIA, photography, video, and art combine to examine sports as a crucible of culture, politics, celebrity, and spectacle.

*By Tad Simons*



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**On the Cover:** A sweet retreat at Joni Wheeler's Sugar Sugar candy boutique. For more kid-friendly fun, turn to page 50. Photograph by Steve Henke.

To subscribe, call 612-339-7571. For additional information, see page 144.



*“Everyone wants a piece of me. I love that one-on-one time with each of them.”*



## Alana Bassin /// Lower Mom

**Family:** Husband David; kids Talia 8, Solomon 6, Ari 4, Judah 1; two African dwarf frogs.

**Lives:** South Cedar Lake.

**Job:** Partner at national product liability law firm Bowman and Brooke LLP.

**Drives:** Toyota Highlander Hybrid.

**Workout:** Minneapolis Jewish Community Center.

**Working Mom Moment:** I billed (hours) the days all four of my kids were born. Litigation doesn't stop; that's

why there aren't many women partners.

**Can't Live Without:** BlackBerry smartphone.

**Top Shops:** Target, Target, Target. Plus Macy's, Gap, Hot Mama, Barnes and Noble, lululemon, and Byerly's.

**Weekday Dinner:** Byerly's Five Buck Cluck.

**Kids' Parties:** American Girl Store, Sky Zone, and Pump It Up.

**Family Outing:** Cedar Lake beach and walking path.

**Dining With Kids:** Rye Deli.

**Bedtime Routine:** It takes two hours. Everyone wants a piece of me. I love that one-on-one time with each of them, but then I come downstairs to a messy house and camp forms to fill out and play dates to schedule and lunches to pack. I go to bed around 2 AM.

**Downtime:** What downtime? At home we watch Redbox videos and play the Wii.

## TIPS Mom + Dad APPROVED



### LET LOOSE

Call it our own Central Park. **Edina's Centennial Lakes Park** boasts a big, beautiful outdoor ice-skating rink, and come summer the space is a one-stop wonderland sporting paddleboats, lawn bowling, golf (with both mini and putting courses), outdoor concerts, and movies. [centenniallakespark.com](http://centenniallakespark.com)



### NIGHT LIGHTS

On Feb. 4, take the whole family down to Lake of the Isles for the annual **Luminary Loppet**, where thousands of ice luminaries cast a glow as skiers and snowshoers make their trek around the lake. Stay for bonfires, cocoa, and a post-party. [cityoflakesloppet.com](http://cityoflakesloppet.com)



### THE WORKS

Spend an afternoon pulling a few levers at **The Works**, where learning about engineering, science, and technology is fun. "Hands-on, minds-on" is the motto at this center, aimed at kids 5 to 12, which recently moved from Edina to a larger space in Bloomington with room for a design lab and traveling exhibits. 9740 Grand Ave. S., Bloomington, 952-888-4262, [theworks.org](http://theworks.org)

