

Favorite Family Friendly Restaurants

After conferring with Kathryn Pegorsch, chairperson of the moms and tots group, mom and former President Farina Yagoobi, and enthusiastic grandmom Paula Cree, I came up with a list of favorite restaurants that families can enjoy together. All these restaurants have food that kids love, some fast and some not so fast, and lively surroundings that make the dining experience fun. These are not in order.

1. **Mimi's Café** - "I love Mimi's Café - the kids menu is great and includes healthy choices. Plus, it has a great menu all around!" - Sue Fousek. 2656 Showplace Dr., Naperville.
2. **Portillo's** - Portillo's is a good place to take the kids because there's such a large variety of great, fast food. If you go to the Rt. 59 location, you get the added "Barnelli's" pasta and salads to choose from. Portillo's gets an A+ for moving people through their ordering lines in a hurry, and for the delicious chocolate cake.
3. **Noodles and Company** - "This is my son's favorite restaurant. They can be as loud as they want and love the mac n' cheese. My husband and I like the casual atmosphere and the noodle selections, but it can get pretty crowded at peak meal times." - Kathryn. There are two locations in Naperville now, near the new Whole Foods on 75th St. and in downtown Naperville.
4. **Red Robin** - "This would be my sons' other favorite restaurant. My husband and I love the wide variety of burgers and salads, and

the boys LOVE the bottomless fries. You can also expect visits from Red Robin himself on certain evenings, and the kids get to take a balloon on the way out. What more could you ask for?" - Kathryn. Check out Red Robin at the Cantera Theaters on Diehl Rd.

5. **Giordano's** - I asked Farina about a favorite pizza place, because kids love pizza. She and her family like Giordano's for the pizza and pasta. Eat in or have it delivered. Try their signature stuffed pizza or go with the thin crust. It's all good! Giordano's is in South Naperville on Rt. 59 and 95th, and in downtown Naperville on Main Street.
6. **Taco Fresco** - "They have great kids' meals and on Mondays the kids can eat free" - Susan Steeves Taco Fresco has locations on Rt. 59 and 95th St. and on Freedom Drive in Naperville.
7. **Jimmy's Grill** - "Great for a grown-up night out, as well as dinner or lunch with the kids. The casual sports bar atmosphere is fun and the food selection is great for adults & kids alike. The boys like to sit outside and watch all the cars & people go by." - Kathryn. Jimmy's is on the corner of Washington and Chicago Ave. in downtown Naperville.
8. **Steak 'n Shake** - "Great for when the kids are only patient enough for a one course meal. The kids love the milkshakes and they can order grapes and apples for a side dish instead of French fries." - Susan Steeves Steak 'n Shake is at the Fox Valley Mall on Rt. 59.

9. **Panera Bread** - Panera is certainly a wise restaurant choice for kids, because there are several locations to choose from, lots of tasty, healthy options and it's a departure from burgers and fries. Paula Cree takes her grandkids to Panera because they love the berry flavored push-up yogurts, soups, and of course the classic PB&J as well as other sandwiches. Naperville's three Panera locations are at the Fox Valley Mall, Rt 59 at 95th St., behind Best Buy on Rt. 59, and on Ogden - close to Naperville Rd.
10. **2Toots Train Whistle Grill** - Here's one you may not be aware of, also suggested by Paula Cree. This is a diner style restaurant serving the usual hot dogs, sandwiches and burgers. What makes this place unique is that all food is delivered by trains, on train tracks around the restaurant. For birthdays, the kids receive a free meal and a cupcake with a train whistle and candle in it! There are two local locations for 2 Toots. One is in Glen Ellen on Main Street and the other is in Downer's Grove on Warren Ave. Both are appropriately near the train tracks. For a special celebration, this may be just the ticket!

Other suggested family friendly restaurants

Chipotle - "I think it has more to do with the kid as opposed to the restaurant!! We never go anywhere with the kids except **Chipotle!**"- Penny Brucker Chipotle has locations downtown, and across from Cantera Theaters.

Colonial Café - Kids menu with coloring pages and puzzles, Monday's kids eat free! Homemade ice cream creations. They are on Washington near Trader Joe's and Casey's.

Maggiano's - Great family style Italian food, high noise level, lemon cookies. Located on Freedom Dr.

Any other suggestions? Please let me know, so that I can add it to the list.

Thanks, Sue Maloney