

5 Things to do in the Valley Before School Starts

Written by Kacie Asher

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Your child's summer days are coming to a close, which means it's time for back-to-school shopping and quality time with the family. From coloring to cooking up a new dish, the Valley offers creative fun at the top museums, aquariums and creative workshops in town.



Crayola Experience at Chandler Mall

Children naturally love art – from staring in their own coloring page to learning all the names in the crayon box. So, of course, the new [Crayola Experience at Chandler Mall](#) will knock their socks off thanks to its lineup and fun and interactive activities for kiddos. Can you say Macaroni and Cheese yellow? "Wrap It Up" allows kids to create their very own crayon color. Dive into coloring pages, melt and mold workshops, digital programs, chalk room activities and many more. The Crayola Experience allows the creation of one-of-a-kind masterpieces and discovery of your child's imaginative spirit.

Children's Museum of Phoenix Presents Who's Cookin' in the KIDchen

Do you have a master chef in training? If so, they will fall in love with the guest chef at the Who's Cookin' in the KIDchen summer series at [Children's Museum of Phoenix](#). A serious and fun class teaching them essential skills like reading, following directions and measuring, the series features the culinary talents from around the Valley, including Kendra Scheer of Scoopwell's Dough Bar and Niko Mikolowsky of Ingo's Tasty Food.

Jaw-some July at OdySea Aquarium

July is Shark Month at [OdySea Aquarium](#), and kids are doing the Baby Shark dance in excitement. Now through July 28, Jaw-some July features 50 sharks and 14 different species swimming through the Scottsdale-based aquarium. Enjoy behind-the-scenes tours about sharks, crafts, live Q & A sessions and a new episode of Discovery Channel's Shark Week. Get ready for a fin-tastic way to end the summer on a high-note.

"Surprise Your Eyes" – Pop-Up Art Experience

Looking for some optical illusion fun? At OdySea in the Desert, the [Surprise Your Eyes](#) pop-up art experience is 3-D. This artful experience comes to life right when your child steps into the frame. Whether they are walking on the moon or falling off a ship into the tumbling sea, this exhibit will surely create cheerful family memories. Cameras are highly recommended; snap photos as you become part of the "trick art" collection.

LEGOLAND Discovery Center

The skills children learn from Legos are endless, and at the [LEGOLAND Discovery Center](#) in Tempe, activities are in full supply. Little builders can learn how to create their own LEGO models in their Creative Workshop. Or zoom their way down a race-track with a self-built LEGO car. A discovery center of this magnitude will leave your children feeling a sense of accomplishment.