

# Internet News & Notes

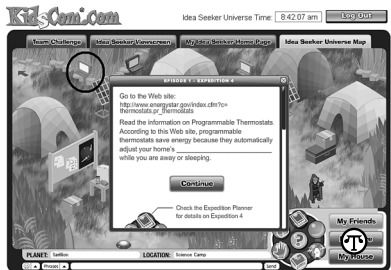
## Help For Mom Is As Close As Your Kids And Your Computer

(NAPSA)—As a parent, finding educational and fun things to do as a family when your children aren't engaged in school functions or extracurricular events can be tough. Sometimes there appears to be so many tasks and chores that there's no time left for fun as a family. Now there's an online community that lets kids help with the organization so that moms and dads can get a little break.

The Web site uses its virtual-world learning expeditions to drive kids off the computer and into libraries, museums, zoos, aquariums and other family-oriented places.

"We have had parents tell us their child has showed them what they learned about lowering energy bills or planned a nutritional meal from what they read off of the label at the grocery store. Kids like taking the initiative in scheduling family time or being the hero for helping out around the house," says Jorian Clarke, founder and president of KidsCom.com. "Our Web site is helping kids learn about things going on around them that their whole family can do and benefit from."

The site gives youngsters the tools to help mom and dad with the social calendar and the household tasks. For example, in Learning Expeditions, kids learn about turning off lights and conserving water. KidsCom also encourages them to visit local "Green Spots" located at nature centers or other places of learning to get the whole family having fun while being active. As a bo-



**A popular Web site gives kids a place to have fun and learn about being a contributing member of the family.**

nus, they can pick up reward cards at those locations.

KidsCom.com supports fun and learning on the computer that parents can feel good about as well. Learning expeditions about energy efficiency and global climate change are main highlights of the site, as are safe social interactions with kids around the globe, along with games and activities that support math, science, reading and writing skills.

"By showing them the positive impact they can make by doing such simple things, kids are picking up on everyday behaviors that help mom and dad save money on energy bills," says Clarke. "The money saved can then be used for family fun."

New Green Spots—nature centers, zoos, museums, aquariums, etc.—are being added each month, and On-Location events are held throughout the year. Members are kept informed of any On-Locations that are being planned or any other special family benefits when they sign up for the Kids Com.com newsletter.