Moms Get Help As Kids Take On Global Warming

(NAPS)—If you were able to get dinner ready without interrupting the other night, you have lots of company. A growing number of youngsters have a new interest: global climate change.

Your 8-year-old may be busy purchasing an energy-efficient thermostat for his Idea Seeker house and your 12-year-old may be teeing up a global warming blog to stop global climate change.

A Virtual World Of Learning

Kids can talk in the virtual world on Planet Sarillion at Kids.com. Playing on the Working Web site for kids, are doing more than just talking with other kids and playing games—they’re learning.

“Kids play in the virtual world, where they are able to simulate social issues are simulated. They can better understand the real world, and have a chance to successfully confront problems,” said Jerian Clarke, Kids.com founder and president. “For example, kids are talking their virtual pets called ‘Plant Babies’ to fight excessive energy consumption by using renewable energy, decreasing CO2 emissions on Planet Sarillion.”


Working Closely With Scientists

Kids.com, online since 1995, works closely with scientists from the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory at The Earth Institute at Columbia University and other experts to ensure the scientific accuracy of the game. “Kids think it is a lot of fun, yet parents know they are learning important lessons about global climate change,” said Clarke. “As an added benefit, kids will learn about energy efficiency to help their parents save money on costly energy bills.”

All kids can register to chart and track their own personal parental permission, chatting is safely limited to certain preset phrases. Kids with parental permission can chat more freely, but are still monitored closely by adults and a built-in “keep it safe, keep it clean” dictionary that won’t allow slurs or profanity of any kind. E-mail addresses or phone numbers to be tipped at. Parent memberships allow kids to customize their own virtual character, create their own virtual home and have the chance to compete in contests and win prizes.

The next learning challenge will allow kids to have the opportunity to win a trip to New York and a behind-the-scenes visit with the scientists at Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory to see how cool it is to learn about science and study global climate change. They will also meet and chat with architects who design “green” buildings, along with many other fun activities.

To learn more, visit www.kids.com.

Vacation Ideas

Holiday Getaway Planning

(NAPS)—Winter, spring, summer, fall—these seasons all have one thing in common: They have holidays and long weekends to plan a getaway. When planning a vacation around a holiday, remember to plan far in advance.

• First, use the Internet to gather information on destinations. Choose a location with a variety of holiday- and nonholidays- themed activities.
• Second, leave a day or two ahead to heat the holiday clutter.

A luxury hotel room with a kitchen lets you save on food.

The same goes for the return trip. Depart a day or two before or after the peak travel date.
• Next, where will you stay? Check hotel Web sites for amenities, promotional rates and packages. If you plan ahead of time and check rates, you can secure a luxury property at a great price.
• Budget other areas of the vacation to splurge a little and upgrade on accommodations. Maybe you have luxury hotels now offer the comforts of home within their properties.

Set amidst 23 miles of sunsplashed golden beaches, The Atlantic Hotel & Spa in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. offers personal residences in lieu of simple guest rooms, equipped with full kitchens and ample living space. Guests will also enjoy other hotel amenities such as its pool with a view, European-style spa, Spa Atlantic, and the award-winning Truluck Restaurant and Lounge.

To learn more, call (866) 837-4274 or visit luxurycollection.com/atlantic.

A Test To Detect Early Breast Cancer

(NAPS)—Millions of women are at risk for breast cancer—now a new blood test for early detection is being tested that has the potential to save millions of lives.

Currently, breast detection is almost nonexistent. The two most common techniques, mammograms and self-examinations, can only detect the malignancy once it is already advanced. Early detection is critically important because it provides the widest range of treatment options and favorable outcomes. With 20 percent or more of cancers detected within five years, early detection is also of major significance in preventing recurrences.

A simple blood-test seminar has been developed that can detect breast cancer tumors that are not detectable.

A Texas-based medical diagnostic company, Power3 Medical, has engaged in research to identify and quantify the presence of certain proteins identified with breast cancer. The resulting early-screening blood test, called BC-SeraPro 100, has been designed to detect the presence of these proteins in the earliest, most treatable stages.

Given that only 6 percent of women are at risk for breast cancer, the hope would also be for this test to allow women to sample their blood to see if there are any telltale proteins that can be mapped to create a positive or negative diagnosis.

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Parent Topics

Talking To Your Teen About Sensitive Health Issues

(NAPS)—It can be a challenge talking to your teen about some health issues. If Dr. Andrew Marks, a specialist in adolescent medicine, wants parents to benefit from his years of experience.

“There’s no one right way to do it, but some issues are more urgent than others,” said Marks. “Know that the toughest words are those that are not words at all. Be prepared, know how to open, and you’ll be on your way.”

Dr. Marks gives the example of urinary tract infections (UTIs), which are the most common form of infection in women. To prevent recurrences.

• Respect Her Maturity—Give her credit for what she likely knows, but make sure she knows that she can always visit a doctor if she suspects something is wrong.

When it comes to UTIs, stress that only a doctor can prescribe an antibiotic to cure the infection. If she is engaged in sex, a boy is at risk of getting the infection, too. Let her know she can always talk to you.

• Follow Her Lead—A UTI “first talk” may take place after your teen has already had a UTI. Tell her that she is urinating too often, that urination is painful, and that she has irritation in her genital area. Know what kinds of products or services your teen needs so help your quickly.

For more tips, visit www.uti facts.com/nextbitchtalk.