Begin at the Indiana Memorial Union (IMU). A great place to take the kids is the Back Alley with discounted bowling and video arcade games. Food vendors throughout the IMU offer snacks and drinks.

Check out the IMU Bookstore for official IU merchandise and souvenirs. When you leave the IMU, head west towards the Sample Gates, where Kirkwood Avenue extends westward from Indiana Avenue. Walk down Kirkwood Avenue.

The Monroe County Public Library, at the intersection of Kirkwood Avenue and Grant Street, offers several programs for families with kids of all ages. The Children's Services Department doesn't just house books - there are "experiential play stations" for preschoolers, volunteer "homework helpers" for all grades, story hours and special parent-child educational events. Audio-Visual Services circulates DVDs, CDs and audio books - all for free for library card holders! Outside the building on Kirkwood, most little kids can't resist climbing on the limestone Library Bears.

Walk down another few blocks to the Courthouse Square. In the spring, an egg hunt is held. At Halloween, the courthouse lawn is covered in glass pumpkins. The Canopy of Lights downtown lighting ceremony is held on the square the Friday night after Thanksgiving. The Scholar's Inn Bakehouse bakery and café on the northwest side of the Square (College Avenue and 6th Street) offers a great, inexpensive kid's menu.

Continue west down 6th Street and make a right onto Morton Street to get to the weekly Farmers' Market.

Head south on Morton Street and you will run into the B-Line Trail, a former rail line that has been converted into a tree-lined walking trail and connects to the Bloomington Rail Trail and Clear Creek Trail (which are south of town), providing a total of 10 miles of trails for many forms of exercise and recreation.

Just off the B-Line Trail at 4th Street is WonderLab, a hands-on children's science and technology museum. In 2008, Parents Magazine ranked WonderLab in its Top 25 U.S. Science Centers. The museum is home to a working bee hive, "Bubble-Airium", nature garden, and 2-story climbing maze, to name a few. Special programs are offered daily.

This tour ends at WonderLab! Other resources and opportunities for families can be found throughout Bloomington. The Bloomington Boys & Girls Club, Ivy Tech Community College, and Rhino's Youth Media Center and All-ages Club offer a variety of youth programs your children can participate in after-school or during the summer. Rent a canoe at the Griffy Lake Nature Preserve, just 3 miles from campus. Take the kids camping at McCormick's Creek State Park or the Charles Deam Wilderness Area - each a 20-minute drive from town. The City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation department offers youth sports and martial arts, summer day camps and community gardens, and manages over 40 parks. This map shows the local parks. Best bets include Cascades Park, the large and popular Bryan Park (including a swimming pool with slides) and Leonard Springs Nature Park's unusual hiking trails and waterfall.