

Feel at home in The Hague

The International Community Fair 2008

The following article was first published on TheHagueOnLine.com 9 September 2008

Feel at Home in The Hague: Keeping the Children Happy

There are so many aspects of relocation that, let us face it, are simply tedious. The process of research and discovery often has to be undertaken during your free time. With children in tow, who also deserve some attention in the tedious process of packing up, unpacking, settling etc. this is not an easy task. So, to keep them happy, while allowing you to conduct your research, TheHagueOnLine has created a space just for them at the 'Feel at home in The Hague Fair'.

On Sunday September 21st, while you embark on a journey of discovery, they, the children, can enjoy their own discovery process. With the support of XM Magazine (www.xpatriate.nl) and under the supervision of Comme a la Maison (www.commealamaison.nl), a children's corner has been made possible. Free, professionally supervised day-care is available – as is much more.

Kids in the City (www.kidsinthecity.org) is one of the groups who will be leading children in the creation of Jungle Sand Gardens and Flower Power Arrangements, sharing with the children the joy of creativity as well as environmental awareness. (Children are encouraged to bring an old tin container with them for the jungle sand gardens). Following on the heels of the Olympic Games in China and the world's introduction to Chinese culture, the Green Lotus Foundation (www.greenlotus.eu) will share with the children the art of making Chinese lanterns, headsets, tattoos and Chinese drawing and paper cutting.

The activities mentioned above, will be ongoing, and free of charge. Op is op as they say in Dutch though. When the materials are finished, sadly so will the activities. Also ongoing though will be those activities offered by Comme a la Maison, which includes a separate area for infant care.

Is your child enthralled by tribal music and dance? In that case they can jump back in time with the storytelling of 'Dancing Mountain Lion'. At 1:30 and 4:00pm they can discover how our ancestors lived and got the idea to start dancing and playing music. It is storytelling with an interactive element as the children learn to play different instruments from nature.

At 11:30 and 3:00 it will be time for the children to get rid of that extra energy only they have. Toddler Dance (www.maatjes.org) is about experiencing fun in movement by combining dance, play and movement expression. The swinging and giggling is not just fun, it can also contribute to improved movement ability, body awareness and create a joy of moving and dancing.

Phew. While the children are cared for, entertained, prepared for their future J - you of course are free to undertake your own project of discovery by taking the time to meet with the more than 180 stand holders at the Fair there to inform you about they can offer you in your free and leisure time in The Hague.

To take full advantage of what 'Feel at home in The Hague – The International Community Fair' has to offer, be sure to order your discounted tickets on-line via www.FeelathomeinTheHague.com or visit the ABC bookstore www.abc.nl in downtown The Hague.

This is one day you can give your children something to remember, while you are 'working' on your relocation. Take advantage of it!

