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PARENT TALK

'Monkey Monkey Music' with Meredith LeVande

Many would say she is the face of Kids Thirteen, New York's 24-hour PBS Kids channel. Meredith LeVande, well known for her music videos, can be seen in "Monkey Monkey Music," broadcast multiple times a day, leading classic shows such as "Sesame Street" and "Curious George," on more than 100 public television stations.

LeVande grew up in New Jersey and spent summers in Baldwin.

"I have many wonderful memories of Long Island," she says. "My mother was ill, so I was raised solely by my maternal grandmother in New Jersey. Things were difficult for my grandmother, and I spent a lot of time with my aunt, uncle and cousins in Baldwin."

"We would go to Nunley's Carousel, the Freeport Rec Center, and we'd enjoy breakfasts in Long Beach."

LeVande says she recently worked on a television project that she will be able to share soon.

— JENNIFER BERGER



"Monkey Monkey Music" with Meredith LeVande, right.

MONKEY MONKEY MUSIC



Winter fun for kids can be found **indoors** or **outdoors** — here's a guide

in, out and about

BY JENNIFER BERGER
 Special to Newsday

For many, winter on Long Island means building forts, throwing snowballs and enjoying time outdoors with family and friends. For others, it's finding indoor, kid-friendly activities to help banish boredom, prevent cabin fever and, most of all, have fun. Here are just a few outdoor and indoor ideas.

ON THE COVER

Nicole Phillips, center left, of Mount Sinai celebrates her 11th birthday with friends at Air Trampoline Sports in Ronkonkoma.

PLAY WITH LEGOS

Kids can unleash their creativity by building unique creations, playing games and more at The Brick Center, 481 Johnson Ave. in Bohemia,

simply by playing with Lego bricks. Programs are tailored to specific age groups and areas of interest. Choose one of the center's hourlong classes that explore architecture with themes such as space, famous buildings and more, or head there for "open build" from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Mondays and Fridays or 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturdays. Kids can use and play with more than 1 million bricks at the center and store projects for multiple sessions. Cost: \$18 for a 90-minute session; unlimited monthly pass, \$99. For more information, call 631-572-8801 or visit thebrickcenter.com

GO SEAL WATCHING

Being on a boat in the winter may not sound like fun, but it's peak season for seeing seals on Long Island. The Riverhead Foundation for Marine Research & Preservation sets sail on the Captain Lou Fleet, 28 Woodcleft Ave., Freeport, through April 24 on select dates. You'll sail throughout Hempstead Bay looking for winter harbor seals with a naturalist onboard who will discuss seal behavior, marine life and more. There is a heated cabin, and warm beverages are available. Boarding time is 12:30 p.m., and departures