

Why I Love to Take Cruises with My Kid

There are certainly no established codes of conduct for taking cruises. But if there's one constant, it's that you have the most fun when you take cruises with a partner. Whether it's on the dreamy waters of the Caribbean or the awe-inspiring scenery of the Alaskan waters, these cruises don't mean as much until you've got someone with whom to gush and fawn over.

Fortunately, there's no dictionary for cruise ethics, so your choice for a partner can cover a wide range of possibilities starting from a romantic interest, sibling, parent to your kid. Yes, your kid.

Personally, my kid's my first choice whenever I want to go cruising. And it's not without reason. The prospect of both of us travelling through destinations together is something I always anticipate. There's no one else I'd rather have for a partner. And here's why this isn't going to change anytime soon.

Cruises Are One of the Best Teachers in the World

Sometimes, it beats me how my kid learns lines, words, or sections of a song from a character on TV so quickly, and then takes all the time in the world to learn how to solve a simple math problem, even though we just went through the entire process seconds ago. You should've felt this way too. Do you ever ask yourself why?

When watching TV, playing games, going on excursions, that underlying tension present in a formal class setting is gone. All my kid's doing is having fun. And at that moment, his brain is free from every inhibition that a serious environment brings. Therefore, it becomes easier to learn things.

When I take my kid on cruises, he gets to learn a thing or two about the variety of cultures and languages we come across. There's also the vast canvas of nature's scenery to draw lessons from. And, unforgettably, the other fun-things on board the cruise ship. Call it indirect teaching, but my kid shows so much interest in these experiences. He thinks he's having fun, but the plus side's that he's doing a whole bunch of learning without trying to.

There's No Frigate Like a Cruise Ship

In her self-seclusion, Emily Dickinson wrote the poem, "There's No Frigate Like A Book" to demonstrate how a good book's contents serve as a window to a myriad of experiences. Well, so many years later, this is me saying the same thing, but a bit better. Where a book stops, a cruise ship continues. Cruises offer a plethora of experiences, each unique to every destination we visit. By taking my kid along with me on cruises, I gift him an ample opportunity. One that lessons in school, watching movies, or reading books wouldn't. And that's the ability to experience, first hand, the bigger world that's out there, to assimilate it. And learn from it.

Already, his decisions are getting informed; his mannerisms diverse. And he displays knowledge about things that his peers don't even know. I do love it when he's at the head of conversations. If taking him on cruises will help him stay an intelligent kid with first-hand knowledge of the world around him, why on earth should I stop?

The Fun

Of course, we can not sideline the all-round fun of the entire experience. From onboard the cruise ship to when you go off it to explore the travel destinations, there's not one moment when my kid tells me he's bored. When we're on board the ship, it's the swimming pool, the

trampoline, surfing simulators - which he usually floors me in - the water slide, and a lot more for us. I can't spell it all out. And when we decide to explore the travel destinations, we do it without holding back. It's exciting that both of us can be a part of this.

Suitable Compromise

There were times when I needed to go on a vacation. You know, get away from work and all the tediousness, goof around a bit and have some me-time. But I couldn't because I had to consider my kid. And then grapple with the question of being a good mom afterwards because I'd considered leaving him behind. Not now anymore.

Rather than drop my kid off with a babysitter or childcare, I can take him along on a cruise and enroll him with the kid's club on board. Then I can lie by the pool, read a book, or make some friends with the assurance that my kid's also having the best time of his life.

Bonding Experience

My kid is the best thing that's ever happened to me. The relationship between him and me goes beyond my responsibilities or obligations as a mom. It's tight, as serious as friendship gets. And I treasure it more than anything. However, it can be pretty difficult to pay attention to our relationship and focus on my job simultaneously. Taking him along with me on cruises, having so much fun and learning things together is an opportunity to catch up on things I've missed and a premium bonding experience for both of us.