

PRESS RELEASE  
CENTRE DAILY TIMES  
SUMMER 2004

State College -- Sunday was family's day out for the Shell family.

Doris Shell and her husband brought their two youngest children, 8-year-old Samantha and 6-year-old David, to Central Parklet as a way of celebrating Kids Day.

"We saw it passing by, and after church, we came by to check it out," the Boalsburg mom said, "This is a great idea."

Free events in the park, a special program by Penn State Master Gardeners and special family rates at local pools capped Centre County's efforts to celebrate the nationwide event.

The day's goal, according to organizers, was to promote a day of family togetherness, while reminding parents that, in one sense, every day should be Kids Day.

After spending the afternoon tossing Frisbees and watching the free magic show put on by Bruce "The Amazing Bruce" Fleischer, State College dad Eric Post planned to take his two children, 6-year-old Mason and 1 1/2-year-old Boochie, to Welch pool for an afternoon of swimming.

With school starting up in a few weeks, Post wanted to spend all the time he could with his children.

"It's important, when they're home in the summertime, to spend time with them," he said.

Claudia Hutchinson, community mobilizer for Care Partnership: Communities That Care, said parents may not realize that every minute they spend with their child has an impact on development.

"Research shows that kids who have parents and friends that care have higher self-esteem," Hutchinson said. "Kids cite parental involvement as the number one reason why they don't do drugs. We're so busy in our lives, it's hard to spend that quality time with our kids. We hoped this day would be an excuse for parents to take that time."

Shell said that while her children get lots of attention, busy lives make it hard to spend time hanging out as a family. "This was a special day just for them," Shell said.

*Lara Brenckle, Centre Daily Times*



**Contact:**

**Claudia Hutchinson**

**cah255@psu.edu**

**814-861-7424**