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A Whirlwind of a Week: Spring Break at Children's

This year, Children's colleagues across departments teamed up to coordinate a week full of [spring break activities](#) for kids who were unable to leave the Atlanta area. Read on for a recap of each fun event, like 15-year-old Chad's meeting with Dan Uggla of the Atlanta Braves or the Marcus Autism Center patient trip to TheraFun.

Katielee at Zoo Atlanta

What's the perfect spring break adventure for an aspiring nature photographer? An up-close visit to some of Atlanta's most impressive residents. Seventeen-year-old [Katielee](#), who hopes to eventually work for National Geographic, met [Zoo Atlanta](#)'s famous African elephants and got a chance to snap some photos.

Ella at Soda Salon

Ella, an 8-year-old who has spent most of her year living at the Ronald McDonald House, got a day of pampering at Soda Salon with her mother, Kelly. After a check-up at the liver transplant clinic, the two enjoyed makeup applications, manicures and haircuts, complete with a pink streak for Ella. The salon's owner, Erik, regularly performs patient makeovers at Children's and cleared his styling schedule to personally do the hair of Ella and her mom.



Katelyn at the Fox

For arts-loving Katelyn, a trip to the Fox Theatre's production of "Mary Poppins" was the perfect break in her regular routine of hospitalizations for gastrointestinal issues. Katelyn, who sings with the [Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra](#), dances and plays the piano, also got a backstage tour of the landmark theatre and lunch at the Melting Pot. But the day's most unforgettable experience came when Katelyn took a [hot air balloon ride](#) sponsored by Pure Imagination, a charity funded by kids for kids, along with Mary, who helped raise the money to make the spring break adventure happen.

Chad at Turner Field

Fifteen-year-old Chad lives and breathes Atlanta Braves baseball: He watches every game, recording those he misses and following up with in-depth post-game analysis on the MLB network. According to his mother, Chad's passion for the Braves helps keep his mind off of the medical complications he suffers from Addison's disease. But this spring break, Chad got more than his typical Turner Field experience: He toured the player entrance, visited batting practice and took photos of the field.

Lance at LEGOLAND

While waiting for his heart transplant, 9-year-old Lance spent a lot of time in the hospital. To keep busy, he worked on a 783-piece Lego set; when that was done, he started a 1,000-piece set. For his latest birthday, Lance and his family drove all the way from Winder to LEGOLAND at Phipps Plaza in Buckhead, but they were disappointed to find it sold out. So for spring break, Lance and his Lego-loving cousin enjoyed a full day exploring the indoor theme park.

Lullabies for the NICU Babies

Just because they're too young for traditional spring break experiences doesn't mean Egleston's NICU babies were excluded from the fun. Some of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra's finest musicians treated patients, staff and parents to a soothing concert of [classical lullabies](#). A portion of the concert was captured on [video](#).

Play Day at Sensations TheraFun

Together with their siblings, patients from the Marcus Autism Center visited [Sensations TheraFun](#) for some uniquely tailored sensory play. The gym, which welcomes kids on the autism spectrum or those with sensory processing disorders, features a climbing wall, zip line, ball pits, monkey bars and more.

Hannah at 4th and Swift

Thirteen-year-old Hannah has had a discerning culinary palate most of her life—she loves to cook and enjoy gourmet food. So after a week of chemotherapy, Hannah got to visit 4th and Swift, one of Atlanta's most popular restaurants, for a personal tutorial with chef Jay Swift. After the kitchen lesson, Hannah shared the fruits of her culinary experimentation with friends and family at the restaurant.

Read more about the week of fun in this [Atlanta Journal-Constitution article](#).



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