

 SCHOLASTIC

DOUBLE ISSUE!

# Parent & Child<sup>®</sup>

YOUR GUIDE TO HAPPY,  
CONFIDENT KIDS

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KID IN  
P&C MAG,  
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age-by-age advice  
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LOVE OF WORDS**  
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**THIS PAGE:** "When I grow up, I'm going to be a wrangler here," says Amy Schmidt, 7 (far left, with pals Siam the mule and Summer Halmay, 10).

**OPPOSITE PAGE:** Kids take the reins! At the Lazy L&B, rides offer a chance to glimpse moose, antelope, and even wild mustangs.



# KIDS GONE COWBOY!

BY MARY KATE FRANK PHOTOGRAPHS BY GREG VON DOERSTEN

**IMAGINE BLUE SKIES, OPEN RANGE, A TRUSTY STEED, AND NOT A CELL PHONE** in sight. It's the ultimate Old West fantasy. No wonder, then, that when P&C staffers voted on our dream family vaycay destination, the winner was clear: a dude ranch! "It's summer camp for the whole crew," says Jason Halmay, who owns and runs the Lazy L&B in Dubois, Wyoming, with his wife, Deb, and their three girls. We tagged (er, rode) along with the ranch's guests to see what the experience is *really* like. Turn the page to learn what to expect and find resources for planning your own adventure, whether you're saddling up for a few days or a week. Yee-haw!







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#### THIS PAGE:

**1.** Abby Frank, 11, makes a splash! A ranch stay can help non-riders get comfortable quickly. "The rides build their self-confidence and independence," says guest Steve Lichty. "At the end of a week, the kids know they can do amazing things."

**2.** Corral games inspire friendly competition. Here, Amy teams with Claire Frank, 7, for a three-legged race.

**3.** The 13 kids visiting the ranch, ranging from ages 6 to 14, bonded immediately. A treehouse made an ideal hang-out spot.

#### OPPOSITE PAGE:

**4.** Guests gather at the main lodge for meals, music, and Scrabble. "It's an intimate vacation," says Colleen Hodson of the Dude Ranchers' Association. "Parents get to sit down, talk to their children, and reconnect."

**5.** Olivia Williams, 10, attempts to rope a "steer."

**6.** A classic cowboy experience: breakfast cooked over a fire.

**7.** Erin Lichty, 14, befriends a hen at the L&B's petting zoo.

**8.** The feed room, where supplies are kept for the ranch's 70 steeds.

**9.** "I think being here reminds parents of when they were children," says Jason Halmay (with Deb and their dog, Whip). "They love to watch their kids running around free, having fun outside."

**10.** John and Beth Schmidt, back for a second summer with their three kids, savor a quiet moment on their cabin's front porch.

**11.** Lydia Bell, 11, tests her balance during a race in the corral.

**12.** Ranch life takes visitors back to nature. The L&B is surrounded by more than 85,000 acres of peaks, forests, red rock canyons, and plains. "The diversity of views was amazing," says guest Megan Lichty. "It was magical, really."

*For help planning your own trip, visit the **Dude Ranchers' Association at [Duderanch.org](http://Duderanch.org)**. Learn more about the Lazy L&B at [Lazylb.com](http://Lazylb.com).*





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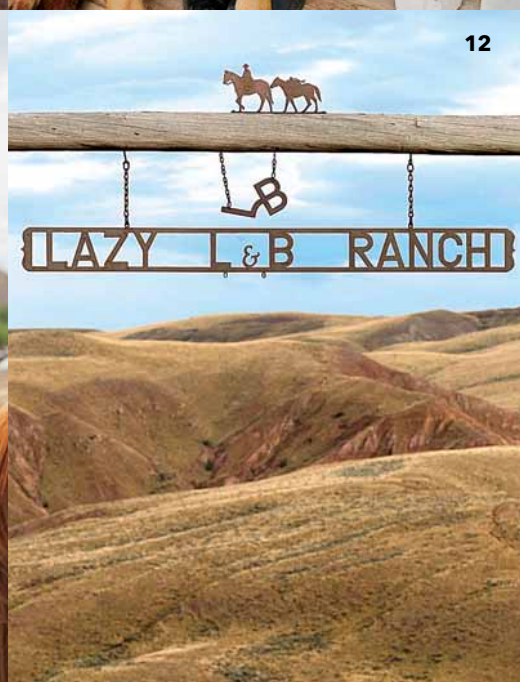
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