

# Summer programs engage youth

## STAFF REPORT

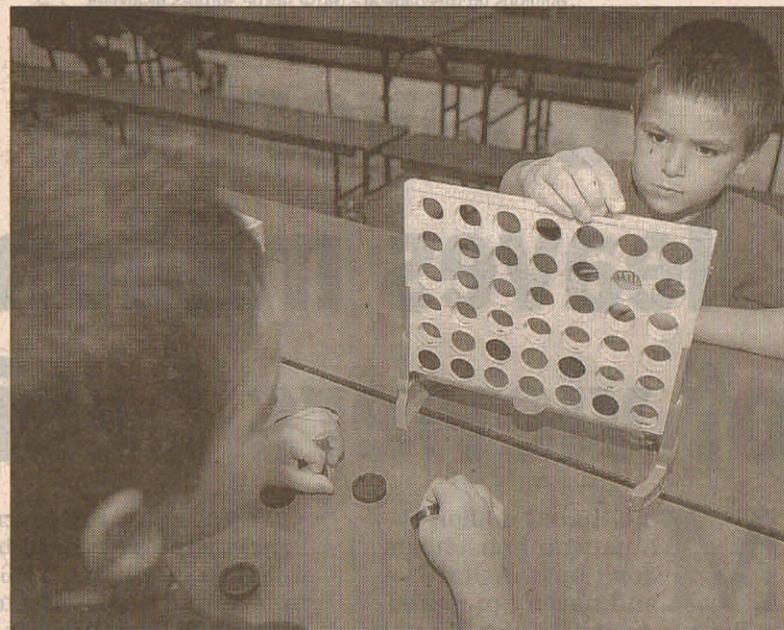
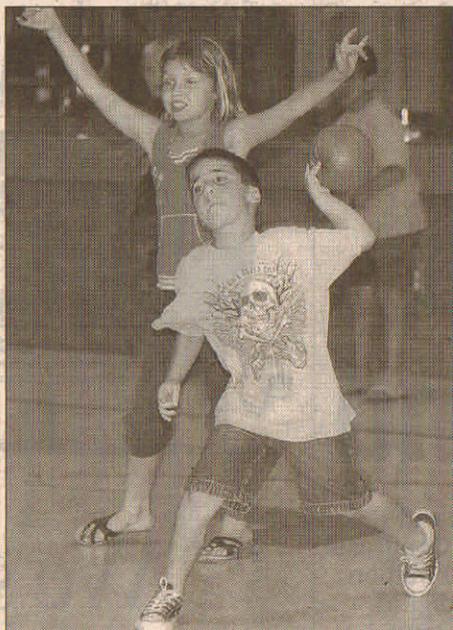
Kids are always happy when the school year ends and the summer break begins, but when the initial euphoria of freedom wears off, what is a kid to do? The city of Peoria's Recreation Division is hoping to answer that question, with four separate summer programs for kids: Summer Recreation, Summer Camp, Step Out and Tiny Tots.

The Summer Recreation and Step Out are drop-in programs that will run Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. through July 16. Summer Recreation is for children in the first through fifth grades and is located at seven Peoria elementary schools: Apache, Country Meadows, Coyote Hills, Oasis, Sundance, Sky View and Vistancia. The Step Out program is for rising sixth- through ninth-graders and is located at Peoria, Centennial and Sunrise Mountain high schools.

The programs feature arts and crafts, group games and free play to help the kids have a fun-filled summer and experience new and old age appropriate recreational activities. There is a \$60 supply fee for Peoria residents; \$90 for non-residents. Optional off-site field trips will be offered throughout the week at an additional cost. Trip information is available at the sites and online.

The Summer Camp program for kids from kindergarten through eighth grade will run 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays through July 31 at seven other Peoria elementary schools: Cheyenne, Desert Harbor, Frontier, Parkridge, Paseo Verde, Sun Valley and Zuni Hills.

Licensed by the state Department of Health Services, these camps are places for all-day fun. Not only are there arts and crafts, science projects



PHOTOS BY MOLLIE J. HOPPES/TODAY STAFF

In the photo at left, Zandra Townsend eggs the boys on while Marcus Gonzales looks for an easy target while playing dodgeball at the Sun Valley Elementary site of Peoria's Summer Recreation Program. At right, Anthony Adams, 8, tries to best his younger brother, Daniel, 7, at Connect Four during Wednesday's session.

and group games, but also field trips throughout the week. Registration fees are \$24 per day or \$98 per week.

Finally, the Tiny Tots program for children ages 4 and 5 will be from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. weekdays through July 16 at Parkridge and Peoria elementary schools.

Also licensed by the DHS, it provides daily arts and crafts, music, story time, group games and

free play. Tiny Tots is a place for a child to develop social skills and enjoy great activities, but it is not a pre-school or day care. It is a recreation-based program. Registration is \$60 for Peoria residents; \$90 for non-residents. There also are field trips throughout the week at additional cost.

For information on these programs, call 623-773-7137 or visit [www.peoriaaz.gov/recreation](http://www.peoriaaz.gov/recreation) and click on "Summer Programs."