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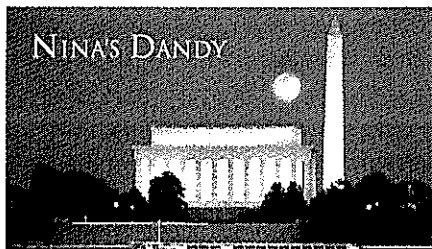
(find out on next page)



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# Playing Around at Airports

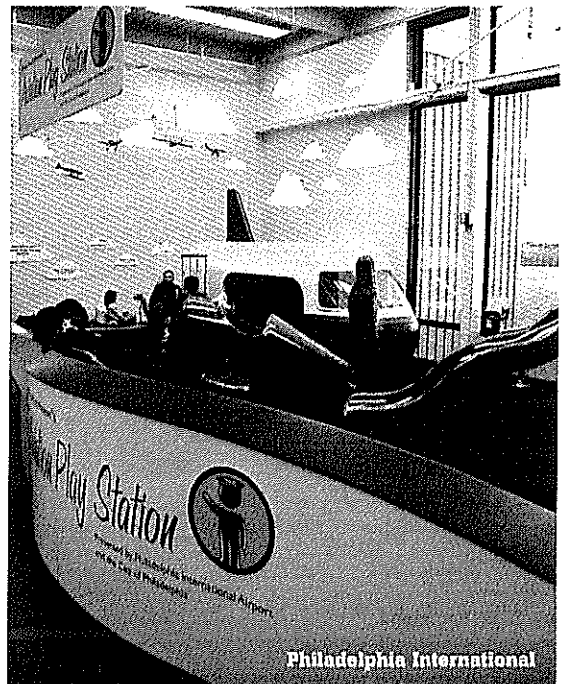
*Flying the kid-friendly skies*

WITH AIRPORTS ramping up shopping and dining options for time-flush travelers, it's no surprise that indoor playgrounds are claiming concourse real estate for the younger set. Most are so much fun that your only problem will be dragging the kids away for their "real" airborne experience. Some favorites:

The city's popular Please Touch Museum designed the 1,500-square-foot Aviation Play Station in Terminal D at Philadelphia International. Sound effects

boost the fun quotient as kids pretend to be both passengers and crew inside a jumbo jet. Kids can also grab cockpit controls and activate a spinning propeller in a smaller plane or head to the play area's control tower to don binoculars to watch the airfield up close.

It's double their fun visiting the



Philadelphia International

Observation Gallery at Baltimore-Washington International now that the children's play area has relocated there. A kids-only section features child-size versions of an airplane, baggage cart, aircraft tug and fuel truck. But aviation exhibits in the Gallery, including an actual disassembled Boeing 737-200, are the

real draw. Even grown-ups can climb into the cockpit or touch landing gear, wing and tail sections, plus check the weather forecast and listen to air traffic controllers.

Kids-Port in Concourse A of Cincinnati Airport is



Baltimore-Washington International

a great place for smaller passengers to work off excess energy with toys, a playhouse, a slide and gym equipment, all atop squishy, shock-absorbing floors.

Chicago's O'Hare International partnered with the Chicago Children's Museum to create Kids On The Fly in Terminal 2. Pilot a plane, propel a mock helicopter or become an air traffic controller. An area devoted to hands-on arts and crafts lets pint-sized Picassos whip up a masterpiece for Grandma.

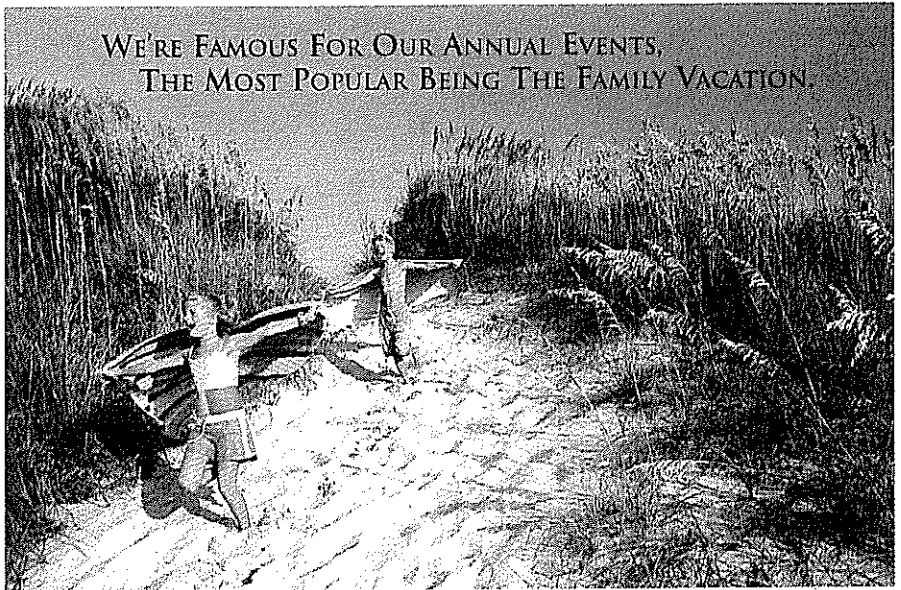
Skyport Arena East & West offers two sports-themed play areas at Denver International Airport. Set on the mezzanine level of Concourse B, the kid-friendly zones look like miniature hockey rinks, but floors are padded instead of icy. Romp and climb over an enormous soccer ball, baseball or hockey puck.

Boston's Logan International also has two play areas. The mammoth Kidport in Terminal C was designed by the Boston Children's Museum with play structures like an airplane cockpit and a baggage carousel slide. In Terminal A, Playtime designed a second Kidport featuring a kid-sized airport with control tower. Boston wins the kid-conscious prize, too; all newsstands are required to carry diapers, wipes, baby formula and baby bottles.

And if you frequent American Airlines, consider joining the Admirals Club. Many of the clubs—Dallas/Fort Worth (three), Miami (two), New York's JFK, Los Angeles—house special children's rooms. Each comes equipped with computers that have kid-friendly games, as well as a television tuned to G-rated Nickelodeon or Cartoon Network.

—Laura Daily

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