

Toes in the sand and peach cake in my hand or what we did on our family beach vacation (7 Quick Takes)

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You might think that a blogger who is on vacation all week would have time to write a blog almost every day. In fact, I thought that myself.

But on our extended family vacation this year I have somehow managed to have no time to write even though I have had time to make guacamole and peach cake, play card games, and do more loads of laundry in a week than I have done in the past 13 years.

Not that it hasn't been wonderful. Our boys have loved their time with their cousins, and I've enjoyed spending time with my family, especially my nieces and nephews. I'm not sure it has been the most relaxing vacation, but we've made many memories.

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On our way to the beach, we stopped to visit my in-laws on Maryland's Eastern Shore, and my husband took the boys fishing. I didn't go on the fishing expedition because I was making dinner, and I joked with my father-in-law that because I hadn't gone, our 8-year-old had a better chance of catching his very first fish.

I was right.

Our husband called to tell me that our little fisherman had reeled in his first fish—a spot. When you have a child who has adored fishing for two years before even catching a fish, what happens when he finally does?

Stay tuned.

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Every year when we go to the beach I realize our children have grown into some rides and out of others. This trip both boys were all excited about riding the Paratrooper, which is sort of like a Ferris wheel, but one that goes partly forward and partly backward and where the riders' legs are dangling down as it goes around and around.



Watching my children go around and around at high speeds far in the air above me makes me nervous. But they absolutely love it. So what can I do?

What they love even more, though, is winning tickets at the arcades. I don't even want to think about what I've invested in those arcade machines this week, but we have had a blast.

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A key part of any family vacation—or at least ours—is at least one family baseball game. This year a few of our key players didn't manage to make the trip, so I joined the Pancakes. And though we lost to the Cucumbers in the Food Series, as the kids called it, we had a great time. I got a few hits and made more than my share of errors in the field. And we didn't play a full nine innings.

If that's not a victory, I don't know what is.

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sugar donuts and they were amazing.

Are vacations about something other than eating? If you're not eating, it seems that you're talking about your next meal, or rummaging through the snacks looking for your next snack. We have had some delicious meals and two peach cakes and Fractured Prune donuts and on and on and on. But my sister Treasa made some homemade baked

I'm not 100 percent sure they improved my baseball skills, but they were delicious. This is the recipe Treasa used, so now you can go make them yourself.

And I haven't even talked about kite flying or the crab the kids found on the beach or how our homily last week was the first one our son found interesting or our family conversations about the most annoying noises in the world or how I thought I would finally sit down for a quiet moment with a piece of peach cake and ended up running into a bathroom to plunge a toilet instead. So I may have to write more after our vacation is officially over and we are back to ordinary life.

Meanwhile, you can find more quick takes at Kelly's blog, This Ain't the Lyceum.